

**Minutes of the Meeting  
The Davidson Academy of Nevada  
Governing Board  
September 12, 2016**

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Governing Board was called to order at 2:03 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. Steve Canavero, Roger Davidson, Mark Herron, Bruce James, Marc Johnson, Brian Krolicki, Annette Whittemore and Colleen Harsin were present. Traci Davis and Kathleen Sandoval were not present.

**B. Welcome and Introductions**

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

**C. Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public at this time.

**D. Approval of Minutes for Meeting of May 23, 2016**

Bob Davidson requested approval of the minutes for the meeting of May 23, 2016, 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. Vice President and Chief Financial Officer**

**a. Presentation of independent auditor's report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016**

Mark Herron, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, introduced John Van Trigt and Kimberly Hastings of the accounting firm Holthouse, Carlin & Van Trigt LLP who joined the meeting by conference call.

Mr. Van Trigt began his presentation by referring the Board to the AU260 Letter and Audit Report prepared by his office and provided to the Board (incorporated herein by reference). He indicated that the AU260 Letter summarizes the audit report. He confirmed that the audit was completed with an unmodified opinion, with no audit exceptions, adjustments or disagreements. He confirmed that the Academy's record keeping was in good order and accurate with appropriate internal controls in place. The financial statements show strong finances with no long-term debt. No new accounting policies had been implemented and the audit was consistent with prior years.

Mr. Van Trigt and Ms. Hastings confirmed internal control testing and that the Academy maintains strong controls with no deficiencies noted.

Motion for acceptance of the audit report was made and seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Herron, and other board members, thanked Karin Dixon for her work in preparation of materials for the completion of the audit, as well as Colleen Harsin, Mr. Van Trigt and Ms. Hastings.

## **2. Academy Director**

### **a. General Program Updates**

Davidson Academy Director, Colleen Harsin, began her report by introducing Stacy Hawthorne of Hawthorne Education LLC, who is a contractor assisting with the development of online Academy courses. Ms. Harsin also announced Julie Dudley's role change to Academy Director of External Affairs and Clerk of the Governing Board.

Ms. Harsin then referred Board Members to a Tab 2 of their Board books for a copy of the approval letter of the Academy's revised, non-traditional calendar received from Dr. Steve Canavero, State Superintendent of Public Instruction (incorporated herein by reference). This letter was in response to a request to Dr. Canavero to amend the approved calendar for the 2016-2017 school year to reflect the actual student count of 159 and to reduce the school year by two days based on the state testing calendar.

Ms. Harsin addressed the budget question from the May meeting stating that the last approved budget was for an estimated 155 students. At the start of this school year, 159 students were attending the Academy. Assessment costs that were included under Administrative expenses have been moved under Student Services to more accurately reflect how those dollars are spent. A budget revision will be presented at the November meeting based on average daily enrollment. [Subsequently, it has been determined that this budget revision would not be necessary.]

Ms. Harsin directed Board Members to the course schedule for 2016-2017 in the front pocket of the Board book. Mondays through Thursdays are the same schedule. Fridays are blocks of two-hour electives. In addition, many Academy students are also accessing University of Nevada, Reno courses.

Ms. Harsin noted that the Academy was contacted in late May by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights to make our website ADA compliant. The Academy team has already updated much of the website and will be attending web accessibility training to determine next steps.

Under Tabs 3 and 4 of the Board books Ms. Harsin shared both student and parent survey results. Results included how students and their parents use the Academy's learning management system, BlackBoard.

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

Ms. Harsin stated that the list of 2017 Academy graduates will be presented at the November meeting along with a list of colleges they are applying to and the names of National Merit Semi-Finalists. Nineteen out of 25 students in this year's graduating class are National Merit Semi-Finalists, the highest percentage the Academy has ever had. An updated version of the Academy School Profile is available on the website with new test scores for the class of 2017.

Next, Ms. Harsin referenced two letters about Academy alumni. The first was from the UNR Honors Program naming three Academy alums who entered the Honors Program this fall – Duncan Boren, Noah Conway and Addison Cram. The second letter was from MIT recognizing Academy science instructor Martin Braik, who was named as an influential teacher.

### **3. Media and Outreach**

Julie Dudley introduced two communications and web team members in attendance, Melissa Reed, director of communications at the Davidson Institute, and Mark Dlugosz, web coordinator.

Ms. Dudley referred Board members to Tab 5 in their Board books for a summary of Media and Outreach updates (incorporated herein by reference) and asked Ms. Harsin to present the U.S. Congressional Record statements made by Senator Heller about Academy students. Next, Ms. Dudley referenced copies of recent media placements about Academy students: Ian Oh's article in *Imagine* magazine, published by the Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins University; and Dhruv Rohatgi's mention in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* for an award he received at the Research Science Institute (RSI), an international summer program for high school students at MIT. Ms. Dudley confirmed the Academy eNewsletter subscribers continue to increase. Tour attendance numbers were presented along with future tour dates.

Ms. Harsin referenced a copy of the book *Cool Colleges: For the Hyper-Intelligent, Self-Directed, Late Blooming, & Just Plain Different* and read a paragraph in the latest edition about the Davidson Academy. The author will be at the Academy to speak to students later in the school year.

### **G. Correspondence**

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

### **H. Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public at this time.

### **I. General Business**

Proposed Meeting Dates for 2017

The following proposed meeting dates were presented:

- Monday, Feb. 27, 2017 - 2 p.m.
- Monday, May 15, 2017 - 2 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 18, 2017 - 2 p.m.
- Monday, Nov. 6, 2017 - 2 p.m.

The board will review these dates again at the November 7 meeting.

### **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 3:08 p.m.



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Respectfully submitted by Julie Dudley, Clerk of the Board