

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

**2033 Grant Avenue Ogden, Utah 84401  
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MAY 17, 2006

**DASA BOARD MEMBERS**

Debbie Legge, President	Present
Eric Stroup, Vice President	Present
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**

Quorum was established at 5:55 p.m. and the meeting was called to order. Eric Amsel motioned to approve the minutes from last meeting. Iain Heuton seconded. Vote unanimous to approve minutes.

**2. Presidents Report, Debbie Legge**

Debbie Legge went over the agenda for the night. The video created for marketing for the gala was played. Debbie stated that they have compiled a list of issues gathered from last meeting and they will address all of them as best they legally can. Debbie began the Structos presentation to answer some of the questions from last week. She addressed the contracts for next year. She stated that a few of the teachers were not fired, their contracts were just not renewed. They are in the process of hiring new teachers and are reviewing Utah Code 53A-1A-512(2). She stated that the teachers have been evaluated four times so far this year and will receive one final written evaluation at the end of the year. She said that the Electron Microscopy program will continue but that they legally cannot discuss why Mr. McManus is on paid administrative leave. She stated that Mr. Reese was ill and that is why he did not attend the Performing Arts banquet. That there is no evidence that Mr. Reese has ever been disrespectful to students or to teachers. She stated that he is always willing to communicate regularly and he opens the opportunity to do so. She stated that along with being a school principal he is a district superintendent and has a 7 page list of his primary responsibilities. He is paid less than average and the board has the utmost confidence in his abilities. He has a three year contract. She explained that the board is willing to communicate with teachers but the process is misunderstood and poorly utilized. She stated that the vision was not changing and that the students are our best source of recruitment. Debbie reported that the secretary does not have the power to deny acceptance of a student but rather reports the decision of the Director of Academic Services. She said that we have a NAAS Provisional accreditation because we are in our second school year. All students will graduate if they are eligible to. She stated that the 8:30 begin time for school next year is going to be used to facilitate collaboration between teachers for project based learning. It is also to be used for students wanting to participate in other activities. She stated that we will have many concurrent enrollment classes next year. She said that the school is currently in the USOE directory and that they are working to be listed in other directories. The drama department will continue next year and our lack of organization is due to our reduced funding and limited administrative staffing. She stated that the CRT testing was still administered on Monday because we had a limited time to complete the tests. She stated that the decision to continue testing was made by the testing coordinator with the support of the Director of Academic Services. She stated that our oversight committee was the Utah State Charter School Board. She stated that the

board is not hiding anything and that they follow the Open Meetings Act. She stated that the board is a governing board and not an administrative board. The way forward is to maintain a safe environment and eliminate gossip. We should foster our learning environment and increase visibility.

**3. Open Public Comment (3 minutes per person)**

- A. **Larry Freeze** submitted his resume and requested to be on the board.
- B. **Lisa Adams** thanked the board for allowing the meeting last week to take place. She suggested that we allow students to enroll in the middle of the year. She suggested a mass email newsletter to parents. She asked the parents to contribute and help.
- C. **Maggie Hodgson** wants the parents to remember a successful year and all the positive things done this year. She stated our need for help in recruiting new students
- D. **Tatiana Nikolaev** stated that she has been incredibly happy here. With a new school there will be new problems but she asked for patience.
- E. **Terryl Miller** declined to speak
- F. **Leann Reeder** asked if she could have a copy of the presentation made tonight. She suggested a community council consisting of parents, faculty and administration. She stated that the parents would have more seats on the council than the faculty and administration combined.
- G. **Pamela Rice** expressed a concern over communication. She didn't find out about the meeting last week until five minutes before and that was with conflicting starting times. She expressed her concern that the parents were not notified that teachers would not be returning and that they have to find out it in newspapers. She stated that if they communicate better with parents that it would help end rumors.
- H. **Mark Campbell** declined to speak
- I. **Berlinda Hebdon** stated her education degrees and her experience. She presented the board with her resume and said she would be willing to work for \$1 in the office. She stated a concern for the students not receiving their certification in Electron Microscopy. She wanted to know if the interviews with potential teachers will result in highly qualified teachers working here.
- J. **Denise Thayne** expressed her admiration for the students and parents at this school. She stated that there was something right with the students having the freedom to be able to protest. She said that the safety at the school is because of the hard and fast lines created by the principal.
- K. **Shelly Gardner** asked who administration consists of. She asked who created the contracts. She asked what teachers are leaving and expressed a concern that it has not been publicly told to the parents still.

**Note:** The board proceeded to the next speaker and Shelly requested that her questions be answered. Debbie responded that they would answer the questions that they could at the end of the meeting if there was time.

- L. **Maria Schwarz** stated that she had over 200 hours of volunteer time last year and never saw any of the parents helping. She told the parents to show up and volunteer and be more involved.

