

Minutes for Regular Meeting of the Lewis Center for Educational Research Board
August 9, 2021

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:** Chairman Rib called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** LCER Board Members Torii Gray (arrived at 5:00), Jim Morris, Omari Onyango, Sharon Page, Kevin Porter (arrived at 4:12), Jessica Rodriguez, David Rib and Rick Wolf were present.

LCER Board member Pat Caldwell was absent.

Staff members Valli Andreasen, Fausto Barragan, Marcelo Congo, Jisela Corona, Ryan Dorcey, Teresa Dowd, David Gruber and Lisa Lamb were also in attendance.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** AAE Ambassadors Melissa Mangold and Apple Cheung commented that they are happy to be back in class and things are much better now than they were before. They are happy to have Back to School night in person.

Ian and Amber Faussant commented regarding masks. They thought we could make our own choice as a charter school rather than following what Apple Valley does. They feel that teacher information should be age specific.

Pam McKay commented regarding masks and shared science behind masks and transmission.

Deborah Wheat commented regarding masks. She feels that students have anxiety regarding masks and believe they harm children.

Chairman Rib read public comments that had been sent in from Tina Caro regarding masks and a parent coalition, Evelyn Valdovinos regarding CDPH guidelines and SB COE requirements, and Marie Savinsky requesting adding an agenda item of Mask Choice and an agenda item of changing the Board meeting time to the September agenda

4. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

- .01 Overview of Social Emotional Supports for Students – Marcelo Congo presented how social emotional supports work at the LCER. The support continuum includes analysis, implementation and data driven decision making. The LCER has many onsite resources including 3 FT psychologists and 2 FT academic-socioemotional counselors, as well as many other staff. The Desert Mountain SELPA office provides mental health providers and therapy based services as well. He also reviewed the crisis response protocol. There is also a mental health self-referral service available. We have many social-emotional support partnerships and MOUs. He also went through how we process suicide intervention and prevention. Our student computers contain a notification system if students are searching content related to active planning. We are then able to contact the parents or guardians to alert them and work with the family. David asked how much feedback we've received from staff. During the past 5-6 days there have been some behavior reports of anxiety. A question was asked if the monitoring system also picks up a threat to others. Yes, it has that capability.
- .02 Overview of 2021-22 Plans for LCER Programs to Include GAVRT, AVCI and Local Outreach – Lisa Lamb reported on the Apple Valley Center for Innovation partnership with AVUSD where we provide professional development opportunities, STEM nights, STEM field trips and High Desert Astronomical Society Events. We are also one of 9 organizations nationwide to be part of ARISS, where our students will be able to talk to astronauts on the International Space Station, working with ham radio clubs. There is a NASA STEM Expo in November and a field trip for our Space Force students to Vandenberg Space Force Base to participate in the DART Launch.

Ryan Dorcey reported on our Solar Patrol program through a NASA Grant and a partnership with Columbia Memorial Space Center. There will be a NASA in your Neighborhood Talk on September 10th and 11th, and upcoming events are the AGU Conference in December, NSLA/Chilean Student Exchange, Niche de las Estrellas Event on November 21, and a CubeSat Campaign with University of Michigan. Also, this is the first year we will have a FT computer science teacher at AAE and at NSLA.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- .01 NSLA Gym Construction Project Status Update – John Phan, Campanile Group discussed NSLA gym financing projections and that we have delayed financing a little bit. There are currently 2 options – go back to the current lender or go out to market. Lisa reported that we are continuing to put the project together and will be continuing to update the Board before bringing it forward. Wendell Vaughn, TSK Architects, discussed the design of the gym and showed the site plan and floor plan. The increased bleacher capacity allows us to have student assemblies. Larry Rieder, CSPS, discussed the timeline and increased budget due to prevailing wage. We expect the permit by 12/7 with a 7-month timeframe which would put us at summer of 2022. Though we have exceeded costs on the main campus project due to the issues with Edison, sewer and soil costs, some things have already been paid on the gym project and we plan to value engineer this project. There are no hidden landmines and we expect to stay within budget. Lisa reported that the AAE Gym was 4 million without prevailing wage, so this project is within reason. David Gruber discussed fencing.
- .02 NSLA Construction Update and Completion Timeline – David Gruber thanked Near Cal for their help with delays, and they are on schedule and near completion. Construction should be completed by next Friday, and the only thing remaining is finishing landscaping. Wi-Fi is up and phones will be completed. There is a budget overage of about 1 million over contingency. We have been setting aside funds as we did not know what would be going on with NSLA and have put away \$1.5 million which will cover this. This amount is above our reserves and does not impact cash flow. This includes new and replacement furniture. The bond covenants require us to have 45 days of cash on hand, which we meet even with deferrals. David and Lisa will be attending the County Board of supervisors meeting tomorrow for a TEFRA to continue with the project. John Phan is also working with our authorizers, the County Board of Education. Sharon thanked the Exec Team and the Board for the foresight to put away funds for the project. Kevin asked if we had a fixed rate contract that minimized the change order costs. That is correct but some plans were rushed due to the timeline of getting off our old campus and onto the new one. The geotechnical rates were also completely off. Near Cal reviewed all the change orders to be sure they were necessary and the best cost.
- .03 NSLA Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting September 2, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m. – Lisa Lamb discussed the Grand Opening ceremony. It will be a great celebration in the new multipurpose room. We have invited Congressman Pete Aguilar to speak. He has been very supportive of NSLA. County Superintendent Ted Alejandre is invited to say a few words, and Jim Morris will represent the Board as he has been involved with NSLA since the very beginning. Fausto is planning tours for the families. Let us know if you have anyone to include.
- .04 AAE and NSLA Back to School Updates – Valli Andreasen reported that we were able to return August 2 in person and that because we are masking we do not have to physical distance or require cohorts. The students are happy to be back. A new bell schedule has been implemented with the late start and new lunch schedules. We have 6-7 students so far that chose Independent Study. Fausto Barragan reported that NSLA is expected to start September 7. He thanked the facilities team who is getting the classrooms set up. Things are moving quickly.
- .05 Discussion Regarding the Uniform Dress Code – Lisa Lamb asked the Board for assistance in taking this year to review the uniform policies and get stakeholder input. Our policy is very outdated and we want to be thoughtful in the process and build a policy that is inclusive of both schools. We will be forming a committee with both principals and want the Board involved. Things to be discussed would include hair color, being inclusive, and uniforms being accessible to all students. Kevin, Jessica and Torii volunteered but cannot to commit to attending multiple meetings. We will keep

