

Minutes of the Meeting
The Davidson Academy Governing Board
May 13, 2019

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Governing Board was called to order at 2:01 p.m. in the Community Room of the KNPB Public Telecommunications Building located at 1664 N. Virginia St., Reno, Nevada, 89503.

A. Roll Call

Roll call was completed by the Chair of the Meeting, Mark Herron. Roger Davidson, Mark Herron, Annette Whittemore, and Richard Trachok were present. Brian Krolicki and Lauralyn McCarthy Sandoval joined the meeting by conference call. Bob Davidson, Mark Johnson, Traci Davis and Jhone Ebert were not present. Colleen Harsin, Clerk of the Board, was present.

B. Welcome and Introductions

Mark Herron welcomed Board members and members of the public in attendance. He introduced new Board members Lauralyn McCarthy Sandoval and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jhone Ebert, who was unable to attend the meeting at the last minute. He also introduced Legal Counsel for the Davidson Academy, Ann Alexander, who also attended the meeting.

C. Public Comments

Mark Herron welcomed members of the public attending the meeting, read the public meeting rules for public comment and requested comment cards submitted to the Board from Clerk of the Board, Colleen Harsin.

Orlin Bowman presented to the Board comments from Davidson Academy students and alumni regarding former Davidson Academy instructor Alison Hatjakes. He indicated that upon learning that Ms. Hatjakes was no longer working at the Academy, students had reached out to her to let her know of the positive impact she had on them and that she was instrumental to their education.

AnnElise Hatjakes participated in public comment on behalf of her sister and former colleague, Alison Hatjakes. She indicated that within the last year three instructors had been dismissed from the Davidson Academy without, in her view, notice or explanation. She presented that the rate of turnover at the Davidson Academy was five times the national average and this had an impact on students. She advised that Alison Hatjakes' absence resulted in students being emotional and at least one feeling physically unwell. She had concerns about administrative staff not appropriately addressing rumors, instructional staff being concerned for their employment, and the effect of dismissal upon Alison Hatjakes' life.

Matthew Baker, Davidson Academy instructor commented that the apparently swift and unexplained dismissal of instructors has resulted in negative effects on the teaching pedagogy, and teachers being afraid for their future and in the shadow of being fired.

D. Approval of Minutes for Meeting of February 19, 2019

Mark Herron requested approval of the minutes for the meeting of February 19, 2019 under Tab 1 of the Board books (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

Davidson Academy Director, Colleen Harsin, advised the Board that 27 new students had been accepted to the Reno Campus for the 2019-2020 school year with approximately half already residing in Nevada and half coming from out of state to enroll. Twenty-three students would graduate in 2019.

Under Tab 2 of the Board books (incorporated herein by reference), Ms. Harsin referred Board members to the Legislative Counsel Bureau report which provides an overview of the Davidson Academy's recruiting activities, state testing, graduation rate, and school profile.

Under Tab 3 of the Board books (incorporated herein by reference), Ms. Harsin referred Board members to a copy of the Davidson Academy's Nevada Department of Education Application to Operate an Alternative Schedule for the 2019-2020 school year. The application includes time above the state-required instructional minutes and one contingency day.

Under Tab 4 of the Board books (incorporated herein by reference) Ms. Harsin referred Board members to a copy of the Davidson Academy's United States Department of Education Civil Rights Data Collection report. The report includes staffing information, as well as information concerning harassment and bullying.

b. College Planning Updates

Ms. Harsin referred Board members to Tab 5 of the Board books (incorporated herein by reference) to a list of the Davidson Academy Class of 2019 Post-Secondary Plans. Board member Richard Trachok asked about University of Nevada, Reno commitments from Davidson Academy graduates. Ms. Harsin commented that this was the first graduating class that did not include an Academy student planning to attend the University of Nevada, Reno.

2. Director of Online Learning

Stacy Hawthorne, Director of Online Learning, referred Board members to Tab 6 of the Board books (incorporated herein by reference) with a Davidson Academy Online Learning update. She confirmed that applications from prospective students in southern Nevada had increased and that Davidson Academy Online started accepting applications for single course offerings. A summer retreat was being planned for students to increase connections between enrolled students. One online student in Nevada will participate in state testing as required. The master course schedule will be adjusted to include a dedicated early morning live session for students residing on the East Coast.

3. Media and Outreach

Stacy Hawthorne referred to Tab 7 of the Board books (incorporated herein by reference) with the Media and Outreach summary for the Academy, including: recent media articles in *Family Minded*, *Fox 11-Reno*, *Nevada Today* and *U.S. Department of Education's Office of Science – press release*; social media mentions; and ongoing outreach efforts.

