

**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**The Davidson Academy Governing Board**  
**May 15, 2017**

**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 the Chair of the Meeting, Bob Davidson. Roger Davidson, Mark Herron, Marc Johnson, Brian Krolicki and Colleen Harsin were present. Alan Boeckmann, Steve Canavero, Traci Davis and Annette Whittemore 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 Feb. 27, 2017**

Bob Davidson requested approval of the minutes for the meeting of Feb. 27, 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**

Davidson Academy Director, Colleen Harsin, gave an admissions report for the Reno campus. Thirty new students have been accepted. Six of these are deferred until the 2018-2019 school year. Out of the remaining 24 accepted for the 2017-2018 school year, 23 have submitted an "Intent to Attend" form. These students range in age from 10 to 16 with several entering the Academy at the high school level. There are 11 males and 12 females. Fourteen of these students are from out-of-state and nine are from Nevada. The Academy has 24 graduates this year and 23 incoming students for next school year. The budget estimated with 157 students. Based on current numbers, there will be 155 students, a number that may continue to change until the first day of school.

Ms. Harsin reported that the online high school has 35 completed applications. Eighteen students are currently being assessed. As of this meeting, nine decisions regarding admissions have been made with five accepted, three declined and one applicant deciding to attend the Reno school. The average age of applicants is 14 and half are Davidson Young Scholars. The

Online High School tuition rate is \$15,000 per year, with financial aid available, and it is free to Nevadans.

Online middle school courses are provided through the Davidson Institute, exclusively for Davidson Young Scholars, with 62 applicants and 39 accepted for next year. Students taking these middle school courses help test the online technology and materials.

Ms. Harsin reported that the Academy's annual Extravaganza fundraising event, which occurred on Feb. 18, 2017, had proceeds of \$35,000, all of which are dedicated to the Academy's Educational Opportunities Fund which is heavily utilized each year to pay for Academy students enrollment in University of Nevada, Reno courses.

Ms. Harsin reported that year-end surveys have been distributed to both students and parents. As of today, 43 percent of students and 24 percent of parents have submitted responses. Email reminders will be sent during the next few weeks to increase the number of responses.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 2 (incorporated herein by reference) with the Academy's summary overview report that is due every other year according to NRS 388C.120(5). This year's report was sent to the following: Steve Canavero, Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Nevada; Dr. Marc Johnson, President of the University of Nevada, Reno; Elaine Wynn, President of the State Board of Education; and Rick Combs, Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 3 (incorporated herein by reference) with the U.S. Department of Education Civil Rights Data Collection report. This report includes much of the same data collected by the state shown in different aggregations and charts.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 4 (incorporated herein by reference) with the Nevada Department of Education Pupil Enrollment and Attendance Audit for the 2016-2017 School Year – University School Field Report. Ms. Harsin noted that there were 159 students when school began last August and 157 at the close of school this May.

Also in Tab 4 (incorporated herein by reference), Ms. Harsin presented the letter signed by Nevada's Superintendent of Public Instruction Steve Canavero approving the Academy's proposed school calendar for 2017-2018.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 5 (incorporated herein by reference) with the AdvancED Progress Report, which is a midway report between accreditation visits in the spring of 2015 and the spring of 2019. A focus of this report is to better document the Academy's professional development, including creating more of these opportunities by sharing tips and information among members of the team. For continuous improvement, this report addresses professional development goals linked to stronger outcomes.

Ms. Harsin referred Board Members to Tab 6 of the Board book (incorporated herein by reference) for student highlights, including: Student council officers for next school year are President Nikolai Oh, Vice President Aiden Choi, Secretary Ellie Huh, Treasurer Pranita Nanda and Spirit Commissioner Zane Williams; National Young Arts Foundation awardees Ming Li Wu and Paul Novak; Regeneron Science Talent Search recognition of student Dhruv Rohatgi and Instructor Brett Guisti with a \$2,000 award to the Academy that will pay for additional science

equipment; Silver State Fair Housing Council Post Contest certificate for Annabelle Choi; Harvard Prize Book recipients Oliver Leitner, Sarah McHarg and Pranit Nanda along with “New Admit” Ming Li Wu; and three Academy students, Melinda Harkness, Courtney Shinagawa, and Lauren Brilliant, being recognized at the Women in STEM Achievement Banquet. More student highlights to share include: Hayley Haas who is graduating this year and received a DECA emerging leader award; the Academy’s MathCounts team placed second at the state competition in March with two students, Derek Chien and Sophie Liu, advancing to the national competition; Christoph Kimmelmeier is in the all-state band and Melissa Bak, Emhyr Subramanian and Alex Peng are in the all-state orchestra; and swimmers Nathan McAlister and Julia Nai are competing in the state championship next week.

