Minutes of the Meeting

The Davidson Academy Governing Board

February 15, 2022

Call to Order
The regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Davidson Academy was called to order at 2:04 p.m. This public meeting was held by videoconference allowing members of the public to hear and observe the meeting. Members of the public were invited to provide comments by telephone, through videoconference, or by email.

A. Roll Call
Roll call was completed by Meeting Chair, Mark Herron. In attendance were Roger Davidson, Bob Davidson, Lauralyn McCarthy-Sandoval, Annette Whittemore, Jhone Ebert and Brian Sandoval. Also present were Academy Director, Colleen Harsin; Director of Online Learning, Dr. Stacy Hawthorne; Legal Counsel, Ann Alexander; and Clerk of the Board, Aimee Fredericks. Ben Brown provided technical support for the meeting. Brian Krolicki, Richard Trachok and Kristen McNeill were not present. Following completion of roll call, a quorum of voting members was confirmed.

B. Welcome and Introduction
Mark Herron welcomed Board members and members of the public in attendance.

C. Public Comment
Mark Herron provided instructions concerning public comment as stated under item C. of the meeting agenda.

Mark Herron stated that this meeting would be held without a physical location, but in compliance with Nevada legislation, was available for visual participation, and audio call-in for public comments. He referenced the public comment details provided in the agenda and confirmed that public comments, if made, would be received by email or by telephone. No comments were received.

D. Approval of Agenda
Mark Herron requested approval of the meeting agenda. Motion was made and seconded for approval of the agenda as submitted. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes
Mark Herron requested approval of the minutes for the meeting of November 17, 2021, included in the board book for this meeting. Motion was made and seconded for approval of the minutes as submitted. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

F. Reports
1. Academy Director
a. General Program Updates
Colleen Harsin began her report referring Board Members to Tab 2 of their board books for a summary of admissions for the 2022-23 school year. For budgeting purposes, she advised the Board that she was estimating 150 students would be enrolled for the coming school year. This estimate is based on applications received to date, anticipated graduates in May 2022 and returning students. She also confirmed that although as previously she reported, the current housing market in the Reno area has been challenging for families looking to relocate, more families are reporting they are able to move due to increasing remote working opportunities born out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Reno campus returned to in person learning at the start of the current school year, though continues to provide a hybrid learning model with both in person and remote options available for COVID-19 mitigation purposes. Administrative staff continue to track student and staff symptoms of illness as well. Currently, a range of one to four students access remote learning during the school day for various reasons, including symptoms of illness. The absence and remote access rates have declined since the beginning of the spring semester. Board Member, Lauralyn McCarthy Sandoval, asked how the students were feeling about being back to in person learning. Ms. Harsin confirmed that they are doing well, and it's been good to see them back at school and making the most of their in person learning and extracurricular opportunities.

Ms. Harsin referred Board Members to Page 8 of their board books for a list of Presidential Scholar candidates from the Davidson Academy. She confirmed that she would report a list of selected students at the next board meeting. The Academy has 10 National Merit Award recipients: nine from the Reno Campus and one from the Online campus. The Science Olympiad competitions continue in a hybrid attendance model due to COVID-19. The Reno Campus had two teams entered in the Science Bowl and were awarded first and second place. Three students received gold keys and one student, a silver key in the Scholastic Awards in Writing competition.

Concerning the Davidson Academy Class of 2022; there are 24 proposed graduates between the Reno and Online campuses. Concerning college applications, to date, graduates have received 53 acceptances, 10 deferrals and 5 denials.

Under Tab 3 of their board books Ms. Harsin referred Board Members to her prepared memo to the Nevada Department of Education requesting approval of the Academy's alternative schedule. Also under Tab 3, Ms. Harsin indicated that the annual Civil Rights Data Collection report is coming due in March. As an ungraded school, she intends to work with the Civil Rights Collection Data staff on accuracy of reporting and reflecting of

Davidson Academy information as relates to this report. Ms. Harsin also confirmed that she is drafting updates for the Academy's emergency plan.

2. Director of Online Learning
a. General Program Updates
Dr. Stacy Hawthorne began her report by referring Board Members to a summary of performance feedback survey results, located under Tab 4 of their board books. She reported that survey numbers had gone up in the three main categories measured, with increasing impressions of course materials, quality of live sessions and quality of teaching staff viewed favorably by Davidson Academy Online students.

Dr. Hawthorne reported recent student successes in winning debate tournaments and math competitions. She referred Board Members to page 14 of their board books for the ACCEPT Report written by Andrea Linardi de Minten. This elective course is offered to students who are at least in their second year of Spanish. The students are paired with refugees in the Reno area. She also referred Board Members to a podcast link for this program.

Lauralyn McCarthy Sandoval asked if all classes are in real time or if any were recorded. Dr. Hawthorne confirmed that students participate in at least 10 hours per week of live instruction through Zoom in their core coursework, which includes participation in break out rooms.

3. Media and Outreach
The Davidson Academy received positive media placements recently including one student selected as a World Science Scholar, as well as those students participating in the Presidential Scholars Program. The Davidson Academy is donating to a local bike pump track.

Dr. Hawthorne confirmed for the Board that there has been an increase in website metrics with the Davidson Academy moving up in key search rankings in searches and currently number one in searches for "schools for the gifted".

Davidson Academy has concluded its virtual tour and information events for the year.

F. General Business
1. Mark Herron advised the Board that one student from the Class of 2021 was not included in approval of graduates as they spent their final year in high school learning abroad in Germany. He requested approval of graduation of 24 Davidson Academy students slated for graduation as part of the Class of 2022. Motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

G. Public Comment
There were no comments from the public at this time.

H. Adjournment
Mark Herron reminded the Board that there would be a required budget hearing on May 9, 2022, followed by the next quarterly board meeting, scheduled for May 23, 2022. Board Members do not need to attend the hearing on the budget. Among other items for consideration at the next board meeting will be the 2022 Fiscal Year Budget. This Budget will not include Davidson Academy Online, which will be an independent school as of July 1, 2022.

There being no further business coming before the Board in public meeting, Mr. Herron asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted by Aimee Fredericks, Clerk of the Board