

**Minutes for Regular Meeting of the Lewis Center for Educational Research Board**  
**April 8, 2024**

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE:** Chairman Caldwell called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** LCER Board Members Pat Caldwell, Yolanda Carlos, Steve Levin, Sharon Page, David Rib and Pat Schlosser were in attendance. Members Omari Onyango, Jessica Rodriguez and Marisol Sanchez were absent.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
4. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**
  - .01 AAE and NSLA School Updates – LCER Ambassadors CJ Jeffs and Sahara Dawson reported that at AAE the last pep rally of the year is this Friday to get ready for prom, the Ambassadors visited Sacramento over spring break and met with Assemblymember Lackey, Laura Kerr from Charter School Development Center, and Megan DeSousa in the Senate Budget Caucus. It was great to have the voice of the student body heard. They also toured UC Davis and Cal State Sacramento. An information meeting for ambassador recruitment is this week, students are attending the Overdoes Prevention Coalition meeting at the Town and giving a presentation on statistics, 3 Ambassadors helped with the LCER eclipse live stream today and compared data with Texas students, the ROTC annual leadership camp was the best in history and set a new standard, senior ROTC staff have been finalized and will be announced at the award ceremony May 1, 10 cadets attended the Redlands military ball, AAE’s military ball is May 11, it is softball, baseball, tennis and track season, SRLA ran the marathon, CIF qualifications upcoming, band is preparing for spring concerts and Knott’s performance, they will perform a senior song at senior awards and graduation, and they are recruiting for drum major. LCER Ambassador Korian Maldonado reported that NSLA high school ASB applications are going out, students viewed the solar eclipse today, NSLA’s multicultural festival is coming up May 3 and athletic award ceremonies are coming up.
  - .02 NSLA Poetry Out Loud Presentation – Students Max Goodly, 1<sup>st</sup> place winner, recited his poem and Elizabeth Son, 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner, recited her poem. They were presented certificates. Thank you to their advisor, David Tellyer.
  - .03 Destination Imagination Team Recognition:
    - a. Certificates were presented to AAE Knights Team Members: Benjamin Alvarez, Ethan Guendulain, Emma Pagano, George Schneider and Olivia Schneider who took first place in Regionals and are advancing to Globals in Kansas City next month.
    - b. Certificates were presented to Technical Drifters Team Members: Connor Dickerson, Anthony Garcia, Evan Glunt, Andrew Laird, Roger Zhuo who took first place in technical.
  - .04 NSLA School Update – Victor Uribe, Principal. reported that NSLA is participating in a program to raise funds for all students to have access to appropriate footwear, on April 2 students participated in Autism awareness, students won a field day for growth in iReady, NSLA hosted a DLI network of 20-30 educators on campus, they have started a new a la carte breakfast program, the second round of Principal interviews is this week, cheer tryouts were today, NSLA is building the secondary culture and school spirit, and Dr. Williams will be reading to students on May 2.
  - .05 AAE School Update – Chet Richards, Principal, reported that Destination Imagination was incredible, softball is 10-1 and doing amazing, MS sports are going on, we are the only school that participates in SRLA that isn’t a LAUSD school as we are grandfathered in, suspensions are greatly reduced, teacher interviews have begun for next year, the robotics team won the rookie award at their competition, Ward Halwani took first place at the Lions speech competition, moving on to finals in Sacramento in June. The baseball field is coming along. Yolanda asked what the task was the robotics team did. It was a coding task. Steve asked about suspensions and if the improvement was due to better student behavior and not what qualifies as a suspension. Chet answered that it is both. The suspension is on campus and students meet with counselors and the VP and principal to

help with future behavior. They are looking at consequences differently. It's impacting the culture. Erica Pagano, ALC coach, is doing a great job and it's a good learning opportunity. Sharon Page asked about group counseling and if it is impacting the decrease as well. Chet said that it is the groups themselves. The SEL counselor, Allie, is working with the groups and it is having an impact and will be more of an impact in the future. Yolanda asked if it was similar to restorative practices. It is a small part of it.

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- .01 Approve Minutes of March 11, 2024 Regular Meeting
- .02 Approve Lewis Center for Educational Research and Victor Valley College Memorandum of Understanding: College and Careers Access Pathways (CCAP) Partnership Agreement July 1, 2024-June 30, 2027
- .03 Approve AAE Agreement for School-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (SMAA)
- .04 Approve NSLA Agreement for School-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (SMAA)
- .05 Approve AAE 2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Report
- .06 Approve NSLA 2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Report

On a motion by Pat Schlosser, seconded by Steve Levin, vote 6-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved Consent Agenda Items 5.01 – 5.06.

