

**Special Meeting of the
Lewis Center for Educational Research Board of Directors**

**Minutes
July 16, 2020**

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Kevin Porter called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** LCER Board Members Pat Caldwell, Torii Gray, Jim Morris, Sharon Page, Kevin Porter, Omari Onyango, David Rib, Jessica Rodriguez (arrived at 4:10) and Rick Wolf were in attendance. No Board Members were absent.

Staff members Valli Andreasen, Ryan Dorcey, Teresa Dowd, David Gruber, and Stacy Newman were also in attendance.

3. **Public Comments:** A comment from a group of students was read - Diversify Our Narrative. Pat asked Lisa to follow-up with the students. Lisa stated that we are developing a Together United committee. We will add this to the next board agenda.

4. **Consent Agenda:**

.01 Approve Sale of MRC Excess River Rock – on a motion by Pat Caldwell, seconded by Jim Morris, vote 9-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved the sale of the excess river rock.

5. **Discussion Items:**

.01 Discuss Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan and Public Hearing to be held August 10, 2020 – Lisa reported that the plan is one of the new requirements we have to comply with. A draft template was released, but CDE has not finalized the template. The plan must be approved by September 30 and we must have a public hearing prior to approval. We will be posting the hearing at our regular meeting in August and it will be approved at our regular September meeting. The plan provides structure to distance learning and gives us benchmarks.

6. **Action Items:** Public Comments regarding reopening (35 comments) were read by Jessica Rodriguez, Secretary, before Action Items 6.01 and 6.02 were discussed.

.01 Lisa Lamb reviewed BP 3500: Health and Safety Policy for COVID-19. It is based on the CDE guidebook, our Health and Wellness taskforce, and our law firm YM&C. It takes all responsible measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We have ordered supplies to have on hand for screenings, such as thermometers, gloves and other PPE supplies. We also have sanitizing foggers, ionizing vents and enhanced filters. Our District Nurse has been very active in researching these guidelines.

Jim Morris stated that he appreciates the care and level of detail that has gone into this policy and asked if we been able to assess what we think the costs of following this policy are going to be. We did receive some state funds for COVID and will also receive some federal funds as well to help with these costs. We are able to shift classified staff to cover some of these duties if needed. We are also applying for any grants available and should be able to stay on target with the budget.

Sharon Page thanked the staff for their hard work putting this together and asked if we have enough desk and chairs for onsite learning since seating arrangements have changed previously. We are looking at limiting the number of students per classroom and other spacing options.

Pat Caldwell asked if students were still able to do team projects. This is a challenge but our students are savvy and can work collaborative digitally, or if back on campus without shared materials. She also asked if there were any provisions for staff members with underlying conditions or at a higher risk age if they don't want to come back. There are specific leaves that can be used, and we may be able to accommodate working at home for individual accommodations.

Jessica Rodriguez noted that we need to be aware that teachers may not come back if we open too soon. We need a plan to be ready to teach our students. There is a spectrum of views on coming back to campus. If local events support coming back, we will have everything in place to support a safe environment.

David Rib thanked stakeholders for their comments and noted that this plan is more in depth than what he has been seeing.

Jim Morris provided a common framework for how to look at this plan. The plan is based upon what we know today. Some are guidelines, and the more particular we get about it, the practicality of implementing such detail gives a false sense of doing something meaningful. It is best to view them as a decision we are making today. Things we don't like may go away, or things we don't see may be added later. The plan may be different when we reopen anyway. It's a very fluid environment.

Action Item 6.01 was briefly tabled until 6.02 was heard. After both items were heard, on a motion by Omari Onyango, seconded by David Rib, vote 9-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved BP 3500: Health and Safety Policy for COVID-19.

