

Minutes of the Meeting
The Davidson Academy Governing Board

July 30, 2020

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Governing Board was called to order at 2:02 p.m. Due to the current State of Emergency declared by the Governor because of the COVID-19 virus, and more specifically the Governor's Directive 006, Section 1, this public meeting was held via videoconference with no physical meeting location.

A. Roll Call

Roll call was completed by the Chair of the Meeting, Bob Davidson. Bob Davidson, Roger Davidson, Mark Herron, Richard Trachok, Brian Krolicki, Lauralyn McCarthy Sandoval, Patricia Richard in place of Marc Johnson, and Kristen McNeill were present. Jhone Ebert and Annette Whittemore were not present. Academy Director Colleen Harsin, the Director of Online Learning Stacy Hawthorne, Legal Counsel Ann Alexander, Technology Manager Ben Brown, and Governing Board Clerk August Reich were present.

B. Welcome and Introduction

Bob Davidson welcomed Board members and members of the public in attendance.

C. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

D. 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.

E. Approval of the Minutes for Meeting of May 11, 2020, and May 26, 2020

Bob Davidson requested approval of the minutes for the meeting of May 11, 2020, under Tab 1 of the Board book. Motion was made and seconded for approval of the minutes as submitted. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Bob Davidson requested approval of the minutes for the meeting of May 26, 2020, under Tab 1 of the Board book. Motion was made and seconded for approval of the minutes as submitted. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

F. General Business

Colleen Harsin introduced Stacy Hawthorne to discuss opportunities provided for students from the online campus. Ms. Hawthorne explained that there have been repeated requests to attend the online campus from new applicants. This increase in interest led to an extended application window with 17 more students assessing for the upcoming school year. Ms. Hawthorne explained that the online campus currently has 68 students with the possibility of having 17 more students join. Mr. Trachok asked if the students who are coming in have any differences from those who have already been with the online campus. Ms. Hawthorne explained that the assessment criteria and qualification criteria is the same with the only change in assessment being the number of days assessing is two days rather than four. Mr. Trachok asked if the Reno campus and the Online campus will meld together during this time. Ms. Hawthorne told Board members that for the most part the two campuses are separate with certain courses having students from both campuses.

Ms. Harsin referred to Tab 2 of the Board book to discuss the re-opening plan for the Davidson Academy Reno Campus. Ms. Harsin explained that the plan is to discuss requirements set from Directive 022 and guidance coming from the department of education. Ms. Harsin explained that the plan presented today will allow the Reno Campus to go between distance education and limited in-person instruction without the need for the Board's approval. Ms. Harsin told Board members that the intent of Reno Campus is an in-person learning experience, however the health and safety of the Academy community is also a priority. In order to ensure safety, the proposed plan is designed to provide flexibility while also maintaining academic rigor and core values of the Davidson Academy.

Ms. Harsin provided guidance that was utilized to help make this proposed re-opening plan. The first piece of guidance discussed was Nevada's Path Forward Framework which was provided in June and is the guiding principle for how this presentation was organized. The plan also relied on guidance memos, specifically guidance memorandum 20-05, that are included in the Appendix. Ms. Harsin told Board members that Governor Sisolak's Emergency Directive 022 was also utilized to provide guidance and informed Board members that the Directive has since been updated to 028 and that the current plan meets Directive 028. This presentation also took guidance from the University of Nevada Reno because the school is located on their campus and that having a strong relationship with the university is important. Additional guidance was taken from the Washoe County School District, local private schools, the Washoe County Health Department, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Ms. Harsin explained the possible options to deliver instruction to students. The first option is full time in-person instruction. This is the preferred option but is currently

unavailable under the current guidelines due to social distancing requirements. The second instructional delivery model is full time distance education. This would be an advanced version of the model used in the spring semester. This option is needed as a contingency plan per guidance memorandum 20-05 and for students who need to work fully online. The third option is a blended or hybrid learning model. Ms. Harsin explained that this option is most feasible within the Nevada's Path Forward Framework and displayed survey data from the Academy Path Forward Survey. The survey had 155 responses with 83 from parents and 72 responses coming from students with a total of 120 students represented. This survey was conducted without input from new students. This means that 49 new students are not represented in this survey. Of the 49 new students 3 students chose to attend the online campus and 5 students decided to not attend either campus.

Ms. Harsin displayed survey data from students and families. The distribution of results suggests that the community wants a safe return to school and enhanced online learning procedures. The survey also included four re-opening models: full time return to school, blended learning with daily sessions, blended learning with weekly sessions, and fully remote learning. The first option to fully return to school did not receive much support. The two blended learning models both received support from the community. The fully online model received about half of the community's support.