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

Ms. Harsin directed Board Members to the Tab 7 of the Board book (incorporated herein by reference) which includes U.S. Presidential Scholars and National Merit updates. U.S. Presidential Scholar semi-finalists are Melissa Bak, Ian Oh and Ming Li Wu. Typically, there is one male student and one female student named per state, along with some additional categories. For Nevada, two Academy students, Melissa Bak and Ian Oh, are the finalists. The National Merit letter includes 22 Academy students who are semi-finalists in the class of 2018. The PALS News Bulletin pictures two of the graduating seniors, Melissa Bak and Ming Li Wu, who have been Peer Advising Liaison leader since the inception of the program in 2014. National Merit scholarships of, \$2,500 have been awarded to four graduating Academy students, Shashank Addagarla, Hannah Huh, Dhruv Rohatgi and Ming Li Wu. Two Academy students who are also National Merit finalists, Michael Bogert and Breanna Kjoll, were recognized at the University of Nevada, Reno signing ceremony last week. Two other graduating Academy students who are also National Merit finalists, Anna Hayes and Matthew Oakley, will be attending the University of Oklahoma.

Ms. Harsin directed Board Members to the Tab 8 of the Board book (incorporated herein by reference) highlighting the Class of 2017 and where they have chosen to attend college. A comprehensive list of all the colleges where they were accepted was also provided and a copy this year’s graduation ceremony invitation.

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

Julie Dudley referred Board members to the Media and Outreach report in the front pocket of the Board book (incorporated herein by reference) which included: a summary of recent media clips; the Class of 2017 graduation press release; eNewsletter subscription numbers; social media links; and conference updates. Many members of the Academy Online High School team will be attending the BlackBoard World conference for professional development purposes and two of the online team members will be presenting a session at the conference.

#### **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

Mark Herron, Vice President of the Governing Board, introduced three action items for the Board: the revised budget for the current fiscal year 2016-2017; the budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2017-2018; and the appointment of the auditors for the fiscal year ending this June.

Mr. Herron referred to Tab 9 (incorporated herein by reference) with the revised budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The state requires the Academy to submit a revised budget each year. In past years, the budget has been revised in the fall, but that was not done this year. Therefore, the operating budget for the current fiscal year was the one approved last May by the Governing Board. The revised budget includes \$25,000 in additional Distributed Student Account (DSA) revenue due to 2 ¼ more students added from when the original budget was submitted. A GATE Grant for \$84,500 is included in the revised budget, which increased from \$30,000 from last year and was unbudgeted since it was uncertain if this would be a continuing program. Contributions other than the Davidsons were \$120,000 higher than expected, with \$35,000 of that from the parent-sponsored Extravaganza and generous parent donors. Also reflected in the revised budget is \$100,000 in reduced expenses in medical benefits. The medical costs had been budgeted at a 15 percent increase. However, the combination of a good broker and good negotiator led to no increases in medical costs for the current year. Tuition for Academy students to take University of Nevada, Reno courses was \$15,000 lower than expected. Additional numbers listed on the summary page in red and black have to do with the reallocation of wages among categories based upon changing state requirements about the use of different descriptions and categories for these expense items. A motion was made and seconded for approval of the 2016-2017 revised budget. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Herron referred to Tab 10 (incorporated herein by reference) with the budget for the upcoming fiscal year of 2017-2018. For the first time the online program is incorporated in this budget. This budget is based on 157 Reno students, 10 online students and a total of 167 students. In April, this budget was submitted to the state. Last week, a required public hearing was held about the budget. The hearing was noticed publicly in various locations and advertised in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* (incorporated herein by reference). There were no attendees and, thus, no public comment. The minutes of this public hearing are included in the Board book (incorporated herein by reference). Regarding this budget, if the student count changes, a budget revision will be done most likely in November. The DSA is based on the average daily attendance and the state has not released the DSA amount for next year, thus the DSA amount for the current year was used. The budget reflects some changes in categories. There is a slight increase in personnel expenses overall, which is reflected in changes of categories and an increase in Counseling and Guidance. A 15 percent increase was budgeted in the health benefit expense since what that amount will be is uncertain. This budget includes about the same amount as last year for technology with 30 new units of student computers, which are replaced on a life cycle basis. Also in this budget are \$15,000 in server upgrades, hardware and software. These technology expenses are not capitalized. The state has a \$5,000 limit per technology item, not per system. All the technology budget items are below this limit. The 2017-2018 budget is up \$217,000 from the current year. The online program adds a significant amount. The budget includes 10 online students, a number, which is in a state of flux. The non-cash expenditures are, as in past budgets, computed rent for the upgrades done to the Academy building. A motion was made and seconded for approval of 2017-2018 budget. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Herron stated the final item of business would be the engagement of the auditors for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 with a recommendation of retaining the accounting firm of Holthouse, Carlin and Van Trigt LLP. Mr. Herron referred Board members to a copy of the Letter of Engagement in the back pocket of the Board book (incorporated herein by reference). The proposed audit fee is unchanged from last year's at \$26,000. There was a three percent fee increase in the prior year. With the addition of the online school to the Academy's budget, the cost of the audit may increase due to added complexity. As in the past, the audit will be overseen by John Van Trigt and the concurring partner has not yet been named. The same senior managers as the last two years will work on the Academy audit. In an ideal world, there would be more auditors to choose from, however it is difficult to find a firm that understands or is interested in auditing the Academy, a public school like no other. Mr. Herron made a motion to engage Holthouse, Carlin and Van Trigt LLP, which was seconded. Some discussion ensued. The motion carried unanimously.

**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 p.m.



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Respectfully submitted by Julie Dudley, Clerk of the Board