

**DAVINCI ACADEMY OF THE SCIENCES AND ARTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES**

**2033 Grant Avenue Ogden, Utah 84401
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MAY 10, 2006

DASA BOARD MEMBERS

Debbie Legge, President	Present
Eric Stroup, Vice President	Absent
Eric Matheson, Treasurer	Present
Dan Earley	Absent
Eric Amsel	Present
Iain Hueton	Present
Joe Oliva	Absent
Paula Dugan	Present
Jack Wright	Present

DASA Director of Academic Services

Lewis Reese, Principal	Present
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DASA Community Development Director

Nancy Jones	Present
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1. Meeting Opening, Debbie Legge

Meeting was called to order by Debbie at 6:14 p.m. She asked the board members to introduce themselves and excused Eric Stroup, who was out of town.

2. Presidents Report, Debbie Legge

Debbie said she was happy to see so many concerned parents with an interest in DASA. She said there was going to be a 3 minute limit to speak and that names would be called from the sign in sheet. She asked that those who addressed the board and the audience share concerns, ask questions and to please remain civil. She explained that there was information floating around that is not correct. Hopefully, this meeting will clear these misconceptions. The next board meeting will be on May 17th at 5:30 p.m. where your concerns will be addressed.

A parent asked if Debbie could first explain what rumors are out there. Debbie said that when teacher contracts were issued, there were concerns and that there are concerns about the budget. She explained that Utah schools are funded lowest in the nation and that DASA is funded lowest in Utah. She announced that 4 of our students finished in the top 10 in the nation in math and 3rd overall in the state science fair. She said DASA is going places.

3. Open Public Comment (3 minutes per person)

- A. **Larry Freeze:** His concern is for the students. They shouldn't be put in the situation they find themselves in. The school has lost students due to the lack of concern for them. At this point, he wouldn't feel good about recommending DASA to anyone.
- B. **Brenda Raccuia** expressed the joy she feels in working with the students here. She is concerned about where DASA is now and will do anything to make it succeed.
- C. **Scott Taylor** told how impressed he is with the students and faculty. He thinks the loss of the three faculty members is tragic and wishes we could all work together to keep them.
- D. **Carolyn Taylor** was the first teacher hired when DASA started. She worked with the board in the planning stages. The school can't succeed without parents, faculty and board working together. DASA is the best.
- E. **Maria Schwarz** thinks that losing the only working actor who teaches in the state and our Electron Microscopy teacher is tragic. Children will continue to come back as long as their needs are met.
- F. **Berlinda Hebdon:** Daughter has done well at DASA and has worked hard to become certified in E.M. Wants to know if all this is going to be lost.

Said parents have a right to know what the problems are. She has watched as five teacher's have been dismissed this year and shared her concern as they were all core teachers. She suggested the board review the Utah Code Annotated 53A-1a-412(2) about the employees of a charter school.

- G. **Lori McMillan** asked that DASA be careful in the decision made. She wants DASA to succeed. We have great teachers and they know the students.
- H. **Layna Palmer** encouraged that ethical practices need to be enforced. Open communication. Parents, students and educators need to be on the board, plus an oversight committee. Said she is frustrated because it is difficult to get any information from the administration. The right to privacy act only covers personal information, not contractual. She wants to know what DASA is hiding.
- I. **Ramona Webb** was appalled that Lewis Reese didn't care enough about students to come to the awards banquet for the drama department. Said there is a lack of respect and that the handling of the present issues was poorly handled. Her student loves DASA and she wants it to succeed.
- J. **Mike Lanzarotta**: Has seen a complete turnover in the philosophy and the way the students are handled. He said the Mr. McFall is the best teacher we have. The school is only as good as its leader. The principal doesn't show respect. The board should offer a contract to keep good teachers. His friends asked him in reference to the Jon Stewart mixup, "What kind of idiots are running that school?" There is a complete lack of organization.
- K. **Chris Curry** brought her student, joined the board and is now a teacher. The rumors about Nancy Jones and the administration make her sad. She loves the school and the faculty.
- L. **Judy Ansel** loves the passion of the teachers and the students. This is a young school striving to do something that has never been done. She is concerned about the process of the lack of communication. When parents first hear about something by reading about it in the newspapers, it is too late.
- M. **Michelle Tait**: There is a major lack of communication with the administration. The teachers are great and she doesn't want anything to happen to DASA.
- N. **Kim Hansen** wants Mr. McFall to stay and said there is no communication with the principal.
- O. **Arlene Szalay**: Mr. McFall needs to be here. Everyone needs to show more respect for one another.
- P. **John McClung**: He is sorry that we have to discuss keeping quality teachers. Daughter's success is a tribute to the teachers here. He believes the issue was handled improperly.
- Q. **Denise Bingham**: We have an extraordinary faculty. Concern is total lack of respect from administration. Would like full disclosure from the board. Needs partnership with the board. Parents have been cut out of the loop.
- R. **Donna Marasco** declined to speak.
- S. **Maggie Hodgson**: "This is a great venue for parents, students and teachers to come together". Wants to keep all of the teachers here. Students need to recruit to raise the enrollment.
- T. **Shelley Gardner** is a big fan of DASA. Concerned about the loss of 3 quality teachers. She doesn't think they can be replaced and wants to know why there weren't offered a contract. Stated that if the E.M. classes are dropped, they won't be able to continue to support DASA.
- U. **LeeAnn Reeder**: We are a small school community and that she believes that Mount Ogden Scientific Services has helped the school. There has been an adversarial atmosphere and that Mr. McManus was badly treated. How can we expect other businesses to partner when we have treated MOSS so badly?

