

Minutes of the Meeting
The Davidson Academy Governing Board
Feb. 26, 2018

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Governing Board was called to order at 2:07 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, Mark Herron. Alan Boeckmann, Bob Davidson, Roger Davidson and Brian Krolicki attended via conference call with Marc Johnson, Annette Whittemore and Colleen Harsin also present. Steve Canavero and Traci Davis and were not present.

B. Welcome and Introductions

Mark Herron welcomed the Board members present as well as individuals attending from the public and Davidson team members in attendance:

- Stacy Hawthorne, Director of Online Learning
- Julie Dudley, Director of External Relations
- Mike Leslie, Operations Supervisor

C. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public at this time.

D. Approval of Minutes for Meeting of Nov. 6, 2017

Mark Herron requested approval of the minutes for the meeting of Nov. 6, 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

Mark Herron 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 gave an Admissions report for the Reno campus. Final acceptance numbers will be presented at the May board meeting. Currently, 30 new students have been accepted for the 2018-2019 school year with 24 of those already submitting their "Intent to Attend" forms. Of these 30, six were accepted via deferral from last year; 15 are from out of state and 15 are from Nevada; there are 15 males and 15 females. There are three assessment dates left this year with 28 applicants coming to the Academy to assess in March and April, and 14 applicants are waiting for their February ACT scores to complete their applications. Twenty-seven students are graduating or leaving after this year. Thus, the Academy's Reno campus may grow next year. Discussion ensued about available space at the Academy, including the number of lockers and classrooms.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 2 (incorporated herein by reference) to begin the Academy's General Program Updates with Prudential Spirit of Community Award certificates of recognition for both Academy high school student, Timothy N., and middle school student, Archit D.

The following Academy students were recognized by the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards with designations of Gold Key, Silver Key and Honorable Mention for their various critical essays, poetry, journalism and short story: Claire B., Aiden C., Annabelle C., Archit D., Ellie H., Jenny J., Akaash K., Rhiannon M., Ryan M., Mikaela P. and Wendy T.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 3 (incorporated herein by reference) for a list of student kudos in the Academy's weekly *Thursday Dispatch* sent to parents, students and staff. Kudos from the Feb. 15, 2018 *Dispatch* include the Academy's MathCounts team, Vish G., Sophie L., Arvind M. and Megan D., who placed first in the Northern Nevada Chapter Competition with the following students competing as individuals: Carver G., Nikita M., Claire B., Rahul B., Archit D. and Annabelle W.

Sixteen Academy students advanced to the Finalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship competition: Gabriel A., David B., Matthew B., Lauren B., Mindy H., Ian H., Oliver L., Ethan L., Sarah MH., Pranit N., Bella N., Nikolai O., Aman P., Courtney S., Maxwell S. and Tayla T.-W.

Ms. Harsin congratulated the Davidson Academy Science Olympiad Middle School and High School Teams for winning first place at the Northern Nevada 2018 Regional Competition:

- Division B - Middle School Team Members: Alex P., Andrea P., Annabelle C., Annabelle W., Archit D., Ashley C., Ceci W., Harsha M., Luke N., Madeline K., Michelle L., Nikita M., Sandeep M. and Tessa B.
- Division C - High School Team Members: Aayan P., Bella N., Brandon P., Darion H., David S., Derek C., Ellie H., Emhyr S., Emily M., Ian H., James W., Jessica W., Nikesh M., Nikolai O. and Scott W.
- Student Coaches - David B., Matthew B., Lauren B., Derek C., Oliver L., Siddu M. and James W.

Ms. Harsin thanked the Academy's annual Extravaganza sponsors, donors, guests and volunteers. Ms. Harsin reported that totals from the Extravaganza fundraiser will be reported at the May meeting.

Ms. Harsin stated that Academy student Morgan H.-P. is the new president of DECA Nevada, the first time an Academy student has held a state-level DECA office. Many other Academy students competed and qualified for DECA's International Career Development Conference (ICDC) competition, including: Sam H., Rex B., Zoya V., Julia N., Darion H., Justin F., Henry K., Alex P., Morgan H.-P. and Roshan P.

A summary of additional *Dispatch* kudos from December 2017 through early February 2018 included:

- Cross-country runner Deanna S. who placed third in the regional championship.

