

Minutes of the Meeting
The Davidson Academy Governing Board
Nov. 6, 2017

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 located at 1164 N. Virginia St., Reno, Nevada, 89503.

A. Roll Call

Roll call was completed by the Chair of the Meeting, Bob Davidson. Alan Boeckmann, Roger Davidson, Mark Herron, Marc Johnson, Brian Krolicki, Annette Whittemore and Colleen Harsin were present. Steve Canavero and Traci Davis and were not present.

B. Welcome and Introductions

Bob Davidson welcomed the Board members present as well as individuals attending from the public. Davidson Academy Director, Colleen Harsin, welcomed new Board member, Alan Boeckmann, along with Davidson team members in attendance:

- Stacy Hawthorne, Director of Online Learning
- Mark Dlugosz from Chicago and Davidson Institute representative
- Melissa Reed from the Davidson Institute
- Karin Dixson, Controller for the Davidson Group

Alan Boeckmann gave a brief self-introduction.

C. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public at this time.

D. Approval of Minutes for Meeting of Sept. 18, 2017

Bob Davidson requested approval of the minutes for the meeting of Sept. 18, 2017 under Tab 1 of the Board book (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

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 2 (incorporated herein by reference) with the Academy's 2014-2015 Progress Assessment accepted by AdvancED, the accreditation body for the Academy. This report marks the accreditation halfway point for the current cycle, which will include a school visit in 2019. Professional development is a focus of the report along with fine-tuning data analysis to gauge student growth. Discussion ensued about professional development opportunities provided for Academy faculty and staff based upon the uniqueness of the Academy's student body. Also discussed was how the Academy can show "growth" when students consistently score high on assessments and maintain high grades. Bob Davidson

mentioned Belin-Blank and possibly working with them to determine measurable variables to rate schools for gifted students. Ms. Harsin noted on page 4 of the report an “updated performance level” score from “two” to “three” due to improvements in data usage for student evaluation purposes.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 3 (incorporated herein by reference) with the ACT Profile Report. She stated that the state of Nevada is now using the ACT in place of the high school proficiency exam. Ms. Harsin detailed the Academy’s ACT score history referencing the graphs and tables provided in the report. Dr. Johnson explained how the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) utilizes ACT scores for course placement of incoming students.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 4 (incorporated herein by reference) with an email sent to Academy students and parents about dress code updates as an example of making changes based on reasonable student feedback and disseminating changes to the relevant community members involved.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 5 (incorporated herein by reference) which included student survey results about orientation. Last year, the Academy administration decided to request feedback closer to the August orientation rather than wait to include these questions in the end-of-year survey. Ms. Harsin reported the results and how specific feedback will be incorporated into next year’s orientation event.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 6 (incorporated herein by reference) that included parent survey results about both orientation and back-to-school night. Again, the Academy administration decided to request this feedback closer to these events rather than wait until the end-of-year survey next May. Ms. Harsin reported the results and how feedback will be incorporated into these events next year.

b. College Planning Updates

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 7 (incorporated herein by reference) with Academy teacher recognition letters. The Academy received a letter from Stanford recognizing biology instructor Martin Braik; a letter from MIT for Mr. Braik, physics instructor Brett Guisti and humanities instructor Jessica Rafferty; and, a letter from the University of Chicago for humanities instructor AnnElise Hatjakes. Academy graduates accepted at these schools were invited to name their top teacher(s) for recognition.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 8 (incorporated herein by reference) with student recognition letters. Three of the 2017 Academy graduates have been accepted in the UNR Honors Program. Three Academy students were recognized as “Commended Students” in the 2018 National Merit Program.

2. Director of Online Learning

a. General Program Updates

Stacy Hawthorne, Director of Online Learning, stated that all eligible Academy Online courses are being submitted to the University of California (UC) for online high school course approval. Thus, most of the online courses, all of which are currently accredited through AdvancED, are currently or in the process of being UC approved for A-G credit.

Ms. Hawthorne referred to the Front Pocket (incorporated herein by reference) and explained how the recent Academy Halloween costume contest included students from both campuses, Reno and Online, utilizing Adobe Connect. Ms. Hawthorne showed classroom recordings from the Online High School live sessions, including how students and instructors see each other and interact. Yearbook is a Friday elective with Academy students from both the Reno and Online campuses participating. Discussion ensued about various details of the online program, including technology, the student handbook and growth expectations for the online program. Ms. Hawthorne presented a review of the Online High School student demographics, which were highlighted by Ms. Harsin at the September meeting.

3. Media and Outreach

Julie Dudley referred to Tab 10 (incorporated herein by reference) with Media and Outreach report, which included: recent media clips; eNewsletter subscription numbers; social media links; Academy tour numbers as well as upcoming tours and online open house dates; and a list of upcoming conferences.

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

1. Graduates, Class of 2018

Academy Director, Colleen Harsin referred Board members to Tab 9 with a list of proposed 2018 graduates (incorporated herein by reference). She noted that these 27 students are on track for completion of requirements for graduation and the Board must be presented this list for vote each year pursuant to NRS388C. Ms. Harsin requested Board approval for graduation of the listed students subject to completion of all requirements. Motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Bob Davidson noted the following 2018 meeting dates:

- Monday, February 26, 2018
- Monday, May 14, 2018 – Meeting Location: KNPB, 1670 N. Virginia St.
- Monday, September 17, 2018
- Monday, November 5, 2018

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 3:29 p.m.



Respectfully submitted by Julie Dudley, Clerk of the Board