

**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**The Davidson Academy Governing Board**  
**November 9, 2023**

**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 Bob Davidson, Annette Whittemore, Lauralyn McCarthy-Sandoval, and Brian Sandoval. Also, present were Davidson Academy Director, Colleen Harsin; Legal Counsel, Ann Alexander; Governing Board Clerk, Aimee Fredericks; and IT Support, Ken Brouchard. Richard Trachok joined the meeting at 2:15 p.m. Roger Davidson, Susan Enfield, Brian Krolicki and Jhone Ebert 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.

Mr. Herron acknowledged the recent passing of Davidson Academy Co-Founder, Jan Davidson, who in 1998 started the non-profit organization, Davidson Institute, with the objective of serving profoundly gifted students. Jan lit up when working with students; she was warm, compassionate, and gracious. He offered condolences to Bob Davidson and family.

Colleen Harsin offered condolences to Bob Davidson along with his family and commented that what was created through Davidson Institute made a big impact for these students. Bob Davidson also acknowledged Jan and commented that Davidson Institute and the Academy would not have existed without her.

**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 a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Motion was made and

seconded for approval of the meeting agenda as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

### **E. Approval of Minutes**

Mark Herron requested approval of the minutes for the meeting of September 28, 2023, included in the board book for this meeting. Motion was made and seconded for approval of the minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

### **F. Reports**

#### 1. Academy Director

##### a. General Program Updates

Mark Herron advised the Board that included in this board book and moving forward, a one-page summary of the current financial report will be included in the board books for their review. He then referred to Colleen Harsin for the Academy Director's report.

Ms. Harsin began her report with a summary of the admissions review process to date for the 2024-2025 school year. The application was opened, and one hundred and nine applications were in progress with thirteen submitted for review. She confirmed the first readiness assessment was scheduled for December.

Ms. Harsin advised that progress on preparing for the Davidson Academy accreditation review was taking place with further surveys going out to stakeholders. She also reported that the organization, Signs of Suicide (SOS), conducted training for Davidson Academy middle and high school students. Forty parents previewed the material to be presented to students. The curriculum included signs of suicide, no blame or shame, concerns of self or friend, an exit slip was also included with debriefing of students who participated. It is planned that this training will be provided annually.

Ms. Harsin concluded her report indicating that she was advised by National Merit that this year the Davidson Academy has two commended students and seventeen semifinalists.

#### 2. Media and Outreach

Ms. Harsin referred Board Members to Tab 6 of their board books for a summary of media and outreach efforts on behalf of the Davidson Academy. September website metrics were up but with a slight decrease in newsletter subscribership, which is being researched. Top viewed website pages are for admissions and the application process.

### **G. General Business**

1. The Governing Board will review, discuss, and possibly approve a list of candidates for graduation in May 2024, subject to each candidate's completion of requirements for graduation.

Ms. Harsin requested Board approval of the proposed 2024 Davidson Academy graduates. Mark Herron asked for motion to approve proposed graduates subject to those students satisfactorily completing graduation requirements. Motion to approve was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. The Governing Board will review, discuss, and possibly approve Davidson Academy Procedures for Suspension, Expulsion or Permanent Expulsion.

Ms. Harsin advised the Board that pursuant to AB 285 and 330 which were passed by the 2023 legislature to amend NRS 392, the Davidson Academy is required to develop procedures for suspension, expulsion, and permanent expulsion. The proposed procedure was included under Tab 4 of the board book. Ms. Harsin asked if the Board had questions. Mr. Trachock asked if the procedure was prepared in conjunction with legal counsel. Ann Alexander, Legal Counsel, confirmed that the proposed statutory changes were specific as to content and the proposed procedure addressed all requirements. She confirmed that this is the first year that the Davidson Academy was included in these requirements. Mark Herron asked for a motion to approve the proposed procedure. Motion to approve was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. The Governing Board will review, discuss, and possibly approve Plan for Provide for the Progressive and On-Site Review of Disciplinary Practices Based on Restorative Justice.

Ms. Harsin advised the Board that pursuant to AB 285 and 330, which amended NRS 392, the Davidson Academy is required to develop a plan to provide for a progressive and on-site review of disciplinary practices based on restorative justice. The proposed plan was included under Tab 5 of the board book. Ms. Harsin asked if the Board had questions. Lauralyn McCarthy Sandoval asked if Board Members would need to be named as part of implementing the plan and procedures. Ann Alexander advised there was no indication that Board Members would need to be named. She confirmed that the proposed plan builds on procedures and expectations of statute. The specifics of the plan are consistent with due process with regard to discipline procedures. There being no further questions, Mark Herron asked for a motion to approve the proposed plan. Motion to approve was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **H. Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public at this time.

#### **I. Adjournment**

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 2:37 p.m.

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*Respectfully submitted by Aimee Fredericks, Governing Board Clerk*