G. Correspondence

1. Legal Counsel for the Davidson Academy Governing Board, Ann Alexander, Esq., referred Board members to Tab 8 of the Board books for review of an April 9, 2019 letter from the Chief Deputy Attorney General, and the draft Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law concerning a violation of Open Meeting Law (incorporated herein by reference).

Ms. Alexander advised the Board that pursuant to Open Meeting Law all public bodies must post a copy of written notice the public meeting of the Board three working days before the meeting, no later than

9:00 a.m. Any individual can request to receive individual notice and the public body must comply. The Office of the Attorney General received 76 complaints with various allegations of Open Meeting Law violations against 29 schools. One such complaint related to the Davidson Academy, concerning an allegation that the Davidson Academy failed to send a notice of the February 19, 2019 meeting by 9:00 a.m. of the third working day before the meeting to an individual who had requested individual notice

The Office of the Attorney General advised that the Davidson Academy could take corrective action by placing the letter and complaint on the Agenda for the next meeting of the public body following receipt, which is why this item was on today's meeting agenda. Additionally, Davidson Academy staff and Board members would receive training on Open Meeting Law within six months. This training will happen at the next meeting of the Board on September 16, 2019.

2. Ms. Alexander referred Board members to Tab 9 of the Board books for review of her response to the Open Meeting Law Complaint (incorporated herein by reference). Board member Richard Trachok asked if internal corrections had been addressed to prevent further complaints regarding Open Meeting Law, and Ms. Alexander confirmed that they had.

H. General Business

1. Board member and Chief Financial Officer for the Davidson Academy, Mark Herron, referred Board members to Tab 10 of the Board books for a copy of the audit engagement letter of April 2, 2019, from Holthouse, Carlin, and Van Trigt LLP for the fiscal year 2018-2019 (incorporated herein by reference). Mr. Herron indicated that there were some wording changes in the letter from the previous year that included removal of the arbitration provisions and a slight increase in fees to \$26,750. Mr. Herron advised that Holthouse, Carlin and Van Trigt has completed the audit for the Davidson Academy in past years, knows the structure of the school, audit requirements of the State and can meet the timeline on completing the audit. Meeting Chair, Mark Herron requested approval of engagement of auditors Holthouse, Carlin and Van Trigt; motion was made and seconded; public comment as solicited (there was none); there was no further discussion by the Board; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Board member and Chief Financial Officer for the Davidson Academy, Mark Herron, referred Board members to Tab 11 of the Board books for a copy of the Notice of Public Hearing and Minutes of May 6, 2019, and Tentative Budget 2019-2020 Davidson Academy (incorporated herein by reference). Mr. Herron confirmed that Karin Dixson, Controller for the Davidson Academy, was the person primarily responsible for drafting the tentative budget and that the state-mandated forms were utilized. He confirmed that the required public hearing for presentation of the budget had taken place on May 6, 2019. There were no members of the public present for the hearing. The tentative budget was drafted using an estimated enrollment of 155 students for the Reno Campus and 50 students attending the Online Campus. The total tentative budget is \$5,160,808 which is down slightly year-over-year. Meeting Chair, Mark Herron requested approval of the Tentative Budget 2019-2020. Davidson Academy student Caitlin Hamilton a member of the public present at the meeting asked if the tentative budget was available to the public; Mr. Herron confirmed that it would be posted to the Davidson Academy website and a copy could be requested through the Davidson Academy Business offices. Board member Richard Trachok commented that the generosity of the Davidson family was the primary source of revenue included in the tentative budget and that without this contribution there would be a decrease in sustainable revenue. Mr. Herron confirmed that Bob Davidson has confirmed the sustainability of the Davidson Academy and intends for it to be a legacy. There was no further discussion by the Board or members of the public; Mark Herron requested approval of the 2019-2020 tentative budget; motion was made and seconded; public comment was solicited (there was none); there was no further discussion by the board; and motion carried unanimously.

I. Public Comment

Mark Herron reminded all attending the meeting of rules for public comment and asked for any further public comment.

Akaash Krishnan commented that former Davidson Academy instructor, Alison Hatjakes, was an impactful person in his life, he was looking forward to her classes in the coming school year and appreciated her dedication to students.

George Hatjakes, father of former Davidson Academy Instructor, Alison Hatjakes, commented that most members of the public present in the meeting were there in support of Ms. Hatjakes. He indicated that he, as well as these individuals were saddened by her termination from the Davidson Academy.

J. Adjournment

Board member Richard Trachok asked for the date and time of the Davidson Academy Graduation Ceremony. Colleen Harsin confirmed that the invitation would be resent to all Board members following the meeting.

Lauralyn McCarthy Sandoval indicated that she had abstained from the vote on approval of the minutes of the meeting of February 19, 2019 as she had not attended that meeting.

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 3:02 p.m.



Respectfully submitted by Colleen Harsin, Clerk of the Board