

**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

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Marcia Vargas called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Foundation Board members Duberly Beck, Desiree Burgnon, Buck Goodspeed, Tyler Jaramillo, Jessica Rodriguez, and Marcia Vargas were in attendance.

Foundation Board members Sarina Daniel and Umang Patel were absent.

Staff members Jisela Corona, Teresa Dowd, David Gruber and Lisa Lamb were also in attendance.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

4. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- .01 Approve Minutes of August 2, 2021 Regular Meeting
- .02 Approve Minutes of September 13, 2021 Regular Meeting

On a motion by Jessica Rodriguez, seconded by Duberly Beck, vote 6-0, the Lewis Center Foundation Board approved Consent Agenda items 4.01-4.02.

5. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

- .01 Foundation Board Recruitment – Marcia Vargas noted that this is very important as she and Duberly Beck will be submitting their resignations in December. We should be thinking of good fits. She mentioned it to Pat at the Gala. Charity may be interested again. Lisa will ask Lewis family members. Jessica will ask at the LCER Board meeting. Are there any obstacles to participation? Mornings seem to be best. The Foundation decides how funds raised through the Foundation are used. Other pieces are needed such as a scholarship committee. We can also bring it to parent groups again to let them know about the structure of the organization and how they can participate and what the Foundation does. It can be promoted on Giving Tuesday as well. We have been promoting what the Foundation supports to staff and parents too. We need to identify specific goals to fundraise towards and have 5-year strategic plan. The Foundation Board would like to meet with the LCER Board during strategic planning. We could also add “join now” to Foundation media.
- .02 LCER Board Update – Jessica Rodriguez reported that the Board is meeting tonight. There will be an update on gym construction and strategic planning. There is a Noche de Estrella event coming up in November.
- .03 Review of Annual Gala – Marcia Vargas noted that we should look at other platforms to see what works best for the organization.
 - i. Pros – Venue and set up, tech/DJ included, auction, electronic bidding, registration, class act event, theme, Rick/origins of LCER, honorees/connections, gift, program, Delorean, branding, photo booth, \$ raised.
 - ii. Improve upon – visual of raffle item, not on Friday night, Saturday better, survey staff and parents, impacts school functions on weekdays, especially on 1st of the month, not before a break, time of year, plated dinner instead of buffet, other volunteers trained to work the gala electronic platform, larger gala committee to include staff and parents, timing of printing, more programs, program too long – 5 min for speakers, background music, put Ambassadors in extra seats at tables rather than their own table, plaque for top sponsor, offer \$75 to staff from beginning
 - iii. We need to decide next year’s gala date to secure a venue, so we need the date of next year’s golf tournament if we are participating. Lisa will reach out to chamber.
- .04 School Needs and Foundation Support – Principals survey staff, International travel support.

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.05 HiDAS Endowment and Telescope Upgrade – Lisa Lamb reported that HiDAS needs upgrades on the observatory. They can spend interest, but need to reinvest the principal. They can request funds for a special request. They will meet to approve the needed purchase and then submit it to the LCER Board to ratify. AVCI needs \$25K this year for upgrades.

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

.01 LCF Board Attendance Log

7. BOARD/STAFF COMMENTS:

.01 Ask a question for clarification – were there were more Gala tables with sponsorships than individual ticket sales? Yes. Why is more \$ going to NSLA than AAE? A sponsor designated \$5K for NSLA only. In the future, donors should make donations directly and not part of the Gala.

.02 Make a brief announcement or report on his or her own activities – Jisela asked about Giving Tuesday – it goes towards unrestricted funds. NSLA playground has capital campaign funds that can go towards it.

.03 Future agenda items – May dates/pricing from Spring Valley Lake for Gala.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LCER BOARD: Suggestions for Lewis Center Foundation Board members, Gala update on revenue.

9. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Marcia Vargas adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.