

**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**The Davidson Academy Governing Board**  
**February 15, 2024**

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Davidson Academy was called to order at 2:01 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, Roger Davidson, Annette Whittemore, Lauralyn McCarthy-Sandoval, Richard Trachock, Kristen McNeill and Brian Krolicki. Also, present were Legal Counsel, Ann Alexander; Academy Director, Colleen Harsin; Governing Board Clerk, Aimee Fredericks; and IT Support, Ken Bouchard. Brian Sandoval 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.

**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 November 9, 2023, 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 by referring Board Members to their board books in reference to a Letter from the State of Nevada Department of Education confirming updates to the Davidson Academy school calendar to include professional development days. Professional development historically has been completed outside of the school calendar, however due to limited access to the Davidson Academy building during breaks it became necessary to include professional days within the school calendar. The most recently completed professional development day occurring the previous Monday, included training with a multi-tier support system presentation from the Academy's Director of Special Services, review of the Cognia Accreditation Analysis in preparation for the Academy's upcoming visit, and professional learning community work completed by separate departments. The alternate calendar request for the 2024-2025 school year will be submitted this spring, and moving forward will include two professional development days each semester.

Ms. Harsin referred Board Members to the financial report for the first half of the Academy's 2023-24 fiscal year included their board books. Mr. Herron advised that this report is not presented for board approval and similar reports will be included in the Director's report in an ongoing effort to keep the Board fully aware of financial matters. Rick Trachock asked if the presentation could include a year-to-date budget column which would be helpful from a review standpoint. Mr. Herron advised that the information was presented in this way as the Davidson Academy budget is prepared on an annual basis, not by month or quarter. However, major revenue and expense items are generally incurred on a prorated basis over the year so, in this case, an item that is close to 50% reflects being on budget or close to it.

Ms. Harsin presented an infographic slide in reference to the ELEOT observation tool as part of the Davidson Academy accreditation process. The ELEOT system has proprietary utilization by Cognia. Select staff members have been approved for its use for learning environment observation purposes. Ms. Harsin presented a small sample of the information gathered to date. The overall higher scores received were in the areas of providing a supportive learning environment and well managed learning environment. Areas that were not as strong included digital learning and progress monitoring. While these areas still met the standard they were not as high as the other scores. This score doesn't take into account different learning opportunities utilized in the classrooms such as flipped classrooms models and class discussion. These lower scores are something to continue considering moving forward as more data is gathered with further observations.

Richard Trachock asked how valuable this information would be. Ms. Harsin indicated that over time this will be good information as it fits with what instructors have requested in terms of opportunities to observe other classrooms. The Academy will run the observations again this year and then again for consecutive semesters. Mr. Trachock further commented that the information from parents seemed the most useful. Ms. Harsin confirmed that it has been some time since the Academy's last accreditation review and that all new information gathered in the process would be used in conjunction with subsequent data. Data gathered in this most recent accreditation review process is essentially a clean slate in terms of new information moving forward with continuous improvement. Parent and student summaries have provided important information. The climate and culture surveys were also very strong

overall. She referred board members to the executive summary, also available in their board books.

The Davidson Academy accreditation review visit from Cognia is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, 2024, and will be conducted virtually at that time. The lead accreditor will meet with panels that include administration, staff, instructors, parents and students. Results of the review are expected toward the end of the school year.

(Brian Krolicki exited the meeting at 2:21 p.m.)

Bob Davidson asked whether the accrediting body had changed their metrics. Ms. Harsin indicated that the process remains the same, however items like the ELEOT and further observation tools were added. Mr. Herron acknowledged Colleen Harsin's work along with her team in preparing for the accreditation process in a shortened timeline.

Under Tab 8 Ms. Harsin referred Board Members to a college admissions summary for Davidson Academy 2024 graduates. Students are still receiving responses and making decisions. Students continue to work with the Academy's in-house college counselor as well as a second contracted college counselor who is also meeting with proposed graduates for 2025. There are currently 15 National Merit Semi-Finalists, and seven students are moving forward with Presidential Scholarship applications.

## 2. Media and Outreach

Under Tab 9, Ms. Harsin reported that the Science Bowl team is headed to the National Competition. A graduating student was recently interviewed by local media KOLO 8 News, which will run in the morning and will be provided at the next meeting.

Website metrics and continued work with KPS3 for increased outreach and search engine optimization is going well with a 27% increase in conversions. There has been positive movement in search engine optimization in several areas. Top viewed pages in December, included eligibility and tuition.

## G. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public at this time.

## H. Adjournment

Mr. Herron acknowledged that the Board Clerk, Aimee Fredericks was present and documenting meeting minutes.

There being no further business coming before the Board in a public meeting, Mr. Herron asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

*Aimee Fredericks*

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*Respectfully submitted by Aimee Fredericks, Governing Board Clerk*