

**Minutes for Regular Meeting of the Lewis Center for Educational Research Board
November 8, 2021**

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:** Chairman Rib called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** LCER Board Members Pat Caldwell, Jim Morris (left at 6:50 pm), Omari Onyango, Sharon Page, Kevin Porter, David Rib and Rick Wolf were present.

LCER Board Members Torii Gray and Jessica Rodriguez were absent.

Lewis Center Staff Valli Andreasen, Fausto Barragan, Marcelo Congo, Jisela Corona, Ryan Dorcey, Teresa Dowd, David Gruber, Heather Juarez Lisa Lamb and Stacy Newman were also in attendance.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Christian Lopez regarding masking, Lynette Lopez regarding campus safety, Marie Alexis regarding traffic, Shauna Archuleta regarding vaccine statistics, Heather Dodge regarding vaccine mandates, Susan Ellis regarding vaccine mandates and board representation, Devon Higgins regarding letter to Governor Newsom and resolution, Emmet Tucker regarding vaccine and masks, Cheryl Moyer regarding regulations and administration, Sarah German regarding vaccine mandate and closed contact Covid testing required only for unvaccinated students, Cassandra Herndon regarding vaccine efficiency, Marie Alexis-Sovitsky again regarding traffic, SEL curriculum, bell schedule, minimum days, t-shirt design and mask mandates.
4. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**
 - .01 LCER Ambassadors Update – Apple Cheung and Brianna Tran gave an update on student activities at AAE.
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
 - .01 Discuss AAE and NSLA Educator Effectiveness Block Grant Program – Valli Andreasen reviewed what trainings the AAE grant funds will go towards. Fausto Barragan also reviewed what trainings the NSLA grant funds will go towards to enhance learning. Pat asked about AAE trauma informed, implicit bias and capturing kids hearts trainings and NSLA ethnic studies training. Needs were identified through surveys and feedback and the categories listed are required.
 - .02 Discuss 2021-22 LCER Budget Revision – David Gruber updated the Board that we have identified a projected \$1 million reduction in ADA but are hoping to bring it up as well as recoup some of that loss. This is due to following State guidelines regarding quarantines and telling families to keep their students home if sick. We are also held to this year's actual attendance rather than being able to look back as traditional Districts can. We have received a lot of Covid related funds that are helping us. We have reserves we can use if needed. Kevin asked if we still have funds due from the State. We are receiving those apportionments. Our cash position is still positive and we had carry over funds from last year. David will email the Board the updated budget.
 - .03 Discuss LCER Board Strategic Planning – Lisa Lamb reported that Strategic Planning will be on January 20 2022 from 8:00 – 4:00. We plan to meet down the hill. If any Board has any location suggestions, please let us know. We can look at County offices or maybe a classroom at NSLA as well. The Foundation Board will join us for other afternoon.
 - .04 Lewis Center Foundation Update – Lisa Lamb reported that the Foundation is currently recruiting new members. Parents are welcome. It is the fundraising committee of the Board. There are 4 parents (2 from each school) on our Governing Board and the CEO does not appoint them. The Foundation will have a booth at the Noche de las Estrellas event at NSLA on November 13 selling items and friend raising. Next month our chair and co-chair are resigning as well. The Gala was a huge success.
6. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - .01 Approve Minutes of the October 18, 2021 Regular LCER Board Meeting
 - .02 Approve NSLA 8th Grade Field Trip to Pali Institute, March 7 – 11, 2022

- .03 Approve AAE and NSLA California Dashboard Local Indicators
- .04 Approve AAE Admission of Late Start Kindergarten Student

On a motion by Jim Morris, seconded by Omari Onyango, vote 7-0 by roll call vote, the LCER Board of Directors approved Consent Agenda Items 6.01-6.04. Sharon Page asked for clarification on the AAE Admission of Late Start Kindergarten Student, which Valli Andreasen explained.