- .02 Reopening Plan – Lisa Lamb, Fausto Barragan and Valli Andreasen presented the reopening plan for AAE and NSLA Instructional Programs. The policy is how we act and behave on campus. This is direction of the instructional model. The safe reopening plan should be on our websites by tomorrow and will be sent out on social media. We also have 3 parent forums tomorrow. We are looking at 3 specific criteria for reopening based on Stronger Together, CDC and CDE, which gives us a good framework to make decisions. Criteria include Local Conditions such as Stay at Home Orders and Local Public Health Clearance. We feel that we do not meet the targets for local public health clearance for either school at this time. Most local districts are starting with a distance learning program. We are asking the Board to approve a phased approach to bringing students back on campus. A timeline was presented with bringing staff back first, beginning classes with a distance learning format, and if local conditions allow, beginning to phase in in-person instruction after Labor Day. Phase I is Distance learning, Phase 2 is Hybrid Learning (full distance learning and in person learning), and Phase 3 is another Hybrid Learning (in person 4 days per week and distance 1 day per week). Families will continue to have the option to choose to remain on full distance learning. A Sample Teaching Schedule was presented that includes professional development time for distance learning strategies. Families will need to choose a learning model and will only be able to change it at designated times. When it is deemed safe to return to school, we will follow State, County, and Local guidelines and follow CIF guidance for sports and athletics. We will not be having a fall sports season.

Pat Caldwell asked what would happen if a student/parent wanted to change the learning model, and the new cohort was full at the time. The student cohorts will be assigned to classrooms whether they are distance or in person so the cohort wouldn't change. Learning will be recorded so if students aren't able to join in at the appointed time, they can watch it later or again if necessary.

Jim Morris stated he worries about the economic impact on households. We need to think about how we provide an option for people with economic needs. We do realize distance learning is not

easy and will be providing training to parents. We have already been providing 1:1 support for connectivity problems. We are hoping to provide day care on Wednesdays once we are able to be back for high need essential worker families. The principals will be overseeing that program. Staff and Board members children will begin the program and then we will expand it to families. We have special populations of students that will need support and will bring them in 1:1 for assessments and services. Kindergarten is another group we would like to bring in, in small groups.

Torii Gray asked what the training plan for teachers was. Previously we were using too many systems as well. Previously we weren't able to provide training to teachers on distance learning. The Principals are planning training on quality distance learning and best practices. We are also implementing a new Student Information System, as well as a swivel system that will enhance the distance learning experience. Google Classroom will be the universal learning platform and Zoom will be used to connect. The district nurse will be doing health training and the facilities manager will do cleanliness training.

Omari Onyango asked how teachers expressing reservation about coming back to school would affect training. Staff will be working independently in their classroom during Phase I and trainings will be done electronically

Sharon Page asked how teachers with children will do distance learning for their child. We are implementing a staff day care program, and they can also keep their child with them if they prefer. She also asked how we help children who may be being abused. Our Director of Student Services has been working closely with the counseling team on social emotional supports and family resources.

Jessica asked if we are training staff for emotional support for COVID? The Director of Student Services is leading that area and we also have support from SELPA. The psychologists are available for staff as well.

Valli Andreasen clarified concerns about accommodating families that desire to be here physically. As the surveys indicated that 20-25% of families desire to continue distance learning, once remaining students are divided into cohorts, we feel will have plenty of space to accommodate all that want to come in person.

Omari Onyango how to socially distance the students. The students will be in stable cohorts, physically distanced and with masks. There will be anxiety for the entire school if there is a positive case, but we will be able to trace contact. The plan for positive cases is in the policy.

Sharon Paged asked what the timeline was to enter Phase 2. Reopening of school would be more transparent to have the Board approve, but the CEO will have the authority and the Board will be kept in the loop. Hopefully we'll have more clarity soon.

Kevin Porter thanked the Board, staff and the public. We will remain vigilant to listen to stakeholders and will remain nimble.

On a motion by Pat Caldwell, seconded by Jim Morris, vote 9-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved the reopening plan.

7. **Adjournment:** Chairman Kevin Porter adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.