

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
The Davidson Academy of Nevada  
Governing Board  
March 2, 2015**

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Governing Board was called to order at 2:06 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 Bob Davidson. Roger Davidson, Mark Herron, Bruce James, Brian Krolicki, Marc Johnson, Annette Whittemore and Colleen Harsin were present, Traci Davis, and Dale Erquiaga were not present.

**B. Welcome and Introductions**

Bob Davidson and Colleen Harsin welcomed those attending the meeting.

**C. Public Comments**

There were no public comments at this time.

**D. Approval of Minutes for Meeting of November 10, 2014**

Bob Davidson requested approval of the minutes for the meeting of November 10, 2014; under Tab 1 of the Board books (incorporated herein by reference). Motion was made and seconded for approval of the minutes as submitted. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

**E. Approval of Agenda**

Bob Davidson requested approval of the Agenda. Motion was made and seconded for approval of the meeting Agenda as submitted. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

**F. Reports**

**1. Academy Director**

**a. General Program Updates**

Colleen Harsin began her report by referring Board members to the Tab 2 of their Board books for a copy of the current Calendar of Events for the Academy. Recent events included the first Davidson Academy Extravaganza which was a dinner and silent auction fundraiser for the student educational opportunities fund. It was an event coordinated through dedicated parent volunteers. This event was a great success and is expected to continue annually. Upcoming events include May state testing dates as well as the Academy's graduation ceremony on May 18, 2015. The next Board meeting is scheduled for the Tuesday after the Memorial Holiday, May 26, 2015.

Ms. Harsin introduced Rebecca Coleman and Journalism Club members Hayley Haas, Vandana Ravikumar and Ryan Mann who presented their project to provide an updated perception of current students attending The Davidson Academy of Nevada through social media. Specifically their project centers on a YouTube video, titled *We are Davidson*. The Board complimented their efforts and provided suggestions for improvement. Bruce James suggested increasing online exposure by making further contact with a representative from Google.

Under Tab 3 of their Board books Colleen Harsin referred Board members to a copy of her report to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (incorporated herein by reference) required to be submitted every other March pursuant to NRS 392A.

Under Tab 4 of their Board materials Ms. Harsin referred Board members to a copy of the application to the Nevada Department of Education to operate an alternate schedule. This application was submitted this year including an additional two days of school at the end of the year to accommodate required state testing.

Under Tab 5 Ms. Harsin referred Board members to a copy of the AdvancED Assurances (incorporated herein by reference) that have been submitted in advance of the March 15, 2015 deadline as part of the Academy's continued accreditation process.

Under Tab 6 Ms. Harsin provided Board members with a copy of the self-assessment results completed by staff members (incorporated herein by reference). At this time staff members are in the process of compiling response indicators and evidence to support the ratings that came in between 3-4 across most Standards. A rating of 4 is the highest rating possible. The exception was for Standard 5 where the staff self-rated at a 2. The observation was made that this lower rating likely stems from the school not fitting into a usual school model and how that reflected in the question/answers for this Standard.

Ms. Harsin introduced Academy students and DECA members Hayley Haas and Vandana Ravikumar who explained to the Board the Opportunities of DECA and the club's recent success in competition. They advised that 17 of the Academy's current 20 members have qualified to attend the international competition which will take place in Florida this year, costing approximately \$1,500 for each student to attend. Only nine of the 17 members are able to attend due to cost. They requested donations and scholarship opportunities from the Board to support more student attendance at this event at the international competition. Bruce James suggested that they pitch their scholarship idea to local businesses specifically Ty Cobb - Northern Nevada Network. Bob Davidson indicated that he would be willing to contact Ty Cobb.

Under Tab 7 of their Board books Ms. Harsin discussed the *AdvancED Guidelines for Creating a Student Performance Data Document* (incorporated herein by reference). She advised that staff members compiled ACT, PSAT and SAT mean scores of Academy students over a five year period. These numbers were presented in a graphed comparison to national scores of these tests to reflect student performance for Academy students over that period. Mark Johnson confirmed that Academy students do not take Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Ms. Harsin indicated that was the case in that most of the Academy's current courses exceed AP expectations. She advised however that Academy students participate in AP testing and generally do very well each year. Brian Krolicki requested that a copy of the graph be provided to the Board members.

Under Tab 8 Ms. Harsin referred Board members to a copy of the *AdvancED Guidelines for Creating the Stakeholder Feedback Data Document* and student survey results (incorporated herein by reference). She reported that 74% of the parent stakeholder population completed their surveys, 82% of students and 100% of staff members, which is a great completion rate. She confirmed that the survey information for each group of stakeholders was very positive.

#### **b. College Planning Updates**

Under Tab 9 Ms. Harsin shared the Davidson Academy list of Finalists in the 2015 Competition for National Merit Scholarships (incorporated herein by reference). She also confirmed that she had been selected as a member of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation Board of Directors. Four Academy graduates were also named as Presidential Scholar nominees.

#### **2. Media and Outreach**

Under Tab 10 of their Board books Julie Dudley referred Board members to a summary of Media Outreach Updates as of March 2, 2015 (incorporated herein by reference). She confirmed that up-to-date media impressions include a recent issue of *Silver & Blue* magazine featuring Academy mathematics instructor Darren Ripley, also a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Nevada, Reno, as their lead story. KOLO recently ran a story including the FYRE Robotics Team that includes a number of Academy students, and the Academy's Venture Lab appeared on the America Matters radio show at the Old Town Mall with Fred Jakolat and Dr. Mark Pingle to discuss their projects. There has not been an update yet as to when the CNN story featuring Dr. Sanjay

Gupta and Bob Davidson will run. The Academy's eNewsletter continues to increase in subscribership.

**G. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence received by the Board for this meeting.

**H. Public Comments**

There were no public comments at this time.

**I. General Business**

There were no General Business items.

**J. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board in public meeting, motion was made and seconded for adjournment; motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.



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Respectfully submitted by Colleen Harsin, Clerk of the Board