

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

**Minutes  
February 11, 2019**

**1.0 Call to Order**

Chairman Duberly Beck called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

**2.0 Roll Call**

LCER Board Members Duberly Beck, Pat Caldwell, Jim Morris, Omari Onyango, Sharon Page, Marcia Vargas and Rick Wolf were present.

LCER Board Member David Rib was absent.

Staff members Valli Andreasen, Fausto Barragan, Ryan Dorcey, Teresa Dowd, David Gruber, Lisa Lamb, and Stacy Newman were also present.

**3.0 Public Comments: None**

**4.0 Closed Session:** The LCER Board of Directors convened into closed session at 4:04 p.m. to discuss: Conference with Legal Counsel Existing Litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1), (d)(2) James Foley vs. The High Desert “Partnership in Academic Excellence” Foundation, Inc. DBA Lewis Center for Education Research. The LCER Board of Directors reconvened into open session at 4:53 p.m. Duberly Beck, Chairman of the Board, reported that the LCER Board of Directors unanimously took action to move forward.

**5.0 Special Presentations:**

- .01** Mark Skousen from HighMark presented on the NSLA new campus project. The proposal includes all costs and their model is 20% or less of revenue and includes conservative projections. LCER will have soft costs built into the regular budget that will not be financed, i.e. furniture, etc. The time schedule is 18 mo. to deliver the Head Start pre-school and the new school building by summer of 2021. The timing starts when the agreement is executed. The County is meeting to approve the agreement tomorrow and the City is meeting next week. The agreement includes dismissal of the lawsuit.
- .02** Michael Klein from Nigro & Nigro reviewed highlights and findings from the June 30, 2018 audit. The firm provides an unqualified opinion, which means they are able to obtain enough substantiating information to ensure the report is accurate. He reported the LCER is in a strong liquid position and allocations are tracked by program type. David is working on a checklist with staff that should be completed by April. He will also reach out to the County regarding isolating our PERS liability. The Board will receive a revision of the audit once completed.
- .03** Dr. Steve Levin from JPL, Lisa and Ryan presented a GAVRT overview, including the history of the radio telescopes being used, current missions and the many new partnerships that have been formed. There is also a potential of the Goldstone Visitors Center to be onsite at AVCI (formerly Thunderbird Campus).
- .04** Lisa, Ryan and Fausto updated the Board that NSLA is hosting 4 students and 2 teachers from Chile May 5-19, and 4 NSLA students will be going to Chile in October with Fausto

and Marco Lara, the Space Science teacher. There will be a rigorous application process to select the students. We are in the beginning stages of planning for this exchange.

## 6.0 **Consent Agenda**

- .01 Approve Minutes of December 10, 2018 Regular Meeting
- .02 Approve Minutes of January 24, 2019 Special Meeting
- .03 Approve AAE HOSA Field Trip to Sacramento March 27-31, 2019
- .04 Approve NSLA Destination Imagination Field Trip to Clovis, CA April 5-7, 2019
- .05 Approve NSLA Destination Imagination Field Trip to Kansas City, MO May 21-26, 2019

On a motion by Duberly Beck, seconded by Marcia Vargas, vote 7-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved Consent Agenda Items 6.02 – 6.05.

Consent Agenda Item 6.01 was pulled to amend the December 10, 2018 minutes to “Lisa Lamb reported”, rather than “Marcia Vargas Reported”, on item 6.01. On a motion by Marcia Vargas, seconded by Pat Caldwell, vote 7-0, Consent Agenda Item 6.01 was approved as amended.

## 7.0 **Discussion/Action Items:**

**.01 Lewis Center Foundation Update** – Marcia Vargas reported that the Lewis Center Foundation has been very busy and two new members are joining the Foundation Board: Umang Patel from the High Desert and Espy Mayoral from the Inland Empire. LCER Board members are encouraged to join as well. LCER Board members were asked to find sponsors for the 2019 Annual Gala and/or donate items for the silent auction. Invitations will be electronic, and we will have some hard copies for each school site as well.

Marcia also reported that the Lewis Center Foundation has a potential opportunity to partner with the Victor Valley Chamber on their golf tournament this fall. There is a potential for each organization to raise \$25K. The Board was asked to be thinking about potential sponsors for this high profile event.

**.02 April 8, 2019 Meeting** – The LCER Board discussed starting the April 8, 2019 meeting earlier since we will be having the Conflict of Interest and Brown Act training. Due to schedules, the meeting will begin at the regular time of 4:00 p.m.

**.03 NSLA Campus Expansion Update** – The lease agreement and final settlement draft was discussed. The agreement does not allow the use of portables on the property which has resulted in an increased cost. Greg Forrest, YM&C counsel, was thanked for his diligence in bringing this to fruition.

**.04 Approve AAE Low Performing Students Block Grant Plan** – Through this plan, AAE is adopting a new math curriculum for elementary and the funding will support the curriculum. On a motion by Sharon Page, seconded by Marcia Vargas, vote 7-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved the AAE Low Performing Students Block Grant Plan.

**.05 Approve Updated LCER Strategic Plan** – Lisa Lamb reported that the Exec Team met and developed strategies and objectives for the goals in the plan. On a motion Marcia Vargas, seconded by Omari Onyango, vote 7-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved the updated LCER Strategic Plan.

## 8.0 **Information Included in Packet:**

### 01. Staff Reports

- President/CEO – Lisa Lamb – Lisa reported that the Exec Team would like to consolidate reports into one based on goals. We will do a trial run of this in the next Board packet.

- Human Resources Director – Stacy Newman
  - Finance Director – David Gruber
  - AAE Principal – Valli Andreasen – Duberly asked about the suspension rates at AAE. Schools have been having an epidemic with vaping. A proactive plan is being developed to combat this issue. Students and parents are being educated at both schools.
  - NSLA Principal – Fausto Barragan
- 02.** LCER Financial Reports
- Checks Over \$10K
  - Budget Comparisons
- 03.** Lewis Center Foundation Financial Report
- September 2018
- 04.** LCER Board Attendance Log
- 05.** LCER Board Give and Get

**9.0** **Board/Staff Comments**

- .01 Ask a question for clarification** – None
- .02 Make a brief announcement** – Lisa Lamb commended Stacy Newman, as Charter Safe, our insurance carrier, has identified our GA department as a model for charter schools across the state.
- .03 Make a brief report on his or her own activities** – Marcia Vargas attended an event and learned legislation is being drafted to fund more bilingual faculty as well as an award for bilingual schools similar to the Blue Ribbon School award.
- .04 Future agenda Items** – A parent from NSLA is interested in the open position on the LCER Board, as well as Dr. Levin. The nominating committee will meet to review these candidates and bring a recommendation back to the Board.

**10.0** **Adjournment**

Chairman Duberly Beck adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.