

**Minutes of the Meeting of
The Davidson Academy of Nevada
Governing Board
February 29, 2016**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Governing Board was called to order at 2:04 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 Chair of the Meeting, Bob Davidson. Roger Davidson, Mark Herron, Bruce James, Annette Whittemore, Marc Johnson, Steve Canavero, Brian Krolicki and Colleen Harsin were present. Traci Davis and Kathleen Sandoval were not present.

B. Welcome and Introductions

Bob Davidson welcomed all Board members present as well as individuals attending from the public.

Mark Herron mentioned in remembrance late Senator Debbie Smith who had been a tremendous supporter of The Davidson Academy of Nevada and of education as a whole in the state of Nevada. At the 2005 Legislative session Senator Smith had endorsed the forming of the Davidson Academy of Nevada and most recently supported the forming of the Davidson National Academy. Colleen Harsin commented that Senator Smith was integral in legislation leading to Nevada state public school storage of non-designated Epi-Pens for students with unknown allergies leading to possible anaphylaxis. Of note, The Davidson Academy staff had needed to administer an undesignated Epi-Pen that week to a student. Brian Krolicki requested a proclamation on behalf of The Davidson Academy of Nevada to Senator Smith's family. The Board thanked Senator Smith for her time served as part of the Nevada State Senate and for her support and endorsement of The Davidson Academy of Nevada and Davidson National Academy.

C. Public Comments

John Grinnell shared with the Board and meeting attendees a recent article sent to students, families and staff by Davidson Academy Guidance Counselor, Shannon Harrison, titled, "Turning the Tide, Inspiring Concern for Others and the Common Good through College Admissions" from the Harvard Admission Report.

D. Approval of Minutes for Meeting of November 9, 2015

Bob Davidson requested approval of the minutes for the meeting of November 9, 2015, 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 as submitted to the Board. Motion was made and seconded for approval of the meeting Agenda. 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 to Tab 2 of the Board books for a copy of a letter of October 28, 2015, (incorporated herein by reference) from Speaker of the Nevada Assembly, John Hambrick, which confirms a four year appointment of Kathleen Sandoval to the Governing Board of the Davidson Academy of Nevada. Ms. Harsin advised that she had been in contact with Mrs. Sandoval and was looking at mutually available dates to meet with her and provide a tour of the Academy campus. Bruce James questioned whether Mrs. Sandoval was a voting member.

Mark Herron confirmed that she was a voting member of the Board. Confusion of her voting status was caused by a punctuation error on the Notice of Meeting, which will be corrected.

Ms. Harsin indicated that concerning the Academy's admissions process, 14 new students had been accepted to date for the 2016-2017 school year. These students range in age from nine to fourteen years old. Three admissions assessment dates remain that are expected to be full. The Academy's current enrollment is 154 students.

Ms. Harsin referred Board members to Tab 3 of their Board books for a copy of the Nevada Department of Education Cohort Graduation Rate Data for 2014-2015 (incorporated herein by reference) which showed a rate of 100% for University Schools (Davidson Academy of Nevada).

Under Tab 4 of their Board materials Ms. Harsin referenced information about the Academy's recent offering of the High School S.H.A.R.E. (Sexuality, Health, and Responsibility Education) Program (incorporated herein by reference). Academy Instructors received curriculum based training on administration of the S.H.A.R.E Program for Academy students. Eleven middle school students and seven high school students had recently voluntarily participated in the program.

Ms. Harsin introduced Academy students and DECA members Hayley Haas and Vandana Ravikumar for a short presentation on recent DECA activities. Ms. Haas advised the Board that DECA was a club that helps students prepare for careers in business and marketing through direct interaction with local businesses, travel, classwork and leadership. Ms. Ravikumar has been very active at the Academy in the last three years attending several DECA competitions. She indicated that she has grown fundamentally as a person through being a part of DECA and has great faith the Academy chapter will remain strong. Ms. Haas thanked the Board for their continued support of DECA at The Davidson Academy of Nevada.

Ms. Harsin continued her report by referring Board members to Tab 5 of their Board books for information about the Academy's Wellness Weeks, February 1-14 (incorporated herein by reference). Wellness Weeks activities were coordinated by the Academy's Guidance Counselor, Shannon Harrison with a message of "Take care of yourself by being your best self."

Ms. Harsin referred Board members to Tab 6 of their Board books for a copy of the AdvancED Substantive Change Notification Form in reference to the Academy's proposed digital learning addition (incorporated herein by reference). The goal of offering an online option is to incorporate an electronic version of the best of what the current school currently offers. The objective is to have the digital learning option as part of the current Academy program versus obtaining a separate accreditation process. Ms. Harsin is currently waiting for response from AdvancED from her January 2016 submission of the form. She is also identifying other accrediting organizations to approach concerning the online option. Bruce James commented that the Academy may need to have two accreditations for the educational offerings but it was smart to try to envelope them into one. He further commented that accrediting organizations would likely take a close look at our proposal as this probably hasn't been done before and a precedent would be set based on their decision.

Ms. Harsin confirmed that current Mathematics Instructor, Dan Carter has agreed to further postpone his retirement and continue teaching at the Academy for the 2016-2017 school year.

b. College Planning Updates

Under Tab 7 of their Board books Ms. Harsin referred Board members to a copy of a letter from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation and a summary of Presidential Scholars for 2016 (incorporated herein by reference). More than 50 percent of the Davidson Academy of Nevada 2016 graduating class are National Merit Finalists. Seven Academy graduates were named Presidential Scholars.

Also under Tab 7 Ms. Harsin provided a summary of Class of 2016 Acceptances for Early Action, Early Decision and Rolling Admissions (incorporated herein by reference). She confirmed that most admissions decisions would be received in mid-March.

2. Media and Outreach

Julie Dudley, Director, Davidson Institute for Talent Development, referred Board members to a summary of Media and Outreach updates included their Board materials under Tab 8 (incorporated herein by reference). The Davidson Academy's Science Bowl Team won the 25th Annual Nevada Science Bowl on February 6, 2016. Members of the Channel 4 News Team visited the Academy on February 7th and held a mini Science Bowl with members of the Academy's team.

Bruce James commented that not only the Academy but, The University of Nevada, Reno deserves credit for helping to prepare these students. Marc Johnson complemented Davidson TED Ex and Taylor Wilson's contribution to the program.

Ms. Dudley confirmed that Academy tour numbers and eNewsletter numbers were increasing.

G. Correspondence

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

H. Public Comments

Bahar Patel offered her thanks and compliments of The Davidson Academy as well as University of Nevada, Reno. Mrs. Patel has a son already attending the Academy and another son will be a new student starting in fall 2016.

Bruce James referred to public comment made under Agenda item C. and advised that he had read an article by David Brooks about a breakdown of politics, and discussion about politics and empathy.

I. General Business

Brian Krolicki proposed preparation of a resolution by the Board in honor of Senator Debbie Smith. Motion was made and seconded for approval. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously. A resolution will be drafted and presented at the next meeting of the Board.

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 3:00 p.m.



Respectfully submitted by Colleen Harsin, Clerk of the Board