

**Minutes of the Meeting of
The Davidson Academy of Nevada
Governing Board
October 5, 2009**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Governing Board was called to order at 2:02 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. Mark Herron, Keith Rheault, Eugene Paslov, Hon. Brian Krolicki, Annette Whittemore, Heath Morrison and Colleen Harsin were present. Jan Davidson and Hon. Bruce R. James attended the meeting via conference call. Milton Glick was not present.

B. Welcome and Introductions

New ex-officio Board Member Heath Morrison, Superintendent of the Washoe County School District was introduced and welcomed to the Board by Chairman Bob Davidson.

C. Approval of Minutes for Meeting of June 15, 2009

Chairman Bob Davidson requested approval of the minutes for the meeting of June 15, 2009. Motion was made by Eugene Paslov for approval of the minutes as submitted and seconded by Mark Herron. 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 Eugene Paslov. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Reports

E.1. Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

- a. 2008-2009 Audit Report
Presentation by John Van Trigt, CPA
Holthouse Carlin & Van Trigt LLP

Mark Herron began his report with introduction of John Van Trigt, CPA, who joined the meeting via conference call and referred Board members to copies of The Davidson Academy of Nevada Independent Auditors' Reports dated June 30, 2009, included in their board packets (and incorporated herein by reference) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009. Mr. Van Trigt noted that fiscal year 2008-2009 is the third year that Holthouse Carlin & Van Trigt LLP has performed the audit for The Davidson Academy of Nevada and the second year that the audit included funding from the state. He indicated that overall the audit went well and the Auditor's Report was issued one month sooner than last year. The firm issued an unqualified audit opinion letter. The only meaningful

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adjustments made had to do with the treatment of the in-kind rent expense for the Academy building.

Mr. Van Trigt advised that the audit included a review of the Academy's internal controls and that no material weaknesses in the internal controls were found. He noted that the Academy receives a significant concentration of funding from Bob and Jan Davidson and this fact does constitute a business risk for the Academy. Mr. Van Trigt reported that accounting polices for the Academy are routine, and there were no disagreements with management over any matters.

The Board had no questions for Mr. Van Trigt. Mark Herron thanked Mr. Van Trigt for his report and also thanked Academy Controller Karin Dixson, for her assistance in the audit process.

E.2. Academy Director

a. Student Club Update

Colleen Harsin, director, began her report by referring Board members to Tab 2 of their Board packets for Rules & Guidelines for Davidson Academy Clubs (incorporated herein by reference). The purpose of this document is to outline rules and guidelines for a student group to be considered a club that is recognized and approved by The Davidson Academy of Nevada. These rules and guidelines were discussed with the students who made public comments about specific club formation during the Davidson Academy Governing Board meeting of June 15, 2009.

Ms. Harsin's student club update continued with introduction of Academy student Hannah Shoenhard, lead editor of the Academy's student newspaper – *RE(A)D*. Ms. Shoenhard advised the Board that the first hardcopy version of *RE(A)D*, a literary magazine and newspaper, had been printed of which they had each received a copy. She advised that the Newspaper Club was the largest Academy club, including 25 students ranging in age from 9-16 years. The club's advisor is Academy parent, Thea Gochicoa.

Ms. Harsin also introduced Academy student Brendan Beemer, who recently formed a new Arts Club at the Academy. Mr. Beemer indicated that he had the idea to begin a "starter" arts community of students to discuss, collaborate, etc. on differing creative talents in the arts. He indicated that not all club members currently have strong ideas about what they want out of the club, but he was working in a direction of firming this up.

b. General Program Update

Ms. Harsin referred Board members to a flyer included in their board books (incorporated herein by reference) advising of an upcoming Academy fundraiser to be held at Barnes & Noble on October 7, 2009. She further referred Board members to Tabs 3-4 which included information on Academy Student Handbook updates, curriculum updates, a current 2009-2010 student enrollment summary, an updated School Profile letter, the McGowan Grant breakdown, and Bills and Resolutions passed

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in the 2009 Legislative session that pertain to The Davidson Academy of Nevada (information under Tabs 3 & 4 are incorporated herein by reference).

Ms. Harsin referred the Board to Tab 5 (incorporated herein by reference) which included The Davidson Academy of Nevada 2008-2009 School Accountability Summary Report and Tab 6 for a memorandum from Keith Rheault (incorporated herein by reference) concerning *Applicability of Distance Education Statutes for The Davidson Academy of Nevada*.

Ms. Harsin advised the Board that the Academy's administrative staff was moving forward on the 18 month accreditation process for the school and would be attending a meeting at the Washoe County School District office on October 7, 2009, for further preparation and instruction. She concluded her General Program Update by letting the Board know that Back to School Night was scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, 2009.

c. **Graduation and College Planning Update**

Under Tab 7 (incorporated herein by reference), Ms. Harsin indicated that she had provided the Board with the breakdown of National Merit Program participants for the state of Nevada, and confirmed that 2 of the Academy's intended 6 graduates for 2010 were National Merit semifinalists.

Concerning college planning, Ms. Harsin confirmed that the Academy is now successfully using *Naviance*, and that outside consultant Deborah Claymon was further assisting the Academy's intended graduates with college planning. She also indicated that the graduates are on track to meet deadlines for early action and/or early decision applications.

E.3. Media and Outreach

a. **Update**

Ms. Kristin Busse, marketing manager for the Academy, provided the Board with an update on media and outreach activities. She referred the Board to a summary and copy of an article recently picked up by the *Associated Press* (incorporated herein by reference). She confirmed that the Academy continues to provide monthly tours for prospective students and families along with the occasional "one-off" type of tours to accommodate special requests from individuals.

Additionally, staff from The Davidson Academy and Davidson Institute for Talent Development will be attending a number of upcoming conferences such as the Texas Association of Gifted & Talented, where Jan Davidson will be the keynote speaker and Colleen Harsin will be conducting a breakout session. Ms. Busse confirmed that media and outreach efforts for the Academy have been increased locally, and requested names of contacts for the Las Vegas GATE Program from the Board.

F. Correspondence

Colleen Harsin referred Board members to Tab 8 of their Board packets to a letter dated June 8, 2009, from Paul Dugan (incorporated herein by reference) and email

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correspondence from Academy parents Sandra and Evan Prytherch (incorporated herein by reference).

G. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

H. Consent Calendar

There were no Consent Calendar items at this time.

I. General Business

1. Paul Dugan Certificate of Appreciation - Resolution
Colleen Harsin referred the Board to Tab 10 (incorporation herein by reference) and proposed Board approval of Certificate of Appreciation and Resolution of service to Board by Paul Dugan. Chairman Bob Davidson requested approval of General Business item 1. Motion was made by Mark Herron and seconded by Annette Whittemore. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Approval of May 2010 Davidson Academy graduates – Resolution
Colleen Harsin referred Board members to Tab 8 (incorporated herein by reference) and proposed approval of Davidson Academy Intended Graduates, May 2010. Chairman Bob Davidson requested approval of General Business item 2. Motion was made by Brian Krolicki and seconded by Hon. Bruce James. Motion carried unanimously.

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 Mark Herron and seconded by Annette Whittemore. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Colleen Harsin, Clerk of the Board