7. ACTION ITEMS:

- .01 Approve Resolution 2021-04 Opposing the Governor’s Announcement of a Vaccine Mandate for Staff and Students – Lisa Lamb reported that this is a draft brought forward to the Board for consideration. It was asked if there was a charter school group to align with on these issues. We belong to CCSA and they have not taken a stance. Superintendents meet with the County Superintendent often. Sharon asked about conversations with our attorney’s and insurance carriers. We have to financially make sure we are able to operate. It is clear that if we were to violate a public health order or state or federal mandate or law, we would be held fiscally responsible and staff could have action taken against them, and we would not be covered by insurance. We could also have our charter revoked. Jim Morris discussed that he is comfortable opposing the financial impact, and discussed the current mandated vaccines that are one time vaccines which Covid is not and logistics would be difficult to track. He is not comfortable having exemptions for philosophical and religious beliefs for a mandate. Pat Caldwell would like to expand on the “whereas” to include decreased enrollment and the costs associated with that, as well as student’s educational loss. We could add in exact numbers for that as well as staffing shortage numbers in the letter. It was also suggested to add “Covid” to the vaccine mandate wording. On a motion by Kevin Porter, seconded by Pat Caldwell, vote 5-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved Resolution 2021-04 Opposing the Governor’s Vaccine Mandate with the recommended changes discussed by the following roll call vote: David Rib – Aye, Pat Caldwell – Aye, Jim Morris – No, Omari Onyango – Abstained, Sharon Page – Aye, Kevin Porter - Aye and Rick Wolf - Aye.
- .02 Approve Vaccine Mandate Opposition Letter to be sent to Governor Newsom by the LCER Board and Administration – Sharon Page would like to add a statement that the Board fully supports our families and their ability to make medical decisions for their children. Jim Morris opposes the letter for the same reasons as opposing resolution. Lisa reported that Loma Linda will be supporting us with staff and student testing. On a motion by Rick Wolf, seconded by Kevin Porter, vote 5-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved the Vaccine Mandate Opposition Letter with the discussed changes by the following roll call vote: David Rib – Aye, Pat Caldwell – Aye, Jim Morris – No, Omari Onyango – Abstained, Sharon Page – Aye, Kevin Porter - Aye and Rick Wolf - Aye.
- .03 Approve Resolution 2021-05 2021 Bond Financing Including Transaction Documents for NSLA Gym Project not to exceed \$5.5 Million – Lisa Lamb noted that John Phan presented us the terms at the last Board meeting and timing is good to close before the close of the year. We need to decide on closing date – either early December or December 16. John recommends the 16th. Kevin asked if the ADA concerns affects our financials on this, but our financials look solid even with the decrease. It would be a bigger risk to not move forward. On a motion by Jim Morris, seconded by Omari Onyango, vote 7-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved Resolution 2021-05 Bond Financing Including Transaction Documents for NSLA Gym Project not to exceed \$5.5 million by roll call vote.
- .04 Approve Revision of AR 3314.3 – Credit Card Usage – David Gruber reported that this update is due to the growth of purchasing and we are using the credit card a lot on Amazon - On a motion by Sharon Page, seconded by Pat Caldwell, vote 6-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved Revision of AR 3314.3 Credit Card Usage by roll call vote.
- .05 Approve Resolution 2021-06 Relating to Participating in Self-Funding Excess Liability Plan – David Gruber reported that this resolution streamlines our operation to be all under Charter Safe – On a motion by Pat Caldwell, seconded by Kevin Porter, vote 6-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved Resolution 2021-06 Relating to Participating in Self-Funding Excess Liability Plan by roll call vote.

8. INFORMATION INCLUDED IN PACKET:

- .01 President/CEO Report – Pat Caldwell noted that the report is based on the Strategic Plan and Board members should review the report to help with planning goals. Lisa pointed out that we have purchased detection devices for cameras and listening devices for both campus and have conducted inspections that will also be done regularly. We have a counseling form on our LCER website for current students and alumni. Noche de las Estrellas is this Saturday.
- .02 LCER Grant Tracking Report
- .03 LCER Financial Reports
 - Checks Over \$10K
 - Budget Comparisons
- .04 Lewis Center Foundation Financial Report
 - September 2021
- .05 AAE and NSLA Enrollment Data
- .06 LCER Board Attendance Log

9. BOARD/STAFF COMMENTS:

- .01 Ask a question for clarification
- .02 Make a brief announcement – Kevin said the audio update is wonderful. He has also heard that Lisa has handled recent events well. Omari thanked Lisa for keeping the Board informed. Lisa shared that there are concerns at both campus of adult behavior toward staff such as bullying. It is impacting school culture and staff morale. We are working on strategies, such as Principal messages on what consequences there are for these actions. They are also preparing a position statement regarding parent social media pages. We are proud of our staff at both schools. Sharon reported that her daughter, an alumnus, is on her way to cross country nationals.
- .03 Make a brief report on his or her own activities
- .04 Future agenda items

10. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Rib adjourned the meeting at 7:06 pm.