

Minutes of the Meeting
The Davidson Academy Governing Board
Nov. 5, 2018

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Governing Board was called to order at 2:01 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, Annette Whitemore, Patricia Richard (representing Dr. Marc Johnson) and Colleen Harsin were present. Brian Krolicki joined the meeting by conference call. Steve Canavero and Traci Davis were not present.

B. Welcome and Introductions

Bob Davidson welcomed Board members present. No individuals from the public attended.

C. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

D. Approval of Minutes for Meeting of Sept. 17, 2018

Bob Davidson requested approval of the minutes for the meeting of Sept. 17, 2018 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, noted that applications are open with 36 Davidson Academy Reno applications in the creating queue moving toward completion. In addition, there are 32 applications that have already been submitted, and out of those 16 are qualified and being invited to assess in November and December. The other 16 applicants who have submitted their applications are still under review to determine if they are qualified.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 2 (incorporated herein by reference) with annual correspondence having to do with the Academy's alternate calendar schedule, which includes an email message and attached memo addressed to Dr. Steve Canavero at the State of Nevada Department of Education. The memo states that the alternate schedule is working well and continues to be a benefit to Academy students.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 3 (incorporated herein by reference) with the Middle School version of the Nevada School Performance framework report. Due to the Academy's size, there is not much information provided. Ms. Harsin explained the report and walked the board through the benchmark indicators. She referenced a procedures manual outlining all of the indicators for rating all public and charter schools. With small schools who have an insufficient number of

student records the state is referring to a pooled average and using this approach until all schools are rated. Currently, the Academy's middle school falls in the non-rated category since the fall of 2017 began the first reporting year for this accountability system. It takes three years to pool enough data to be rated. The state's goal is to be able to rate all schools by next September.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 4 (incorporated herein by reference) with the High School version of the Nevada School Performance framework report which has more data than the middle school version and is more informative. The Academy is rated as a 5-star school, which means superior, exceeding all students and subgroups. Ms. Harsin explained all the indicators and the Academy's ratings.

b. College Planning Updates

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 5 (incorporated herein by reference) with a report focused on the academic performance and preparedness of the Class of 2018 graduates who took the ACT based on their most recent testing information. Ms. Harsin went through each page of the report explaining the summary bar graphs, five-year trends and how these students met all the benchmarks. There are no downward trends to report as all measurements were holding steady or showing slight improvement.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 6 (incorporated herein by reference) with a Proposed Resolution listing proposed 2019 graduates. She noted that these students are on track for completion of requirements for graduation and the Board must be presented this list for a 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 a brief discussion about early decision college applications and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 7 (incorporated herein by reference) with a National Merit Scholarship Corporations letter recognizing five students as Commended.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 8 (incorporated herein by reference) with a letter from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Honors Program Director, Dr. Tamara Valentine, recognizing two Academy graduates, Gabriel Angres and Lauren Brilliant, being recognized as incoming honors students.

Ms. Harsin noted a letter that arrived in today's mail from Stanford recognizing Academy instructor, Brett Guisti, as an exceptional teacher based on a reference from Academy graduate Ian Hong.

2. Director of Online Learning

Stacy Hawthorne, Director of Online Learning, referred to Tab 9 (incorporated herein by reference) with a Davidson Academy Online board report. There are a total of 17 applications with three completed. Ms. Hawthorne reported about her work with the search engine optimization (SEO) firm, Miles Media, which has helped Davidson Academy Online gain a 25 percent increase in year-over-year organic visibility in web searches and pushing 17 additional keywords to page one search results.

Ms. Hawthorne reported several upcoming events, including virtual open houses, multiple in-person events throughout the country, ScholarSearch Educational Forums and conferences. Ms.

Hawthorne gave an enrollment update stating there are currently 33 Davidson Academy Online students. She also reported a “Student Spotlight” about a 13-year-old online student who designed an internship at his local university studying neuroscience.

3. Media and Outreach

Julie Dudley referred to Tab 10 (incorporated herein by reference) with the Media and Outreach summary, including: recent media articles in *e-Learning Magazine* and *ThisIsReno*; social media links; and, event and conference attendance numbers and dates.

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

The Board voted on and approved the Proposed Resolution during the Ms. Harsin’s College Planning Report.

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 2:44 p.m.



Respectfully submitted by Julie Dudley, Clerk of the Board