

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

June 11, 2007

Call to order

The regular meeting of the Governing Board was called to order at 2:05pm in Classroom #2 of The Davidson Academy of Nevada.

Roll Call

Chairman Bob Davidson, Members Hon. Brian Krolicki, Keith Rheault, Mark Herron, Hon. Bruce R. James, Annette Whittemore and Colleen Harsin. Members Milton Glick, Sen. Richard Bryan and Jan Davidson were not present.

Welcome and Introductions were completed by Chairman Bob Davidson.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting January 16, 2007

Motion for approval of minutes from the January 16, 2007, meeting was made by Hon. Bruce James and seconded by Hon. Brian Krolicki. Motion carried unanimously.

Bob Davidson suggested with the exit of Stacy Colwell as clerk of the board, Colleen Harsin be elected to the position. Motion to approve made by Mark Herron and seconded by Annette Whittemore. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by Annette Whittemore for approval of the Agenda. It was seconded by Mark Herron. Motion carried unanimously.

Student Recognition

Colleen Harsin, Director of The Davidson Academy of Nevada reported the students at The Davidson Academy of Nevada had a great year. Students participated in competitions including the Language Bowl and Math Counts. She continued by presenting Davidson Academy student Kelsey James with a gift in recognition of scoring 1st in the state of Nevada Math Counts competition and earning a perfect score on the test. Kelsey brought Nevada up in the national rankings from 43rd to a 17th place, and Nevada won the Most Improved Award.

Reports

Student Council Representatives Rachel Ellison and Emma Schmelzer

reported about their first year at The Davidson Academy of Nevada. Emma explained that her fellow students were one of the highlights of The Davidson Academy of Nevada, as she was able to connect with true peers and create deep friendships. Students are also able to develop friendships with UNR students. They continued their report by commenting on the seamless transitions they experienced between Academy and UNR classes. They shared minor concerns of policies and miscommunication, although both of these issues were improving. Emma concluded by thanking the board for their dedication in creating The Academy as she had an amazing year and the school met all of her expectations. Keith Rheault questioned the level of involvement in student council by the rest of the student body. Rachel explained about 2/3 of the students were on the council and that they are in the process of creating a list of agenda items to accomplish in the coming year.

Colleen Harsin, Director of The Davidson Academy of Nevada, began her General Program Update with reporting the Personalized Learning Plans were in the process of being developed, which will be used as an overarching tool for planning future classes. Ms. Harsin continued that 18 Academy students were anticipated to take UNR courses. The 2007-2008 fall schedule will be planned around the UNR courses depending on the needs of the students. Bob Davidson indicated that because many students are taking university courses, it makes sense to have The Academy's school schedule mimic the university's calendar. Ms. Harsin continued her General Program Update with a summary of the Club Royale event in May. Students, parents, and staff created decorations, games, and took photos at the event. Ms. Harsin shared her pride in the students for a successful event, and presented the board members with a copy of the yearbook created by students and staff.

Ms. Harsin continued her report with a staffing update. Amy Dolan is the full time Guidance Counselor and Carmen Garcia is the full time Curriculum Coordinator at The Davidson Academy. Both Amy and Carmen are former Family Consultants at The Davidson Institute for Talent Development. Other staffing updates include Erin Wallace transferring from DITD to become Office Manager and Aimee Fredericks returning from maternity leave and assuming an Admissions role. Larry Kramp, a former Academy student teacher, will teach computer courses this fall as well as providing technical support to DITD. Ms. Harsin reported that The Academy will bring in someone in a para-professional role for about 20 hours a week. Ms. Harsin also shared that The Academy's full time teachers will not be returning next school year, and The Academy will use a visiting professor model. Contracts are currently pending with professors in Chinese, Latin, Language Arts, Social Studies, Government, and Biology.