**4. Open Student Comment (3 minutes per student)**

- A. **Shane Davis** said that the board policy 402 section 3-3 states that they should have three evaluations and section 3-6 says that their contracts should be completed by March 15. He wants to know why the board violated their own policies. He stated that in order to have Electron Microscopy for concurrent enrollment they need to have a qualified teacher.
- B. **Andrew Krogman** stated that the students matter the most and that they should speak up. We shouldn't lose focus on the dream.
- C. **Adrian Maxson** stated that he gave a proposal for a student communication group to Mr. Reese and he requested that the board look at it. He expressed that he had a two hour meeting with Mr. Reese where he tried to flatter him and convince him that the parents are the bad guys

and that he was being counterproductive. He did not feel respected. He stated that a significant number of those who created vision are not here anymore and expressed a concern. He stated that he has not learned more at this school.

- D. **Kyndal Freeze** declined to speak
- E. **Morgan Ashley** declined to speak
- F. **Kaytlyn McMillan** stated that she didn't even know what the DaVinci Dream was. She said that if it's something you want to follow than everyone should be able to recite it. She asked how many people actually show up for the board meetings and what the board members specialize in.
- G. **Tiffany Vlahos** stated that she has been here since the beginning and that she is really proud of the students. She doesn't recall seeing the parents helping around campus and asked that they take an interest in what goes on that is right.
- H. **Amellia Reeder** expressed her concern over not feeling safe and comfortable around the office. She said that in order to do slides for Electron Microscopy they will need to purchase an expensive piece for the lab. She said that after tonight's meeting she feels more confident in the school.
- I. **Joel Linford** thanked the board for what they do and asked everyone to make the school what we want it to be.

**Note:** The board asked if there were any more parents or students that would like to talk.

#### 5. Continuation of Open Comment.

- A. **Kyndal Freeze** stated that she loved the school and that it was the best place that she could be.
- B. **Tom Szalay** said that he commutes to Salt Lake to work at the public school. He is concerned with the one year contract for teachers while Mr. Reese has a three year contract. He asked if that contract starts next year or if it's completed next year. He stated that he wants this school to not be a work for hire school.
- C. **Loa Bright** told the students congratulations for standing up for themselves. She stated that we can't hold our students up to a standard if we don't keep that standard ourselves. She stated that she sees entrepreneurs and huge potential in our students. She challenged the students and the parents to write down their visions for the school.
- D. **Sherilyn Pang** said that she loves the school and that it scares her that people are saying that the charter might get pulled. She said that it's up to "us" to make the school what it should be.
- E. **John Linford** stated that he works 60 hours per week to support his family because public school failed him. He wishes that he could have had an education like DaVinci students. He said if you are unhappy go to a public school.

#### 6. Conclusion, addressing some of the questions.

Debbie Legge said that she would now answer some of the questions that were asked as best she could. She stated that they would look into the Electron Microscopy certification. She said that the Director of Academic Services, Mr. Reese, renews the contracts with consultation from the board. She stated that the business manager, Nancy Jones, usually writes the contracts but due to her being sick Mr. Reese wrote and delivered the contracts. She stated that they legally cannot say why the teachers were not asked back. She stated that the teachers were given notice that a change might occur with the schedule for next year and that they were aware of a delay in contracts and that they were in agreement with it. She stated that she would look into the questions about concurrent enrollment. She stated that the only people who attend board meetings are the board members and occasionally a student or two. She said that the board member's biographies would be available on the proschool website. Debbie explained that Mr. Reese's three year contract will begin starting the 2006-2007 school year. She said that in order to get good funding we need to have good long term leadership.

She introduced Marlies Burns from the State Office of Education. She stated that our charter is not at risk of being revoked.

**7. Open Comment:**

Kelly Freeze asked if she could address a concern. She stated that she would like confirmation from the board that the teachers were justly excluded from returning for next year. Debbie expressed that no decision was made without lots of thought and deliberation. Leann Reeder asked if the information was given to the board before the teachers were notified. Debbie stated that yes the board was informed of the decisions before hand. Tom Szalay stated that they don't want the school to become a teacher mill and asked what protection do the teachers have. Debbie stated that the ultimate dedication and goal is for the students and for the quality of education they receive. Eric Matheson stated that not all problems are fixed and that it will take greater honesty and time. He stated that truthfully he wasn't aware of the decisions made about the teachers beforehand but that he does stand behind the decisions. Eric Stroup stated that the board only has two employees, Lewis Reese and Nancy Jones. We are not a unionized school and they hold their two employees accountable and then those two employees hold the faculty accountable. Jack Wright stated that he completely trusts Lewis Reese and that he is the one that inspired him. He asked the students and parents to trust him. Eric Amsel stated that the passion involved with this school is important and that there will be new problems all the time but that's what makes a school grow.

**8. Adjournment**

Iain Heuton moved to adjourn the meeting. Eric Stroup seconded. Vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Alexis Hicks