- Two Academy instructors who received recognition letters based on being nominated by past graduates as “educators who influenced them” - Martin Braik from Stanford University and AnnElise Hatjakes from University of Chicago.
- Two local restaurant fundraiser thank you’s.
- Twelve seniors are candidates for the U.S. Presidential Scholars program: David B., Matthew B., Lauren B., Ryan B., Ian H., Ethan L., Sarah MH., Pranit N., Isabella N., Aman P., Courtney S. and Maxwell S.
- Academy student Zachery J. took 4th place as Junior Varsity Rifle Shooter in the state when he competed with the local Hug High School team.
- In November, several Davidson Academy students participated in the AMC 8 middle school math exam: Vishwath G. – 1st place in school, top 1% score in nation, perfect score; Sophie L. – 2nd place in school, top 1% score in nation; Megan D. – 3rd place in school, top 1% score in nation; Claire B. – 4th place in school, top 1% score in nation; and Darsh P., Arvind M., Carver G. – top 5% score in nation.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 4 (incorporated herein by reference) with fall 2017 parent survey results, which she summarized. Forty-seven parents, about one-third, completed the survey. Most stated they are using BlackBoard on a regular basis to access the school calendar, policies and forms, and the parent directory. However, the least used section, Counseling Services, contains important information with many articles and resources for parents. Thus, Academy staff is determining how to best communicate with parents about this available content. Ms. Harsin reviewed the highlights of the other quantitative and qualitative responses. In summary, the Academy team will focus on better communicating with parents to help them understand the resources available to them, such as tutorials in BlackBoard, college planning information and Naviance, the college planning tool.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 5 (incorporated herein by reference) with PSAT results from the test administered this past fall. One hundred percent of Academy students taking the test “Met or Exceeded Benchmarks.” For eleventh graders, the PSAT counts toward the National Merit qualification criteria for their senior year. Based on these test scores, Ms. Harsin anticipates that more than 50 percent of next year’s graduating class will qualify as National Merit Finalists.

b. College Planning Updates

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 6 (incorporated herein by reference) which included both the list of 16 National Merit Finalists for 2018 (see above for list of names) and the list of 12 seniors who are candidates for the U.S. Presidential Scholars program (see above for list of names). The Presidential Scholars program is more selective than National Merit.

2. Director of Online Learning

a. General Program Updates

Stacy Hawthorne, Director of Online Learning, referred to Tab 7 (incorporated herein by reference) with a list of several accomplishments of Academy Online students living across the country, including:

- Online student Alan K. (OR) who sang with a select group of students from the Pacific Youth Choir joined by The Tenors at the Arlene Schnitzler Concert Hall in Portland, OR for a sold-out Christmas concert. Additionally, Alan received a \$2,400 academic scholarship for his SAT score, which he took as a part of his Davidson Academy Online application.
- Online student Kenna B. (AZ) won several equestrian events as a Davidson Academy student. Her most recent accomplishments include Champion, English Show Hack and 1st place, Sport Horse Show Hack on BP Klassique Bey and 2nd place, Sidesaddle on WV Major Major at the American Cup Championship Arabian Horse Show in Scottsdale, AZ.
- Online student Meghana D. (PA) represented the Davidson Academy in the USA Biology Olympiad earlier this month. Results will be available in mid-March.
- Online student Amanda Z. (NJ) won the first place prize at 2018 Elite International Music Competition and performed at Carnegie Hall on Feb. 12, 2018. She was awarded a music scholarship for her performance. Amanda has also been invited to perform with Sempre Musick Live Professional Orchestra conducted by maestro David Feltner on May 27, 2018.
- A group of Academy Online students, including Alan K. (OR), Elizabeth K. (WA), Caoilainn K. (OR) and Kai M. (OR) competed in the greater-Portland MathCounts competition on Feb. 24 as the Davidson Academy Online team and won fifth place. Alan had a perfect score and will be competing at the Oregon state competition on March 17, 2018.

Mrs. Hawthorne gave a brief admissions report stating that 56 students have started a 2018-2019 Online High School application. These students are from 18 different states, including California and Nevada. Sixty-four percent of the applicants are male and 36 percent are female. The average age is 13.2 and 40 percent are Davidson Young Scholars. Twenty-one of the 56 applications are complete and are being scheduled for assessment. March 30 is the application deadline. In a survey sent to current Online High School students asking about next year: three are moving to Reno to attend the Academy's day school in 2018-2019; 10 will be returning to the Online school; and seven are undecided.

3. Media and Outreach

Julie Dudley referred to Tab 8 (incorporated herein by reference) with Media and Outreach report, which included: recent media clips; eNewsletter subscription numbers; social media links; Academy tour numbers; and a list of upcoming conferences. The communications team is currently working on a new Davidson Academy overview video.

A *Nevada Today* article covered the Academic WorldQuest competition co-hosted by the University's Honors Program and the Northern Nevada International Center. The Davidson Academy team, composed of Jason S., Nikesh M., Alexander A., Bella N. and coach Josh Bahn, won the regional competition and will compete in the national competition in Washington, D.C. this spring.

The *Nevada Appeal* newspaper reported that Academy student Pranit N. is one of the two the U.S. Senate Youth Scholarship delegates from Nevada.

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

There were no General Business items. Mark Herron noted that the May board meeting location will be the KNPB conference room:

- 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 2:45 p.m.



Respectfully submitted by Julie Dudley, Clerk of the Board