

**Minutes of the Meeting of
The Davidson Academy of Nevada
Governing Board**

November 19, 2007

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Governing Board was called to order at 2:05 p.m. in the Community Room of the KNPB Channel 5 Building located at 1670 N. Virginia St., Reno, Nevada 89503.

A. Roll Call

Roll call was completed by Clerk of the Board Colleen Harsin. Chairman Bob Davidson, President Jan Davidson, Mark Herron, Hon. Bruce R. James, Annette Whittemore, Eugene Paslov and Colleen Harsin were present. Members Milton Glick and Keith Rheault were not present. Members Hon. Brian Krolicki and Paul Dugan arrived a few minutes after the meeting started.

B. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and Introductions were completed by Chairman Bob Davidson, who confirmed that Speaker of the Nevada State Assembly, Barbara Buckley, had recently appointed Dr. Eugene Paslov as an member of the Board, replacing Senator Richard Bryan. Chairman Davidson thanked Senator Bryan for his service to the Board.

C. Approval of Minutes for Meeting of September 10, 2007

Motion was made by Hon. Bruce James and seconded by President Jan Davidson for approval of the September 10, 2007, Governing Board meeting minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by Hon. Bruce James and seconded by President Jan Davidson for approval of the Agenda as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Hon. Brian Krolicki and Paul Dugan entered the meeting at this time.

E. Reports

E.1. Academy Director

a. Policies

Colleen Harsin, Director began her report by referring the Board to **Appendix A – Davidson Academy Policies – Formal Version** (included by reference) for purpose of proposing amendments to previously approved **Policies 521, 610(3), 611, 612, 614, 615 and 620**.

**Minutes of the Meeting of
The Davidson Academy of Nevada
Governing Board**

November 19, 2007

Proposed changes include the following:

- 521** – amending the word “will” to “may” in the last sentence
- 610(3)** – amending **24** credits to **25** credits and of the **25** credits, **five(5)** will be elective...
- 611** – a 1 credit University lab course will equal 0.33 credit at the Davidson Academy instead of ¼ credit.
- 612** – changing 24 to 25 in the last sentence
- 614** - changing 24 to 25 in the last sentence
- 615** - changing 24 to 25 in the last sentence
- 620** – changing 24 to 25 in the first sentence

Chairman Bob Davidson introduced brief discussion on the proposed policy amendments. It was agreed that these changes needed to be discussed with Keith Rheault. Chairman Bob Davidson requested a motion for conditional approval of the proposed policy amendments pending discussion with Keith Rheault. Motion was made by Mark Herron and seconded by Eugene Paslov. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Harsin continued her report requesting that the Board refer to the **Dual Enrollment Memo** directed to Melissa Choroszy, Vice President of Enrollment Services included in the Board packets (included by reference). The memo outlines verbal communications between Ms. Harsin and Melissa Choroszy concerning dual enrollment credit for Davidson Academy students. With minor editing, it was agreed that this document would then be forwarded to Dr. Choroszy to confirm the communications. Chairman Bob Davidson indicated that Board approval was not needed for this item.

Ms. Harsin referred the Board to the document titled **Degree Seeking Options for Davidson Academy of Nevada Students**, included in the Board packets (included by reference). Ms. Harsin advised that this document outlines three options for students concerning matriculation in to the University of Nevada as full-time degree seeking students. These options are a product of several discussions with UNR Enrollment Services.

Chairman Bob Davidson introduced discussion on matriculation in to the University of Nevada system concerning scholarship and fundraising. Hon. Brian Krolicki confirmed that to be eligible for the Millennium Scholarship a student must receive a diploma from a Nevada high school and have been a resident of the State for a minimum of two years. Chairman Bob Davidson confirmed that he would have a discussion with Jim Rogers concerning the possibility of creating a scholarship that would honor students for academic success similar to the way that athletes are honored, as in a full-ride scholarship for the student for the purpose of encouraging students to stay in the University of Nevada system. Mr. Davidson also requested that Ms. Harsin look in to the possibility of the **Degree Seeking Options for Davidson Academy of Nevada Student** also being available to Davidson Academy students interested in attending University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Chairman Davidson requested a motion to approve **Degree Seeking Options for Davidson Academy of Nevada Student**, contingent upon

**Minutes of the Meeting of
The Davidson Academy of Nevada
Governing Board**

November 19, 2007

approval and discussion with Keith Rheault. Motion was made by Hon. Brian Krolicki and seconded by Annette Whittemore. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Harsin continued her report by referring the Board to a drafted example of a student transcript included within their Board packets (included by reference). Ms. Harsin advised the Board that she is currently working with Deborah Claymon, Consultant, on creating a uniform grading system. Ms. Claymon is also assisting her in drafting a school transcript that appropriately reflects student information and credits earned. Paul Dugan advised that this is also being worked on at a State level, however it would likely not be effective in State schools for the coming school year. It was agreed that this item should also be discussed with Keith Rheault. Ms. Harsin advised that she would confer with Keith Rheault and provide an updated report on this item at the next Governing Board meeting. Chairman Bob Davidson advised that no vote was necessary at this time.

