

**Minutes for Regular Meeting of the Lewis Center for Educational Research Board**  
**August 19, 2024**

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Caldwell called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** LCER Board Members Pat Caldwell, Yolanda Carlos, Sharon Page, David Rib, Jessica Rodriguez, Marisol Sanchez and Pat Schlosser were in attendance. LCER Board Members Steve Levin and Omari Onyango were absent.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.
4. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**
  - .01 LCER Ambassadors Student Update - Ambassadors Mosiah Gonzalez and Ward Halwani updated the Board on AAE student activities, such as the girl's volleyball game on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. ASB is having their first pep rally 8/30 and are preparing for the fall festival and winter formal. ROTC is preparing for their unit evaluation on 10/23. Officer training school and leadership training school were held over summer. There will be a 9/11 ceremony at AAE. Ambassadors worked with the Taiwanese students over the summer, held a blood drive and are holding another blood drive on 8/28. Ambassadors also attend National Night Out at the Town of Apple Valley. Mock Trial is beginning with a new advisor this year. The National Honor Society will be holding their induction ceremony and band will be participating in upcoming parades. Ambassadors Corey Zaman and Korian Maldonado updated the Board on NSLA student activities. Chile Club is holding fundraisers, and ASB is hosting their first dance on 9/27. NSLA's first senior class had a senior sunrise the first day of school. NSLA will be playing AAE in volleyball on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Ambassadors held the first NSLA blood drive and also participated with the Taiwanese students over the summer.
  - .02 AAE Principal Update – Vice Principal Varteni Krikorian updated the Board that Back to School night was very successful. We are working towards getting more parents involved. The Board is invited to the 9/11 ceremony at 8:45 in the gym. Admin has been discussing improving the dress code. New uniforms were ordered as loaners. We will be partnering with NSLA regarding Ethnic Studies. Attendance is a focus, as well as tardies. Lisa reported that we now are able to do attendance recovery as well, such as Saturday school. We are having students come in on Tuesdays and Thursdays to complete assignments and discuss their behavior, rather than be suspended at home for the day. This program has been successful. We have a new CTE computer science teacher and may be adding a video game design class as well. Pat C. asked if any parents have commented on students not having phones in class. They have seemed supportive and we have not heard any complaints. Lisa reported that the State has been putting this message out as well and we are following our Board policy.
  - .03 NSLA Principal Update – Erika Agosto reported that Back to School was very successful. A new mural was painted and everyone loves it. Orientations were held prior to school and student ID pictures were taken and information was updated. With a senior class, there are now student drivers on campus. Parents are happy about the increased communication and web calendar. Family Voices is popular and they will be discussing the LCAP, bullying, safety, curriculum, etc. Parsec Real is a new system that will be providing us a lot of feedback. There are several new teachers that have started and students are connecting with them. A new Athletic Director has started well and he is starting an elementary sports program. Erika thanked Chet for helping her connect new teachers with mentors. Amanda Casillas is the new VP for elementary. Ethnic Studies is a new graduation requirement starting in 2025-26. We are gathering input from our stakeholders. A new social emotional program, Navigate 360, is being implemented with pertinent lessons for their in-house suspension program. We will be starting the Saturday attendance recovery program as well.
  - .04 Follow up on Field Trip Funding Board Comment – Lisa Lamb reported that she met with the principals this month to develop an overview of field trip funding. Prior to COVID, most field trips

were funded by parent donations and PTO/PTC. After COVID, a large emphasis was placed on field trips by the State and funding was provided to support field trips without having to do as much fundraising. We have the following funding sources for field trips: PTO/PTC raised grade level and club funds, parent donations, outside donations and grants. The Lewis Center Foundation has also supported a couple field trips. Additionally, AAE has \$30K designated out of general funds for TK-12 field trips and NSLA has \$65K designated out of general funds. NSLA has more funds available due to their demographics. The 6th grade science camp ranges from \$45 - \$50K. By reference, a paraprofessional is \$35K. There have been changes to our general funding we have to tie all of our resources to metrics with student learning outcomes. This year, NSLA's Pali Trip had been written into their ESSER III funding plan and we have to spend that funding by December. Obstacles we face for field trips include nursing care funding for students that have special medical needs, and labor laws for hourly employees that may get into double pay time. Our budgets are getting tighter and we are being conservative fiscal stewards. We also want to protect our supplemental services. We may not be able to sustain these trips in the long term. We value field trips, but regulations have encroached on us. Sharon reported that the report was eye opening that we would need to bring an hourly employee on trips as California doesn't have a mechanism for overnight employment. Pat C. asked Pat S. about AVUSD field trips and he echoed the constraints. Sometimes there are special funds that may be used, but those are limited as well. David Rib thanked Administration for the report and the funding sources. He also reported that Lucerne Valley has a foundation that specifically funds science camp.

