

**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**The Davidson Academy Governing Board**  
**February 27, 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 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. Mark Herron, Marc Johnson, Brian Krolicki, Annette Whittemore and Colleen Harsin were present. Bruce James, Roger Davidson, Steve Canavero and Traci Davis 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 Nov. 7, 2016**

Bob Davidson requested approval of the minutes for the meeting of Nov. 7, 2016, 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**

Davidson Academy Director, Colleen Harsin, reported that the Academy's annual Extravaganza fundraising event occurred on Feb. 18, 2017. While the final proceeds have not yet been tallied, all proceeds will be dedicated to the Academy's Educational Opportunities Fund.

Ms. Harsin gave an Admissions report stating that the number of incoming students for the 2017-2018 school year should be close to the 24 graduating this year. Thus, the Academy will be about the same size of 157 students next school year. Currently, there are 16 accepted students for the 2017-2018 school year with 25 more to assess in March and April. Four have been accepted on deferral basis for 2018-2019, which are typically younger students. Out of the 16 accepted, 10 are from out of state and six are in state, with nine girls and seven boys. The March and April assessments will determine final numbers.

Regarding applications for online high school program, there is tuition for students outside of Nevada. There is no tuition for students in Nevada and the Academy will receive DSA funds for these students. Tuition outside of Nevada is \$15,000 annually with financial aid available based on several factors such as the number of students in the household, annual family income and where the family resides. Twenty-three applications are in process from students living in

Nevada, California, Minnesota, Texas, Montana, Arizona, Washington, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, Connecticut, New Jersey, Illinois and New Mexico. About half of these applicants attend a public or public charter school, one-third are homeschooled, and others marked private school or have not yet completed the schooling section of the application. This data is consistent with students coming to the Reno school and the eligibility criteria are the same.

The midway report for the Academy's accreditation with AdvancED is due the first of May and will be included in the Board book for the May Governing Board meeting. This accreditation report will include online high school information. A substantive change form was submitted to AdvancED, which allows Academy online courses to be accredited just as those at the Reno campus. The online option will be formally evaluated by AdvancED during the next accreditation visit scheduled for the spring of 2019. By then, the full course load for the online high school will be in use. For 2017-2018, the course offerings will be limited to the first few years of high school. By 2018-2019, the full range of high school courses will be available along with some electives.

Hiring is underway for the online option. The Academy's budget will change significantly due to the addition of this program, which will be added to the budget for the coming year. Academy staff has conferred with appropriate state officials so that expectations and documentation requirements for DSA use with both the Academy's Reno and online options are clear.

Ms. Harsin referred Board Members to Tab 2 of the Board book (incorporated herein by reference) for a copy of the school's weekly *Dispatch* from Jan. 19, 2017, the first week back to school after winter break. In this *Dispatch*, three new hires are listed. Two full-time positions were vacated in fall semester and these three new teachers were hired to teach at the Reno school and possibly the online high school.

Ms. Harsin directed Board Members to the Tab 3 of the Board book (incorporated herein by reference) with copies of Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS) certificates, one for an Academy Scholar, student Dhruv Rohatgi, and an Academy Teacher of Merit, Brett Guisti. The Academy will receive a \$2,000 stipend from STS to support science and science-based projects at the school. The Academy's Science Bowl team recently won the state competition for the second year in a row and earned a paid trip to the national competition in Washington, D.C. The Academy will receive \$5,000 for their state championship win. Academy student, Pranit Nanda, won the Prudential Spirit of Community Award and an invitation to an awards banquet in Washington, D.C. for his volunteer work in our community.

Congratulations to the following student musicians who performed at the Northern Nevada State Festival this past weekend: Christoph Kimmelmeier, Rinik Kumar, Yatin Chandar, Sarah MacHarg, Derek Chien and Oliver Leitner. These Academy students will perform in the All State High School Band April 2017 in Reno, Nevada: Melissa Bak, Emhyr Subramanian and Alex Peng.

Under Tab 4, Ms. Harsin referred to the list of National Merit Scholarship finalists (incorporated herein by reference). All of the 19 Academy semi-finalists were named as finalists. Of the 24 students graduating from the Academy this year, 19 are National Merit finalists. The U.S. Presidential Scholars list was also provided under Tab 4 listing 11 Academy students who can

apply. Six have decided to proceed with the lengthy application process. There are usually only two to three students per state named as U.S. Presidential Scholars.

Tabs 6 and 7 were referred to as appendices containing two published scientific research papers. On each paper, an Academy student was named in the list of authors. The first article was published in the *Journal of Experimental Biology* with the Davidson Academy cited on the first page thanks to fourth author, Ian Oh, and his work not just at the University of Nevada, Reno, but also with professionals at other universities. Published in *Frontiers in Cellular Neuroscience*, the second article's third author is Academy student, Siddardha Maligireddy, who worked with the University of Nevada School of Medicine on this research.

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

Ms. Harsin read the list of colleges and universities where this year's Academy graduates have been accepted. Many are still undecided. Ms. Harsin will report the list of college decisions by Academy graduates at the May board meeting.

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

Julie Dudley referred Board members to the Media and Outreach report in Tab 5 of the Board book (incorporated herein by reference) for a summary of updates, recent media clips, press releases from the International Debate Competition and Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, eNewsletter subscriptions and tour numbers, as well as a brief report about online high school outreach.

#### **G. Correspondence**

Mark Herron reported that Bruce James' term on the board expires March 20, 2017. Bob read a letter from Bruce to the board. Bob mentioned two potential candidates under consideration to fill the open board positions.

#### **H. Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public 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 2:53 p.m.



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Respectfully submitted by Julie Dudley, Clerk of the Board