

**Minutes for Regular Meeting of the Lewis Center for Educational Research Board
October 17, 2022**

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:** Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** LCER Board Members Yolanda Carlos (4:43), Pat Schlosser (4:36), Omari Onyango, David Rib, Sharon Page, Pat Caldwell, Jim Morris, Kevin Porter and Jessica Rodriguez were in attendance. LCER staff members Jisela Corona, Marcelo Congo, David Gruber, Stacy Newman, Ryan Dorcey, Teresa Dowd and Lisa Lamb were also in attendance.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Pat Caldwell read public comments from Miguel Martinez regarding financial transparency for Noche de las Estrellas, and Lucy Tello regarding the status of NSLA's playground. Lisa Lamb read a public comment from Naomi Chan regarding volleyball, parking, student exit, disability program and teacher support and one from Georgina Diaz-Cruz regarding volleyball. Lisa Lamb noted that the NSLA elementary playground is a priority for us. We are getting a new quote for the playground from the company we got one from last year, as well as two more. The Foundation has about \$60K in NSLA capital campaign funds available. AAE's playground was 100% fundraised by the school through fundraisers such as a Fun Run. Mr. Uribe will be holding a Cafecito to discuss this further. Jim Morris asked if the comments would be followed up on by staff. Yes they will.
4. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**
 - .01 Update on Student Activities - LCER Ambassador President Daisy Combs gave an update on AAE activities. AAE is preparing for fall festival, ROTC has completed many service hours, there is a music concert December 5, she and Misaki Rios presented at the Live2Lead Leadership Conference on October 7, Senior Leadership Team is raising funds for Grad Nite, students are thankful for scholarship opportunities offered by the school, National Honor Society have elected their officers, and 3 NSLA LCER Ambassadors were selected.
 - .02 AAE School Update – Chet Richards, Principal reported that we are still working on attendance, the leadership conference was incredible and our students did amazing, walk throughs are continuing, he's excited about his first fall festival, tutoring began this week for ELA and math, the fencing project has begun, cross country is currently in 2nd place, girls volleyball is league champion, boys volleyball is also going to playoffs, and tennis is in 3rd place. The great American shakeout is this Thursday and AAE STEM night is at AVCI on the 26th. The Leadership Team is discussing reinstating the No D policy. Sharon asked what the benefit is for the No D policy. Some teachers have expressed interest in it. It has been found that we have not reduced our failing rate, but the D grades have increased and we feel with encouragement the students could earn a C. A D grade does not allow students to attend a 4 year university. 85% of staff are in favor of it. Sharon asked how many students we are talking about. Yolanda asked what strategies and interventions are being used to close the gap. Lisa suggested bring this forward as a discussion item next month and bringing more data.
 - .03 NSLA School Update – Victor Uribe, Principal reported on back to school night, the great American shakeout is this Thursday, we working on establishing the "Rocket Way", and we are working on meeting students at the door to make a connection, implementing targeted intervention homerooms based on assessment data, and Love and Logic parent classes happening through December 7. New staff members are being trained in Love and Logic as well. Homeroom clubs have now started on Fridays, such as guitar, Spanish, etc. Attendance is around 94% and we are looking at improving that and communicating with parents. Dia de los Muertos celebrations and activities are next week. The community is invited to come view the ofrendas and art displays. We are putting together a list of parents who have local businesses. The gym project now has concrete. The sports teams are determined and have been improving.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

- .01 Approve Minutes of the September 12, 2022 Regular LCER Board Meeting
- .02 Approve NSLA 2022-2023 Consolidated Application and Reporting System
- .03 Approve AAE 2022-2023 Consolidated Application and Reporting System

On a motion by David Rib, seconded by Omari Onyango, vote 9-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved the Consent Agenda by roll call vote.