the Board updated and begin parent and student forums. This year will be limited enforcement of hair color and piercings.

- .06 Lewis Center Foundation Update – Jessica Rodriguez wants to be sure all the Board participate in the gala on October 1. The golf tournament was a great success with profits of around \$52K to be split with the Greater High Desert Chamber.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

- .01 Approve Minutes of the June 3, 2021 Special LCER Board Meeting
- .02 Approve Minutes of the June 14, 2021 Regular LCER Board Meeting
- .03 Approve Minutes of the July 26, 2021 Special LCER Board Meeting
- .04 Approve AAE Consolidated Application and Reporting System
- .05 Approve NSLA Consolidated Application and Reporting System

On a motion by Sharon Page, seconded by Omari Onyango, vote 8-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved Consent Agenda Items 6.01 – 6.05 by roll call vote, with the June 14 minutes updated with the start time of 4:00.

7. ACTION ITEMS:

- .01 Approve Naming the Media Building at the New NSLA Campus in Honor of Jerry Lewis – Lisa Lamb reported that in the Foundation Board meeting it was discussed to dedicate a building on the new NSLA campus in honor of Jerry Lewis as it would be fitting due to all his work in the Inland Empire and the beginnings of NSLA. The media building holds mission control, science labs and the library. On a motion by Jim Morris, seconded by Kevin Porter, vote 8-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved Action Item 7.01 by roll call vote. Jim commented that we need to be sure to note why. The Lewis Family has offered to donate artifacts for the building.

8. INFORMATION INCLUDED IN PACKET: *(Board members may ask questions on items for clarification.)*

- .01 President/CEO Report – Jim Morris noted that it is a great sign that a waiting list is being developed for NSLA. Omari Onyango thanked Lisa for her leadership.
- .02 LCER Grant Tracking Report
- .03 LCER Financial Reports
 - Checks Over \$10K
 - Budget Comparisons
- .04 Lewis Center Foundation Financial Reports
 - May/June 2021
- .05 AAE and NSLA Enrollment Data
- .06 LCER Board Attendance Log

9. BOARD/STAFF COMMENTS:

- .01 Ask a question for clarification – Kevin Porter asked about the Gala going forward – we are planning full speed ahead.
- .02 Make a brief announcement – Lisa Lamb reported that this has been the largest hiring summer in LCER history. Stacy Newman is currently doing contact tracing in younger grades. It is clear that COVID is still present and growing in our communities. We will continue to report staff and student case numbers and work with DPH and County Superintendents. We are only enforcing what is required. There are cases we are working with to provide alternatives for masking. Lisa commended Valli, Lisa and Sally for their work through many challenges to get school started. She also commended Fausto, Myrna and Humberto for their work to open a brand new campus. We should be in person for meetings at both campuses by next month.
- .03 Make a brief report on his or her own activities – David reported that Betty Biggs had asked for photos from the Bud Biggs dedication. He put together a photo book for her and one for Mitsubishi and the LCER as well. We can do something similar for future dedications.
- .04 Future agenda items – LCER Board meeting start time.

10. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Rib adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.