Ms. Harsin next reported on Policies. The Academy Staff is working to develop the policies and procedures handbook over the summer. Bob Davidson added he would like to see an amendment to future policies to allow students to

recognize national holidays but to prevent them from observing any politically-driven days. Ms. Harsin stated the policy outline provided to the board will be used as a framework. Policies will include admissions, attendance (as Keith Rheault shared, each school must set their own attendance regulations including appeal and review), reasons for dismissal, safety, graduation, and credit policies. Bob Davidson proposed to approve the policies as provided in the board packet with an amendment to 5.12, the maximum number of absences. Hon. Bruce James questioned adopting regulations as written and suggested they adopt the outline and send the completed handbook to the board for approval. Hon. Brian Krolicki agreed. Mark Herron moved to approve the policies as an outline. Hon. Bruce James seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Harsin continued her report with the Admissions summary. Twelve new students were accepted and The Academy is waiting to hear from three more families about their intent to attend. The Academy is beginning to gather information for the new students' Personalized Learning Plans and is forming a parent group to welcome new families. There are six girls and six boys, with new students coming from both Nevada and nationwide. Ms. Harsin expects the current building being filled to capacity and The Academy is not currently soliciting applications from overseas. The application for the 2008-2009 school year will be on the website August 1st.

Julie Dudley, Director of Communications gave a media update. The ABC Nightline piece has aired and the story with TIME Magazine has been moved up due to a cover story publication on the No Child Left Behind act. UNR's Silver and Blue Magazine also did a profile piece featuring Emma Schmelzer, Misha Raffiee, and Max Oswald-Sells.

Katie Graham, Outreach Director & Director of THINK Summer Institute reported that events planned for Academy students and parent groups were held throughout the school year. Outreach will resume in the fall. Bob Davidson added there has been tremendous outreach in the state and it has been positive as The Academy has a good reputation. Annette Whittemore suggested The Academy add information about The Academy in Washoe County and Nevada school handbooks.

Mark Herron, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer reported on legislation. Assembly Bill 567 passed through the Legislature and the Governor signed it on June 2nd. Bonnie Parnell, Debbie Smith, Bill Raggio, and Alfredo Alonso were all recognized for their efforts. Assembly Bill 567 grants The Academy state funding and federal allocations for students. Mr. Herron said certain information must be submitted to Keith Rheault such as fingerprint records of all employees and student count. Mr. Herron also reported the bill does not change the school's exemption from Title 34 of the Nevada Revised Statutes. The composition of the Governing Board will also change. Non-voting

advisory board members will be Keith Rheault, Milton Glick, and WCSD Superintendent Paul Dugan.

Mark Herron continued by updating the progress on acquiring the Jot Travis Student Union (JTSU) building for the 2008-2009 school year. The target date for opening is July 1, 2008. Mr. Herron introduced Buzz Nelson of UNR Facilities, Earl Briggs from construction, and architect Brad Van Woert. Mr. Nelson and Mr. Briggs reported the remodel is coming out of the design development stage and the project is on schedule. The bid opening will be November 1st, 2007, and the construction phase will be December 2007-July 2008. Occupancy is tentatively planned for June or July of 2008. The Academy will take over the second floor the JTSU building which is between 25,000-27,000 square feet. Brad Van Woert shared the JTSU is an ideal place for The Academy as it is in the heart of the academic area of campus, is located on Virginia Street, and is close to the Honors college and campus dining. The current street entrance will be closed, and a driveway will be put in at the south end of the parking lot. A shuttle stop will also be moved directly in front of the building. The north area will be fenced off with an entrance/exit to the second floor. The classroom area including the current Pine Lounge and Alumni Room will remain unchanged. The North pod of the building will be rebuilt for administration, classrooms and open areas. Mr. Van Woert stated there will be a security consultant hired. All doors into The Academy will remain locked. Guests will be received on the landing and must be buzzed in and sign in at the front desk before being allowed into the school.

Mr. Herron reported in the meantime the current Academy building will be remodeled. Classroom #2 will be divided in half and the back classroom into three distinct areas with room for cubicle space. The lockers will be moved into the front gathering room and will be taken to the JTSU.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence at this time.

Public Comments

There was no public comment at this time.

Review of Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the Governing Board was confirmed for Monday, September 10th, 2008 at 2:00.

Monday, November 19th, 2008 at 2:00 was also confirmed as one meeting is required each quarter.

Colleen Harsin requested the handbook be circulated among board members for approval before the next meeting so it can be published and handed out for the first day of school.

Bob Davidson suggested circulating meeting dates for 2008 at the September 10th meeting. Hon. Bruce James suggested the dates be scheduled for similar times as 2007.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the members of the Governing Board public meeting. Chairman Bob Davidson declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Colleen Harsin, Clerk