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- .01 Approve Minutes of June 10, 2024 Regular Meeting
- .02 Approve NSLA Chile Club Field Trip to Chile October 2-9, 2024
- .03 Approve NSLA 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Pali Institute October 28-30, 2024
- .04 Approve AAE ASB and Club Spending Plans
- .05 Approve NSLA Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Funding Plan

Items .02 and .04 were pulled by Pat Schlosser. On a motion by David Rib, seconded by Pat Schlosser, vote 7-0, the LCER Board approved Consent Agenda Items .01, .03 and .05 by roll call vote.

Item .02 - Lisa Lamb wanted to bring it to the attention of the Board that the chaperones for this field trip are all female. The students will be lodging with host families, so male chaperones are not needed for lodging purposes. We have a strong partnership with the school there and there will be male/female staff on excursions. Pat S. asked if our insurance would have any issues that. Lisa reported that it is not a requirement. The host families will take the students to/from school, provide breakfast, and coordinate events. The host families are vetted by the school. The families will connect with each other prior to the trip. The chaperones are available at any time if needed. David Rib asked about the funding designated in the Foundation. The designated funds are from a major donor and fundraising. The Chilean students were hosted here last year and know the students that are going there this year. On a motion by Yolanda Carlos, seconded by Marisol Sanchez, vote 7-0, the LCER Board approved Consent Agenda Item .02 by roll call vote.

Item .04 - Pat S. wanted to clarify that it should read \$14K on the Board Cover sheet. On a motion by Pat Schlosser, seconded by Jessica Rodriguez, vote 7-0, the LCER Board approved Consent Agenda Item .04 by roll call vote with the correction on the cover sheet.

## **6. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

- .01 Approve LCER Strategic Plan 2024-2029 – Lisa Lamb noted that the Board report ties directly to the goals and objectives in the Strategic Plan. The goals and objectives were reviewed for content. Yolanda brought up a survey that the Exec Team will review. Pat C. asked to add tardies and Saturday school statistics. Pat C. asked for this item to be tabled to the next meeting to be sure all

goals and objectives in the Strategic Plan match the Board Report. Lisa will work on these revisions and bring the Strategic Plan back to Board at the next meeting as a Consent Agenda Item.

- .02 Approve Request for approval of Kayleen Ascenath Malcolm to serve as a Full-time Elementary Teacher (Kindergarten) for the Academy for Academic Excellence during the 2024/2025 school year on a Multiple Subject Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) – Stacy Newman reported that Kayleen was our Transitional Life Skills coordinator, and has finished her degree. On a motion by Sharon Page, seconded by Yolanda Carlos, vote 7-0, the LCER Board approved Kayleen Ascenath Malcolm to serve as a Full-time Elementary Teacher (Kindergarten) for the Academy for Academic Excellence during the 2024/2025 school year on a Multiple Subject Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) by roll call vote.
- .03 Nominating Committee – Pat Caldwell reported that our Bylaws allow us to have between 5-9 Board members. The suggestion is to fill 2 open spots in December and 2 at a later time, such as the following year. This will allow the terms to more staggered, and not have 4 terms come up at the same time again. Sharon reported that this makes sense. David Rib has a verbal commitment for someone to apply from Mitsubishi. The Board agreed to fill only 2 LCER Board positions for 2025.
- .04 Lewis Center Foundation Board Update – Marisol Sanchez reported that the Foundation has been working on the gala. We currently have \$9,300 secured in sponsorships, and the goal is \$15K. Please buy raffle tickets if you can't attend.

**7. 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 Reports
  - NSLA and AAE Federal Cash Management Data Reports
- .04 LCER Board Attendance Log
- .05 LCER Board/Lewis Center Foundation Give and Get

**8. 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 S. reported that the CSI plan should be added into the LCAP and reposted. We are working with the County and will get it reposted.
- .03 Future agenda items

**9. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Caldwell adjourned the meeting at 6.07 p.m.**