b. Staffing Update

Ms. Harsin confirmed that she would provide a staffing update at the next Governing Board meeting.

c. General Program Update

Ms. Harsin confirmed that Spring advising is underway and that all students' currently taking University courses have had advisement/ personal learning plan meetings. Ms. Harsin advised the Board that she would provide a report on accreditation for The Davidson Academy of Nevada at the next Governing Board meeting. The Davidson Academy Parent Group has been formed and a summary of their recent activities was included in the Board packets (included by reference).

d. Admissions

Ms. Harsin reported the Admissions Update and that currently the Davidson Academy has received 21 applications for the 2008-2009 academic year. Chairman Bob Davidson confirmed that the goal is to have 100 qualified students enrolled for the fall of 2008.

E.2. Media and Outreach

a. Update

Julie Dudley, Director of Communications provided the Board with the Media and Outreach Updates. To date, the Academy has received 14 million media impressions. Two international placements are pending: one in a Brazilian magazine and another in a Scandinavian magazine. Concerning outreach; Academy information and pamphlets have been delivered to all Washoe County Schools. Ms. Harsin had recently attended the State Directors meeting as well as the NACG Conference. On the evening of November, 19th, following the Governing Board meeting, an informational event and tour

**Minutes of the Meeting of
The Davidson Academy of Nevada
Governing Board**

November 19, 2007

was held for prospective students. Fifty families RSVP'd to attend the event, including 18 Young Scholar families.

Ms. Dudley introduced Annette James, chair of the Academy Parents Group Fundraising Committee, and asked her to report on recent fundraising activities.

Ms. James reported that the Fundraising Committee had been established six weeks ago and their first project, a direct mail fundraising campaign, is well underway. Seven hundred letters will be sent with an overall goal to raise \$50,000. The Fundraising Committee has also completed a parent fundraising drive and received 100% participation. The parents were committed to a goal of \$5,000; they have raised over \$10,000. The Committee is currently looking to hold an annual benefit sometime between May and October of 2008.

Colleen Harsin asked Jeremy Schmidt, President of the Davidson Academy Parents Group to please stand so that he may be introduced to the Governing Board.

E.3. Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

a. Jot Travis Student Union Construction Update

Mark Herron, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer provided the Board with an update on the Jot Travis Building, confirming that the building has been vacated. On November 2, 2007, the construction was bid. Four bids were received with a very narrow \$133,000 total spread between the bids. The lowest qualified bid was received from Bison Construction. The next lowest qualified bid was received from Q & D Construction, who is protesting the Bison's bid due to missing documentation. The bid will go to the Board of Regents during their November 28-29, 2007 meeting for approval. The objective is for the Academy to receive occupancy of the building on June 1, 2008.

Paul Dugan put the Academy in contact with Chris Smith, a member of the Washoe County School District staff with responsibility for school security. Mr. Smith provided valuable guidance on security and access matters for the Jot Travis building. The next Academy facility will have a more advanced security system in place including proximity cards and thumb print identification for entry and exit. There will also be surveillance and lockdown procedures in place.

F. Correspondence

The current correspondence was included in the Board packets. No further correspondence was received.

G. Public Comments

Linda Valle stood and expressed her appreciation to the Board and Bob and Jan Davidson. She advised that her son, currently a Davidson Academy student, is doing well and is very happy.

**Minutes of the Meeting of
The Davidson Academy of Nevada
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November 19, 2007

H. Consent Calendar

There were no consent calendar items at this time.

I. General Business

- a. Approval of University of Nevada, Reno Options for Degree Seeking Status**
- b. Approval of Policy Amendments for Absences and High School Diploma Requirements**
- c. Approval of Transcript Format**
- d. Approval of Grade Scales**
- e. Approval of Grade Weighting**

Under Reports, Chairman Bob Davidson introduced brief discussion on General Business items a) through e). It was agreed that these items needed to be discussed with Keith Rheault. At the same time, Chairman Davidson requested conditional approval of the proposed policy amendments listed under General Business item b. pending discussion with Keith Rheault. Motion was made by Mark Herron and seconded by Eugene Paslov. Motion carried unanimously.

- f. Approval of University of Nevada, Reno Dual-Enrollment Memorandum to Dr. Melissa Choroszy**

This General Business item was discussed under reports where it was deemed that no Board action should be taken.

J. Adjournment

Review of Meeting Schedule for 2008

The next Governing Board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, January 14, 2008 at 2:00p.m.** No further meeting dates were discussed.

There being no further business to come before the members of the Governing Board in public meeting, the meeting was declared adjourned by Chairman Bob Davidson at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Colleen Harsin, Clerk of the Board