Note: Mrs. Reeder's time was cut short and the audience wanted to hear what she had to say. Debbie said that we set 3 minutes and would stay with that rule. She explained that the country was founded on a rule of order and not anarchy.

- V. **Cindy Olsen:** “The only good thing about DASA is the good teacher’s And we need to value them.”
- W. **Sally Doxey:** The school is a family and she doesn’t see the communi- cation needed to keep a family together. The school had a direction in the beginning and she doesn’t see that happening now. She thinks the teachers are wonderful.
- X. **June White** listed all of the things that the school has not done for Mr. White. She said the teacher’s have no idea what is going on from the administration.
- Y. **Brian Adams** said our country was also founded on revolution. He said he has a huge interest in DASA. Thanked the teachers. He doesn’t see the board doing anything to better DASA. They brought their students here to have a say in their education. The school has built a wall that prevents that.
- Z. **Paula Diarte** said that not being able to access the school through the phone directory presents a big problem.
- AA. **Eric Matheson** defended the board and said there is no secret pot of gold.
- BB. **Sheila Brown** said the students stay because of Mr. White. Was he let go because he challenged the administration? She said we broke our own policies by not having teacher evaluations. She told the board that she had been asked to back off by Mr. White because he feared that he would be called on the carpet due to her involvement.
- CC. **David Stohel** would like an educator on the board. The board needs accountability. Parents need to be accountable.
- DD. **Michelle Vlahos** said she and her students came to DASA with a dream. She said she hoped that the reason the teacher’s weren’t offered contracts were legitimate. She worries about the E.M. and Drama departments. Wants to know if we are changing our vision. What is going to sell DASA to students and parents? Concerned that there wee no teacher evaluations.
- EE. **Christine Patten** came to DASA because of the size of the school and classrooms. She is concerned about the lack of communication and no evaluations.
- FF. **Monica Linford** loves DASA. Trusts negotiation process. Wants all nine of her children to graduate from DASA.
- GG. **Tom Szalay** told the board that a provisional time frame for teachers is needed. Shame on the board for not being more involved with this process. He thinks they should consider a new administrator.
- HH. **Laura VanWagenen** thanked the teachers and said they had carried the weight of the school. Said that she had a niece that wanted to come to DASA and the secretary shouldn’t have the power to deny that.
 - II. **Connie McManus** wanted to know why they were locked out of their business without notice. They have clients and they want an answer. Why was Mr. McManus let go?
- JJ. **Tara Miller** said they left the public school system due to a lack of communication. She doesn’t expect perfection, but we need good teachers. We need to support the school.
- KK. Michelle Sutton asked what we do to encourage good communication. She said that both sides need to be interested for it to work.
- LL. **Yvonne Cruz** wants to know what the principal is paid and what exactly he does.
- MM. **Shannon Sandoval** wants to know if DASA is accredited and if our students will graduate. She said she quit volunteering because of the lack of respect.
- NN. **Nicole Hooker** came to the meeting because of all the gossip she heard. She has kids at OPA and MOPA and wanted to be able to bring them here. She said that we have taken away all of the things that her kids looked forward to in coming to DASA and wants changes.
- OO. **Shirlene Hillan** said she has no respect for this administration and that we need to show our respect to Mr. McFall. She doesn’t think her student is getting a fair shake.

