

**Minutes of the Meeting of
The Davidson Academy of Nevada
Governing Board
June 15, 2009**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Governing Board was called to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Tahoe Room of The Davidson Academy of Nevada located at 1164 N. Virginia St., Reno, Nevada, 89503.

A. Roll Call

Roll call was completed by Chairman Bob Davidson. Jan Davidson, Mark Herron, Keith Rheault, Eugene Paslov, Hon. Brian Krolicki, Hon. Bruce R. James, and Colleen Harsin were present. Paul Dugan and Milton Glick were not present. Annette Whittemore joined the meeting via telephonic conferencing at 2:45 p.m.

Mr. Davidson referred Board members to a copy of the Certificate of Posting for the meeting.

B. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and Introductions were completed by Chairman Bob Davidson.

C. Approval of Minutes for Meeting of January 26, 2009

Chairman Bob Davidson requested approval of the minutes for the meeting of January 26, 2009. Motion was made by Hon. Bruce James for approval of the Minutes as submitted and seconded by Eugene Paslov. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Bob Davidson requested approval of the Agenda as submitted. Motion was made by Mark Herron for approval of the meeting Agenda and seconded by Jan Davidson. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Reports

E.1. Academy Director

a. General Program Update

Colleen Harsin, Director, began her report by referring Board members to a copy of NRG 901 (incorporated herein by reference) under Tab 2 of their Board books for reference within the context of her report. Ms. Harsin reported that on March 17, 2009 she and Mark Herron met with Dr. Rheault. During this meeting it was determined that in order for the Davidson Academy to appropriately document compliance with the *No Child Left Behind Act*, that Academy student grade levels and anticipated graduation dates will be set by their age. Davidson Academy students will complete age level state testing.

Ms. Harsin referred the Board to Tab 3 (incorporated herein by reference) in their Board books for a summary of proposed credit and grade weightings for Academy and university courses for which she would be requesting Board approval under General

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Business. She confirmed that no changes had been made to this summary since it was presented to the Board during the January 26, 2009 meeting.

Ms. Harsin continued her report by directing the Board to the Curriculum Map for earning a high school diploma from the Davidson Academy, under Tab 4 (incorporated herein by reference). This document was created for purpose of managing expectations of current and new Academy students and families. It was helpful during the 2009 spring semester advisement meetings and is also now included with acceptance letters for new students.

Under Tab 5 (incorporated herein by reference), Ms. Harsin referred Board members to the Academy's 2009-2010 Course Schedule. Core courses will take place Monday through Thursday with elective courses occurring on Fridays.

Under Tab 6 (incorporated herein by reference) Ms. Harsin presented the State of Nevada Department of Education's approval of the Academy's request to operate an alternative schedule for the 2009-2010 academic school year.

Under Tab 7 (incorporated herein by reference), Ms. Harsin advised the Board that the Academy had received the McGowan Grant which includes up to \$52,000 for the purpose of supporting a "Student Development in the Pursuit of Excellence" program. The goals of the program are to implement and improve student support initiatives, including the following: expand opportunities for student based learning on personalized learning plans (PLP), offer workshops on specific student-driven topics, increase available resources for college preparation and career and guidance counseling, and invite outside experts to speak with students across various disciplines to give students a broader world perspective. This is an excellent opportunity for the Academy, with a plan to apply for annual renewal.

Other General Academy Updates include receipt of provisional accreditation status through the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools as well as recent hiring of additional instructional staff and a second guidance counselor. Modifications to the Academy space are being considered to accommodate more classroom area. Ms. Harsin is completing updates to the Academy Handbook and has requested input from all Academy families and students. One family participated and forwarded a two-page, single-spaced email of suggestions that had not yet been reviewed as the information was received that morning. Parent Group Executive Officer elections were held and resulted in the election of Jody Cram as President, Danyel Wierson as Vice President, Karla Van Havel as Secretary and Cindy Evans as Treasurer. School year-end activities included a student council sponsored off-site dance that was very successful. Students also participated in several competitions and a fundraiser for the library through Barnes and Noble. Also, the Academy is transitioning the school logo to the Phoenix.

b. Graduation and College Planning Update

Referring Board members to Tab 8 (incorporated herein by reference) in their Board books Ms. Harsin reported that the Academy graduate eight students on May 14, 2009. These students' unweighted grade point averages ranged from 2.84 to 4.03 and their cumulative unweighted grade point average equaled 3.73. Their weighted grade point averages ranged from 3.74 to 4.86 and their cumulative weighted grade point average

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equaled 4.43. These graduates will receive up to \$20,000 annually in scholarship support, and three of the four graduates attending the University of Nevada, Reno are National Merit College sponsored.

Ms. Harsin confirmed that she is in the process of updating the Academy's school profile letter and that the Academy is now accessing college counseling support through *Naviance*.

c. Application and Admission Update

Ms. Harsin directed the Board to Tab 9 (incorporated herein by reference) of their Board books for a summary of the 2009-2010 application review and admissions summary. The Academy accepted 44 new students for fall 2009 term. With this number, including returning students the Academy expects enrollment of 105 students for the 2009-2010 school year.