6. ACTION ITEM:

- .01 Approve Revision of High Desert “Partnership in Academic Excellence” Foundation, Inc. Bylaws – Lisa Lamb reported that our attorneys reviewed the bylaws as we are preparing for NSLA’s charter renewal and they were sent to both authorizers prior to presentation to the Board. Pat Caldwell commented that the review was quite extensive, and were compared to our other legal documents. On a motion by Jim Morris, seconded by Pat Schlosser, vote 9-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved the revised bylaws by roll call vote.
- .02 Approve BP 1312.4 - Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and Grievance Procedures – Stacy Newman reported that Title IX is a federal civil rights law to investigate sexual harassment grievances. This policy is separating out investigation of these cases. Pat Schlosser asked about the training of staff that is required, and we held this year’s training a couple weeks ago. We will be doing more in depth training with those that have specific roles. We have incorporated the AR and BP together. On a motion by Pat Caldwell, seconded by Kevin Porter, vote 9-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved BP 1312.4 by roll call vote.
- .03 Approve Revision of BP 3500 – Health and Safety Policy for Covid-19 – Stacy Newman reported that this policy includes all the updated changes and we will be bringing forward a revised IIPP addendum as well. David Rib appreciates the detail in the policy. On a motion by Sharon Page, seconded by Jim Morris, vote 9-0, the LCER Board approved the revision of BP 3500 by roll call vote.
- .04 Approve Revision of BP 4020 – Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace – Stacy Newman reported that we are revising policies that are outdated. David Rib thought this is a short policy. Stacy noted that it gives us flexibility in how we investigate each incident. There were questions on the criteria used. When needed, we involve law enforcement and legal counsel. On a motion by Pat Schlosser, seconded by Kevin Porter, vote 9-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved the revision of BP 4020 by roll call vote.
- .05 Approve Request for approval of Janhely Montoya to serve as a Full-time K-12 Speech Language Pathologist for Academy for Academic Excellence and Norton Science and Language Academy during the 2022/2023 school year on a Variable Term Waiver – Stacy Newman reported that this candidate would be working at both sites. We have tried for over a year to hire a full time SLP at AAE and have not had any applicants. Pat Caldwell asked about her background. She has worked as a SLPA and also on a waiver at other districts. Marcelo described the duties of this position. On a motion by Jim Morris, seconded by Pat Schlosser, vote 9-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved the Variable Term Waiver for Janhely Montoya by roll call vote.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- .01 Create Nominating Committee to Review Terms, Officers and Vacancies – Jessica called for volunteers for this committee. Sharon Page, Pat Caldwell and Jim Morris volunteered. There will be an upcoming vacancy as Kevin Porter will not be renewing his term.
- .02 Discuss Noche de las Estrellas December 3, 2022 – Lisa Lamb reported that NSLA is hosting Noche de Las Estrellas on December 3. This is a LCER event to leverage our NASA partnership and expand our partnerships with others such as the Mexican Space Agency. Victor and his team are working on grade level and club booths to raise funds for the school. The LCER is working to get

STEM organizations to attend and provide activities. Other vendors will be charged a % of sales. NASA is very supportive of this event. Please attend and bring friends.

- .03 NSLA Gym Construction Update – David Gruber reported that the concrete has been poured for the gym. They’re putting in power boxes, will be lifting the walls and the block should be up by winter break. We have also been working on the striping for the gym floor that will include the new NSLA athletic logo. April 4 is the current completion date.
- .04 Lewis Center Foundation Board Update – Lisa Lamb reported that the Brew Event was very successful. We are still recruiting members and have a new member joining next month. We will begin planning the next gala. Milestone recognitions are very appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.

8. INFORMATION INCLUDED IN PACKET:

- .01 President/CEO Report
- .02 LCER Grant Tracking Report
- .03 LCER Financial Reports
 - Checks Over \$10K
 - Budget Comparisons
 - Lewis Center Foundation Financial Reports
- .04 LCER Board Attendance Log

9. BOARD/STAFF COMMENTS:

- .01 Ask a question for clarification
- .02 Make a brief announcement or a brief report on his or her own activities – Kevin Porter commented that he has experienced the growth pains of the Lewis Center and wanted NSLA parents and staff to know that NSLA is light years ahead of where AAE was at the same stage, and just wanted to provide some context. Lisa Lamb reported that both schools had fall break this year and hope NSLA families enjoyed it. We submitted another NASA grant that is a 3 year grant to create sustainability for GAVRT. Its \$150K annually. We are preparing for the Charter School Development Center conference next month, and Lisa will be presenting about local advocacy and our Ambassadors. Congressman Obernolte will be visiting AAE on Thursday. We are excited for our 3 new LCER Ambassadors at NSLA are they are meeting weekly with the group. Admin attended a County meeting regarding ed tech and computer science. Pat Caldwell welcomed Yolanda Carlos, our new Board member. Jim Morris commented on the computer science addition to the curriculum. Ryan let everyone know about Skill Sets Online, which is a great resource.
- .03 Future agenda items – Discuss AAE No D policy.

10. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.