

Minutes of the Meeting
The Davidson Academy Governing Board
September 20, 2024

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Davidson Academy was called to order at 2:00 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. Board Members in attendance were Bob Davidson, Roger Davidson, Lauralyn McCarthy-Sandoval, Joseph Ernst, and Brian Krolicki. Annette Whittemore, Richard Trachok, Brian Sandoval and Jhone Ebert were not present.

Following completion of roll call, a quorum of voting members was confirmed.

Also in attendance were Controller, Karin Dixon; Director of Accounting, Kevin Connelly, Academy Director, Colleen Harsin; Legal Counsel, Ann Alexander; Governing Board Clerk, Aimee Fredericks, and Ken Bouchard for IT Support.

B. Welcome and Introduction

Mark Herron welcomed Board Members and members of the public in attendance, including new ex-Officio Governing Board Member, Joseph Ernst, Superintendent of the Washoe County School District who filled the Board position previously held by Dr. Kristen McNeill.

Mr. Herron introduced guests, Kimberley Hastings, and Diana Cirunay from the independent auditing firm, Holthouse, Carlin & Van Trigt, who would be reporting on the submitted audit report.

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 move General Business agenda item G.1.a. for presentation and consideration by the Board, prior to item F. Reports. Motion was made and seconded for approval of the amended meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes

Mark Herron requested approval of the minutes for the meeting of May 23, 2024, 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 confirming that the school year began on Monday, August 26, 2024, with 169 total students enrolled. Thirty-nine new students were accepted in the admissions review process for the current school year. Thirty of those applicants enrolled. During the first several weeks of school, the Davidson Academy PALs (Peer Advising Liaisons) provided their *DA 101 Presentation*, to the school community and placement testing and the academic diagnostic period were completed. Due to the Davis Fire, the Davidson Academy followed school closures with the Washoe County School District. A professional development day was also completed and included First Aid and Seizure Awareness training, academic diagnostic student course placements, and Strategies for Communication with Profoundly Gifted Students. The first monthly parent meetings were completed and offered by Zoom with two different meeting times offered to accommodate parent attendance and school pictures were also completed. Twenty-seven graduates are slated for spring 2025 commencement and college visits have started. Back to School Night was in-person this year and was well attended.

Next week starts Week of Respect in Nevada and features events organized by Student Leadership. Annual suicide prevention training for middle and high school students has been conducted with professionals from the Office of Suicide Prevention. Davidson Academy staff are also working with the West Ed for Threat Assessment training. Ms. Harsin also confirmed she is working with the University on a lease for additional space which was formerly the Honors College. Initially this space would be used for storage and staff work areas and not for students until it can be updated for security and IT access.

Ms. Harsin referred Board Members to Tab2 of their board books for a letter from the Academy's accrediting body, Cognia, indicating that the Davidson Academy has received accreditation through the year 2030. Under Tab 3, the Davidson Academy received notice that the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) would be completing an

in-person, on-site, Pupil Enrollment and Attendance Audit at the Academy campus on Thursday, October 17, 2024. Under Tab 4, Ms. Harsin confirmed that the NDE had also approved the alternative school Calendar for the 2024-2025 school year. Under Tab 5 Ms. Harsin provided the Board with a copy of the adjusted Bell Schedule for the 2024-2025 school year in order to accommodate the addition of Homeroom on Fridays. Under Tab 6, Ms. Harsin introduced a new resource being utilized by the Davidson Academy community called *Win at Social*. This program focuses on student engagement and development of interpersonal and online skills along with providing family resources.

1. Academy Director

b. College Planning Updates

Ms. Harsin directed Board Members to list of Davidson Academy National Merit Semi Finalists Under Tab 7. The Academy has nineteen semi-finalists and three commended students.

2. Media and Outreach

Ms. Harsin provided a summary of media updates and website mentions. Specifically, a press release from Cognia that the Davidson Academy has received Accreditation through the year 2030. She also reported that Davidson Academy alumni, Eegan Ram has received a Davidson Fellow award of \$25,000. Davidson Academy Online student Linus Tang was also awarded for his project, a Blogpost Preparing for Success at the Davidson Academy and creation of the Luz Writing Center. Website metrics and rankings remain good.

G. General Business

1. VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

a. Presentation of independent auditor's report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 (for possible action)

Mark Herron, Vice President, and Chief Financial Officer introduced the audit team which included: Kimberly Hastings, Partner, and Diana Cirunay, Senior Staff Accountant, for presentation of the independent auditor's report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

Mr. Herron advised that board materials for this meeting pertinent to the audit report package were under Tab 9 and page 35 of the board book, which he would defer explanation of to the audit team. Mr. Herron, however, confirmed that the audit results letter noted a clean audit with an unmodified opinion, which is the desired outcome of this audit. Mr. Herron then referred to Kimberley Hastings for further presentation of the audit report.

Ms. Hastings began her presentation referring Board Members to Tab 9 of their board books. She confirmed that at the conclusion of the audit there were no issues with internal controls, no disagreements, or findings and commented that this audit result is

consistent with prior years with no significant changes. She indicated that completion of the audit was streamlined with the separation of Davidson Academy Online. Ms. Hastings reiterated, as Mark Herron mentioned earlier, that a clean audit opinion was issued. She thanked Karin Dixson and Kevin Connelly for their help and support of the audit. There were no audit adjustments. Ms. Hastings then asked if the Board had any questions.

Board Member Brian Krolicki acknowledged that a clean audit opinion was issued. He asked Ms. Hastings to elaborate on the Prepaid Rent Agreement which was highlighted in the report. Ms. Hastings indicated that this entry reflects the amortization over the 20-year term of the Academy's lease with UNR for space in the Jot Travis building and is treated as rent. This is discussed in note 5 to the financial statements. Three years remain as to this agreement. Mr. Krolicki also requested further information on the cost for professional services and how that relates to the Davidson Group. Karin Dixson confirmed that this year there was a formalizing of an agreement between the Davidson Group and Davidson Academy for shared professional services as appropriate. Lauralyn McCarthy-Sandoval asked if the \$490,000 cost for further positions at the Davidson Academy was budgeted, and Karin Dixson confirmed that this cost was part of the budget. Mr. Krolicki asked if the cost of the audit was on budget. Ms. Hastings confirmed there were no overages and that the audit fee had decreased from \$35,000 to \$33,000, as the scope of the audit decreased with the separation of Davidson Academy Online.

There being no further questions coming before the Board concerning the audit report, Mark Herron requested motion to accept the auditor's report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Motion was made and seconded for acceptance of the auditor's report as submitted. There was no further discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

H. Public Comment

Board Member, Brian Krolicki commented and congratulated the University of Nevada, Reno on its Sesquicentennial Celebration and that he would not be present at the next meeting of the Board on November 8, 2024.

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 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Aimee Fredericks, Governing Board Clerk