- PP. **Connie Fausett** declined to speak.
- QQ. **Terri Sousa** declined to speak.
- RR. **Loa Bright** said we need performance standards. When the students don't pass, they pay a price. Is there a performance standard for the teachers? Personal opinion shouldn't matter. There are no evaluations because they don't know how to do it.
- SS. **Lisa Erickson** stated that Monday was an emotional day for the students and wants to know why they were still required to take the CRT test after all of that? Whose decision was that? Is there concurrent enrollment in more classes than health? Why are we going to 8:30 start time next year. This is going to make it impossible for students who participate in music and sports at other schools.
- TT. **Cliff Nowell** said that DASA is just a small warehouse instead of a large one. If this is a family, it is a dysfunctional family. The administration needs to treat students as individuals.
- UU. **Steven Erickson** declined to speak.
- VV. **Christi Turnblom** declined to speak.
- WW. **Chanice Thayne** declined to speak.
- XX. **Pamela Wright** asked the board if they would be willing to redo the contracts. Mr. White represents the school so well and we need to rebuild this family.

4. Open Student Comment (3 minutes per student)

1. **Dan Eddy:** We want the teachers to stay. We think it is personal between the administration and teachers. The school is in a fragile state and differences need to be worked out.
2. **Joel Linford:** DASA was founded on a dream of education. We have to Recognize that it can crumble. I came for the education. We need to accept change.
3. **Brody Tait:** There is a lack of communication from the administration. When the students try to talk to the administration for the school newspaper, we can never get any information. The faculty needs to be allowed a voice. I will be back.
4. **Autumn Campbell** wants to know what the board is going to do to fix all of the problems and why do we have to wait until next week to get answers?
5. **Kaytlyn McMillan** said everyone needs to have more respect for the teachers so they can build the students. We should all respect each other.
6. **Katie Mugerdichian** said she is having a hard time dealing with the emotion and she doesn't see much leadership. She is concerned about the budget. She is here because of Mr. White, Mr. McFall and Mrs. Kidd.
7. **Shane Davis:** We put the **fun** in dysfunctional.
8. **Katrina Schneidewend** declined to speak.
9. **Victoria Lopez** declined to speak.
10. **Melanie Bitter** said she was disappointed in the parents because they abused the freedom of speech by attacking a person's character. She said she learned that from Mr. McFall. She said she was going to learn from this experience and move on.
11. **Adrian Maxon:** There is a lot of instability. He wants the school to succeed, but has lost faith. A peaceful quick solution is needed.
12. **Kylan Taylor** appreciates Mrs. Legge for standing before 200 angry teenagers. Teachers need to be able to express their opinion without the fear of retribution. The majority rule, should rule.
13. **Tom Stohel** declined to speak.
14. **Stirling Miller** left.
15. **Chelsea Nerdahl** left.
16. **Ashley Passey** left.
17. **Danielle VanDerdoes** left.
18. **Jennifer Poster:** Mr. White was my favorite teacher and was going to help me next year and now he is gone.
19. **Leticia Rice** left.
20. **Julie Chamberlain** left.
21. **Matthew Turnblom** declined to speak.

22. **Andrew Krogman:** DASA represents a quest for knowledge. We don't need all of the internal strife.
23. **Jeremiah Thayne:** Respect is something you earn. I came here because of Mr. Reese. Leadership can always be better.
24. **Alyssa Hebdon:** DASA needs a solid foundation. You can't always keep changing things. I wouldn't recommend DASA to my friends.
25. **Bryan Gee:** Wants to know what "We're in the process of attempting to find teachers" to replace those who weren't offered contracts means.
26. **Chalisa Gee:** You can't fire these teachers. This doesn't happen in regular schools. I am sick of settling for less.
27. **Peter Lanzarotta:** Our school is getting gloomier.
28. **Brandon Eisenhower:** I didn't want to come here. The teachers helped me find me. Now I can think outside the box. We need to continue to help ourselves.
29. **Ashley McClung:** The students are the heart of DASA. The parents angry protests don't help get us anywhere. She doesn't want to see DASA become a public school.

4. Adjournment, Debbie Legge

Debbie thanked everyone for coming and told those in attendance that they would be compiling the answers to the concerns stated this evening. The minutes of the meeting can be accessed at www.davinciacademy.org .
Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Shirley Shannon