The Academy Path Forward Survey also provided the community a free-form response option. Ms. Harsin summarized the free-form responses by stating that health and safety were heavily prioritized. Along with health and safety needs the responses suggest that there is an interest to return to in-person classes with appropriate health and safety plans. There is also a need to address individual learning needs. These needs are being addressed by the director of special services, and within each student's individual learning plan. Another survey that was conducted was the Academy Return to School Planning Survey. However, this survey was conducted before classes were scheduled by UNR and will likely see some change in interest by students prior to the start of the school year.

Ms. Harsin told Board members that there have been weekly COVID-19 updates to students and parents via the weekly dispatch. Along with the weekly emails the families also have access to previous weekly dispatches via Blackboard. Another communication update that occurred is a COVID-19 updates banner located on the Davidson Academy public website. The Academy will also present physical signs to be posted in highly visible locations emphasizing protective measures such as face coverings, physical distancing, and hand washing.

Ms. Harsin explained that the four key components set by the Nevada's Path Forward Framework are: re-opening buildings, human resources, logistics, and wellness and recovery. The first component, re-opening buildings, follows guidelines set in place and this plan is subject to change based on mandates or guidance. Ms. Harsin told Board members that the Academy is planning a "focused" re-opening from August 24 through September 11th. This focused re-opening is to be fully online to assess students' academic placements for the upcoming year. At the end of this "focused" re-opening

limited return to the Academy building will begin with the first students having to sign up to come back in person. This will be paired with the option for students to remain fully online. Components 2 and 3 of the Nevada's Path Forward Framework are human resources and logistics. Ms. Harsin told Board members that all employees and volunteers will be required to complete the Covid-19 Awareness training. This training will enhance human resources by teaching the community how to stay safe from the virus while also providing logistical solutions regarding sanitation and reporting. A similar course is being prepared to provide students with similar training. The last key component listed in the Nevada's Path Forward Framework is focused on wellness and recovery and a three-tier approach of prevention, mitigation, and full support was created to help support students. Prevention is the first tier and emphasizes communication, teaching routines that prioritize health and safety, social emotional learning, and building resiliency. Mitigation is the second tier and it focuses on the use of data to provide better assistance for students, utilizes support groups for community stakeholders, creates online social and extracurricular opportunities, and provides a sense of reconnection. Full support is the third tier which is aimed at supporting students one-on-one by referring those in need to community based mental health providers and utilizing school special education services and 504 plans. All three tiers include trauma informed practices to help guide students. Ms. Harsin provided Board members with a summary of the appendices that were utilized in the Davidson Academy's path forward.

Ms. Harsin told Board members that the current reopening plan has 3 weeks of online learning with a plan to have voluntary hybrid learning after the first 3 weeks of school. A motion was made to adopt the re-opening plan presented by the Academy Director. The motion was seconded, and Bob Davidson opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Krolicki asked if there is a definitive hybrid plan that the Board is voting on today. Ms. Harsin responded by explaining that the current plan is for students to begin the year with a focused online only model. Once the focused reopening period is over the most recent guidance on school reopening's will then be utilized to make a decision on hybrid learning. The hybrid learning would begin with students coming in once per week with the possibility of being more than one day depending on how many students choose to come in person. Mr. Krolicki asked the Board if the state's short fall in budget will impact the Davidson Academy's budget for the upcoming school year. Mr. Herron explained that they have not received guidance from the state and there are certain areas such as travel where they project to spend less. Ms. Harsin told Board members that they do not receive any money for gifted education so any reduction in these programs would likely not impact our budget.

Bob Davidson asked for additional comments on the motion. Richard Trachok asked if this is an opportunity to merge the online campus with the Reno campus. Bob Davidson explained that the online campus was created in a way that creates a similar experience as the Reno Campus. Mr. Trachok told Board members that he thinks that this live remote learning can provide for an opportunity to have the campuses work closer together. Bob Davidson asked two questions. The first question asked if the name should be changed from Online Academy to Remote Instruction to better describe the type of education. The second question is should the Davidson Academy ask UNR or other universities to offer

courses to our students remotely. Mr. Trachok said he thinks the name should be changed to remote and that this crisis has created a big opportunity for this online course. Mr. Krolicki discussed the idea of an informal workshop to provide more opportunity for growth at the Davidson Academy. Bob Davidson asked for a vote for the motion. There was no further discussion by the Board; and the motion carried unanimously.

G. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

H. 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 3:04 p.m.

August Reich

Respectfully submitted by August Reich, Clerk of the Board