## **6. ACTION ITEM**

- .01 Approve Revision of AR 3311 – Bids – David Gruber reported that we get bids on projects from \$50K - \$200K. The revision increases the amount to \$250K to align with current practices. David Rib asked about the requirement to provide prevailing wage and 8-hour work days. When we got tax exempt bonds for NSLA, we were required to do so. For projects not funded by bonds we are not required to do so. On a motion by David Rib, seconded by Sharon Page, vote 6-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved the revision of AR 3311.
- .02 Approve Revision of AR 3350 (a) Reimbursements, Travel & Other Expenses - David Gruber reported that this revision doesn't change the per diem rate but gives flexibility for meal expenditures and still follows all requirements. On a motion by Yolanda Carlos, seconded by Pat Schlosser, vote 6-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved the revision of AR 3350 (a).
- .03 Approve Deletion of BP 6159 – Individualized Education Program – Marcelo Congo reported that this policy is outdated and we have more updated language in our Charter, in another updated policy, and forms that we use from SELPA and provide to parents. Pat Schlosser asked if the reference is the same in both charters. He wants to be sure it is transparent and where the information is located. The page numbers are from AAE's charter but the section is the same in both charters. He is good with the revision and understands better the reasoning. Lisa reported that as we have adopted newer policies and updated our Charter language, it conflicts with these older policies. Steve asked if the conflicts were reviewed to be sure an additional policy was not needed, and yes, they were. On a motion by Pat Schlosser, seconded by Steve Levin, vote 6-0, the LCER Board approved the deletion of BP 6159.
- .04 Approve Deletion of AR 6159.1 – Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education Due Process Hearing Procedures – Marcelo Congo reported that we use more updated materials that includes the required information for parents from DM SELPA so there is no need to keep this policy. As the safeguards are updated by law, we will not have to come back to the Board for approval each time as they are updated by DM SELPA. They are also noted in the charters. Pat Schlosser asked if the section on due process hearings was located elsewhere. It is in the charter under Plan for Special Education. The charter is the presiding document over board policy. On a motion by David Rib, seconded by Pat Schlosser, vote 6-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved the deletion of AR 6159.1

## **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- .01 Discuss Proposed Change to 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays for 2024-25 Board Meeting Dates – Pat Caldwell reported that we are looking to move the LCER Board meetings to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays instead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays. We have to change some meetings to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday already. It gives staff more time to provide the information for the packet. Pat Schlosser asked about the LCAP hearing and adoption being in May and June, and they will be presented then. The group was agreeable to the change.
- .02 Lewis Center Foundation Board Update – Lisa Lamb reported to be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming dates below. We need some small raffle items. We hope the Board can attend the events. Also we are accepting Distinguished Award nominations for our gala by May 10. The categories are AAE, NSLA, LCER and Community Partner.
  - Lewis Center Foundation Social - April 18, 2024 at Escape Craft Brewery: Downtown Oasis
  - Annual Gala - September 28, 2024 at Fox Banquet & Events

## **8. INFORMATION INCLUDED IN PACKET:**

- .01 President/CEO Report – Pat reminded the Board to read the President/CEO report monthly as it is an update on our goals, and to also review also the Progress Report provided at the Strategic Planning meeting.
- .02 Grant Tracking Report
- .03 LCER Board Attendance Log
- .04 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 – Sharon Page reported that the Strategic Planning was excellent and having Jerry presented really reminded them of the weight of their responsibilities as Board members. Yolanda Carlos added that she appreciated that they should be questioning and gathering more information. Steve Levin felt as a new Board member it helped give him a better sense of where we are in our planning. Lisa Lamb reported that hearing the new charter renewal laws helped us going forward and she felt reaffirmed that we are doing good with getting all the data needed to stay accountable. She appreciates the Board and the Exec Team. Sharon thought the balance between how we're doing and trusts our staff to continue to hold everyone accountable. Steve noted that with open ended questions, always be sure to say anything else we think the Board ought to know. The Exec Team appreciates the questions that are brought forward. Yolanda appreciated the update on the policy changes for charters and keeping up relationships. Steve reported that GAVRT used the radio telescope for the eclipse and did a webinar where we brought in partners from all over, including Texas and Pennsylvania, and he showed a graphic of an optical and radio telescope comparison. It provided an opportunity for great science. Ryan gave a shout out to Steve and Lisa for doing a great job. Pat S. reported that all staff at AVCI did a great job with the public and an AVUSD group of Kindergarteners looking through the telescope. We really expanded the positive influence of HiDAS and AVCI. Special recognition to Dr. Gillette, Pam Gillette and Adrian Newland. Pat C. observed the webinar and commended Dr. Levin on speaking science so non-scientists understand.
- .03 Future agenda items

## **10. CLOSED SESSION:** The LCER Board convened into closed session at 6:00 p.m. regarding:

- .01 Conference with Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation: Juan Lasso vs. Lewis Center for Educational Research et. al.  
The LCER Board reconvened into open session at 6:25 p.m. Pat Caldwell, Chair, reported that no action was taken in closed session.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Caldwell adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.