E.2. Media and Outreach

a. Update

Julie Dudley, Director of Communications provided the Board with a hardcopy of Media and Outreach Updates dated June 15, 2009 (incorporated herein by reference). She reported that most recently the Academy's "man and stars" logo was replaced by the wording, "The Davidson Academy of Nevada" in the school color burgundy and in the same font as that used on the building signs. The Academy received significant media attention in May 2009 spotlighting the Academy's first graduating class. Placements included the Reno Gazette-Journal, KOLO, KRNK, KTVN and an AP article ran on regional websites. The Academy also received media placement for participation in the Western Regional Science Fair, Intel International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) and the National Geographic Spelling Bee.

Outreach and Event updates include online presence through the Davidson Academy eNewsletter, ongoing content updates to the Academy's public website, and a YouTube video posting titled "Davidson Academy - Message from the Founders." Tours for prospective students and the general public were well attended during the 2008-2009 school year. The Academy is receiving RSVPs for upcoming tours in June, July and August. Conferences recently attended include Washoe GT Resource Fair, Tune Into Kids, Rocky Mountain Talent Search and Intel ISEF.

Presentations and other outreach include Reno Rotary South on May 21st and upcoming presentations planned for local Rotary Clubs, Reno Soroptomists and the American Business Women's Association. Pursuant to previous recommendations from the Board, six Las Vegas GT contacts were emailed during past months. No response has been received. Ms. Dudley requested assistance from the Board to establish Las Vegas outreach contacts.

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E.3. Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

a. Insurance Update

Mark Herron, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, referred the Board to a summary sheet of the Academy's coverages prepared by the Academy's insurance broker. Coverages limits meet or exceed the suggestions of the State Department of Education for schools. Where appropriate, coverage is extended to employees, volunteers and Board members.

F. Correspondence

Clerk of the Board, Colleen Harsin advised the Board that a letter of resignation dated June 8, 2009 had been received from Paul Dugan. It had not been received in time to include in the Board books; a copy will be included at the next meeting.

The new Superintendent of the Washoe County School District, Heath Morrison, will be an ex-officio member of the Davidson Academy Governing Board. A welcoming letter from The Davidson Academy will be drafted.

G. Public Comments

Public comment cards were completed by Davidson Academy students Jessica Kim and Sasha McLaughlin who advised the Board that they were seeking approval for the establishment a Gay-Straight Alliance Club at the Davidson Academy for the purpose of promoting tolerance in the Academy's social and academic environment. Board members thanked the students for bringing this matter to their attention and confirmed that a global attitude of respect and tolerance toward all differences, not only sexual preference, was expected for students attending The Davidson Academy.

Following discussion it was decided that the Academy's administrative staff would develop a policy outlining criteria for the establishment of clubs at the Academy. It was also suggested that a series of seminars/ discussion groups be formed through guidance counseling to address the specific issue of tolerance for students.

Parents Toni McLaughlin, Jody Cram and Thea Gochicoa made brief public comments concerning support of the continued message of tolerance and further promotion of a safe environment at The Davidson Academy of Nevada.

H. Consent Calendar

There were no Consent Calendar items at this time.

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I. General Business

1. Proposed changes to credit and grade weightings for Davidson Academy and University of Nevada, Reno courses

Colleen Harsin advised the Board that General Business item 1. was tentatively approved by the Board during the January 26, 2009 meeting pending approval of the proposed changes by Keith Rheault. Mr. Rheault recommended approval of the changes. Chairman Bob Davidson requested motion for approval of General Business item 1. Motion was made by Eugene Paslov and seconded by Hon. Bruce James. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Board approval of the 2009-2010 Budget

Mark Herron referred Board members to Tab 10 for a copy of the proposed fiscal year 2009-2010 Davidson Academy operating budget (incorporated herein by reference). The budget figures were based on a projected enrollment of 100 students. He advised the Board that approval of the budget was requested during this meeting as a Board approved budget was required to be turned in to the State by June 30, 2009. Mr. Herron provided an overview of the major budget categories and how items differ from the prior year budget. Chairman Bob Davidson opened General Business item 2 for discussion of the budget. Following questions and discussion Mr. Herron made a motion to adopt the budget as submitted and was seconded by Eugene Paslov. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Appointment of Holthouse, Carlin, and Van Trigt as auditors and approval of engagement letter for the 2008-2009 fiscal year audit

Mark Herron referred Board members to a copy of the engagement letter included in the rear pocket of their Board books (incorporated herein by reference). He confirmed that this is the third year that the firm of Holthouse, Carlin and Van Trigt had been used for audit purposes for the Academy. He indicated that their fees were slightly lower this year. Hon. Brian Krolicki raised a concern that the letter included language regarding arbitration in California pursuant to California law. He suggested that this language be revised to eliminate these requirements. Motion for approval of the letter of engagement, subject to changing the arbitration language, was requested by Chairman Bob Davidson. Motion was made by Mark Herron and seconded by Hon. Bruce James. Motion carried unanimously.

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J. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before The Davidson Academy Board in public meeting Chairman Bob Davidson requested motion for meeting adjournment. Motion was made by Annette Whittemore and seconded by Jan Davidson. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Colleen Harsin, Clerk of the Board