

**High Desert “Partnership in Academic Excellence” Foundation, Inc. dba
LEWIS CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH**

17500 Mana Road, Apple Valley, CA 92307 (760) 946-5414 (760) 946-9193 fax

**Minutes for Regular Meeting of the Lewis Center for Educational Research Board
January 29, 2024**

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:** Chairman Caldwell
2. **ROLL CALL:** LCER Board Members Pat Caldwell, Yolanda Carlos, Steven Levin, Omari Onyango, Sharon Page, David Rib, Jessica Rodriguez, Marisol Sanchez and Pat Schlosser were in attendance.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
4. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**
 - .01 Introduction and Welcome of Dr. Steven Levin, New LCER Board Member – Pat Caldwell welcomed Dr. Steven Levin to the Board and reviewed his bio.
 - .02 LCER Student Updates – LCER Ambassador Simon Skinner updated the Board on AAE student activities. Homecoming week went great. The theme was Monte Carlo. ASB has Father/Daughter and Mother/Son dances coming up. Knight’s Challenge is coming up for ROTC to compete against other units in sporting events. Band did great at the pep rally and are preparing for the spring concerts. Winter sports had their senior nights and baseball/softball is upcoming. Ambassadors had a bonding activity with AAE/NSLA Ambassadors. Ambassadors are preparing for Knight of the Night for AAE seniors. Corey Zaman updated the Board on NSLA student activities. The boys soccer team made it to play offs, and boys basketball did as well. A new shade structure was installed and many field trips are occurring. ASB is doing an adopt a duck program.
 - .03 AAE School Update – Chet Richards, Principal reported that attendance is in flux, and enrollment should be ticking up, filling any openings. Suspensions are light this year compared to last year. The Frontline sub system is up and running and helping with coverage. Scores are improving, and we’re rewarding the top classes. Secondary honor roll assemblies are this week. The Admin Building construction has begun. The building will have new plumbing, wiring, windows, etc. Fencing on the west side is complete and are waiting on the north side for the flood control project. Staff surveys are being reviewed and there have been great comments and constructive ideas. Winter sports and e-sports started. Zero the Hero visited classrooms today for the 100th day of school.
 - .04 NSLA School Update – Victor Uribe, Principal reported that Norton will be hosting the SBCSS leadership network on February 6 for a Dual Language Immersion workshop. Dr. Medina and Dr. Gomez have been implementing coaching sessions for staff. NSLA students have been pen pals with students in Taiwan. An event will be on February 28 at 4:15 p.m. to connect the students. A marketing commercial was filmed and came out great. Jisela will send it out once the final version is available. Admin spent time reviewing staff survey results and are working on a plan to improve. Star athlete awards presentations were held and an athletic study hall was implemented. Attendance is steady around 91-92%. A new attendance and parent engagement committee have been meeting and coming up with an action plan. Secondary awards were held with a great turnout. Rocket Races are also happening and has raised over \$16K.
 - .05 AAE and NSLA California School Dashboard Presentation – AAE Principal Chet Richards and NSLA Principal Victor Uribe presented the California School Dashboard for 2022-23. It covers absenteeism, suspension rates, English Learner progress, and English Language Arts/Mathematics scores for both schools. AAE’s also covers graduation rates and career/college readiness. Action plans have been developed based on the data. Steve asked about the diagggregated data. The schools are looking at all the data they have to identify needed supports. David asked if we’re hearing of absences due to Covid or RSV. Covid numbers have declined. Regardless, if students have symptoms, we want them to stay home. Yolanda commended Genie Cook.

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5. CONSENT AGENDA:

- .01 Approve Minutes of December 11, 2023 Regular Meeting
- .02 Approve AAE and NSLA 1st Interim Reports
- .03 Approve NSLA 6th Grade Field Trip to Battleship Iowa in Los Angeles, CA June 5-6, 2024
- .04 Approve AAE SFJROTC Leadership Camp in Fawnskin, CA March 18-22, 2024

Item 5.01 was pulled from the Consent Agenda. On a motion by Sharon Page, seconded by Pat Schlosser, vote 7-0, Consent Agenda Item 5.01 was approved by roll call vote. Members Steve Levin and David Rib abstained.

On a motion by Pat Schlosser, seconded by Steven Levin, vote 9-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved Consent Agenda Items 5.02-5.04 by roll call vote.

6. ACTION ITEMS:

- .01 Approve AAE and NSLA School Accountability Report Cards (SARC) – Heather Muir presented an overview of the SARC. It is more of a microview and covers enrollment, teachers, curriculum, class sizes and support. The data is delayed due to the State. David Rib noted that NSLA salaries are not mentioned. Heather has a message into the State to see why. On a motion by Pat Schlosser, seconded by David Rib, vote 9-0, the AAE and NSLA School Accountability Report Cards were approved by roll call vote.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- .01 Discuss AAE Baseball Field Progress – Ryan Chamberlain provided an update on the AAE baseball field project bids and the project proposals were shared. We hired the landscaper and contractor separately, who will complete the project together, saving us \$200K. A footprint was shared as well. We worked with VVWRA in the design to allow access to the sewer line. Concrete pads will be installed for the bleachers and dugouts. The grading permit has been approved, and due to weather delaying installation, the project should begin next month. The sod will be put down in spring. Steve asked if a project management piece is included. The companies have worked together before and will coordinate with each other.
- .02 Discuss Form 700 - Pat Caldwell reminded the Board that Form 700s are due to be completed.
- .03 Plan LCER Board Strategic Planning to Include Brown Act and Conflict of Interest Training. Pat Caldwell asked the Board to check possible dates of March 14, April 1, April 2, or April 5. It will be a full day meeting. The date was scheduled for April 5. We will send the times out.
- .04 David Gruber reviewed The High Desert Partnership in Academic Excellence Foundation, Inc. Final Audit for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022. He reported that lease liability and amortization is now being reported. We have leases on our copier machines. Total revenue, expenditures and net change in assets were shared. The cash balance of the organization as of June 30, 223 is \$21,155,740. Pat Caldwell commended the Executive Team. There was a finding for unduplicated pupil counts and P2 attendance. The auditor will present the audit in February.
- .05 Lewis Center Foundation Board Update – Marisol Sanchez
 - Update from McTeacher’s Night – The event raised \$2,368! The winning classes were Mrs. Anderson at AAE and Mrs. Cruzado at NSLA. The students enjoyed seeing their teachers at the event.
 - Wine Social - April 18, 2024 - we have visited several wineries and the Foundation will discuss the event at their meeting on February 2.
 - Annual Gala - September 28, 2024 (location tbd)

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8. INFORMATION INCLUDED IN PACKET:

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

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 – Pat Schlosser mentioned the LCAP presentation to the Board is coming up. Lisa commended Jisela on the San Manuel \$100K grant, as well as the NSLA ambassadors that gave them a great tour, leading to the invitation to apply. At AAE, Sally Ritchea, secondary VP, has decided to return to the classroom in special education. We have a number of applicants for the open position. At NSLA, Principal Uribe has announced his retirement. We are accepting applications for that position as well. The Board will be included in the recruitment for his position. David Gruber is attending CSDC’s CBO certification course. We are attending many presentations regarding next year’s budget. We are being very mindful when discussing future budget development. We have implemented iReady at both schools which is helping with verifiable data. We are hearing good things from students and teachers. We are looking at how to implement the new attendance and tardy policy in the best manner. We are doing a deep dive into our dual immersion program at NSLA. Lisa thanked Toni Preciado for leading this.
- .03 Future agenda items

10. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Caldwell adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.