

Remarks to LVCP Site Council, 11 Jan 2016

The following quote was taken from an article published on New Year's Day, 2016, titled "*How Lying Reigned Supreme in 2015*":

For the past few years, we have been collaborating on a project about dishonesty that examines the topic through the combined lens of science and storytelling, and we believe there's a lot to learn by examining these types of scandals that take us by surprise. In the course of our research—in the lab and through interviews—we have found that transgressions generally begin as relatively small actions: such as exaggerating a fact, fudging a few numbers, and doing things that everyone else is doing. But dishonesty builds and is suddenly a very slippery slope. From the outside, it is hard to fathom. From the inside, it can become routine.... Unfettered by ethical standards and by clear rules and regulations, organizations and the individuals in them can easily go astray.

(The article goes on to cite examples with which we are all too familiar: Brian Williams, Deflate-gate, Volkswagen, Ashley Madison, the Veterans Administration, and, generally speaking, the current political campaign. I know we could all think of many more to add.)

There are plenty of elements to our present LVCP story, but just a few facts are necessary for my point, and seem pretty clearly established:

- 1) This Site Council was told in November the City had "never before linked the parking lot..." – although it was unambiguously linked by the September permit.
- 2) Students, families, and staff were provided a move-in date of January 2016 – when there was clearly no plan in place, at any time, which could have allowed occupancy by that date under the conditions of the permit.
- 3) The unmasking of these misrepresentations at the City Council meeting on 14 December was met – not with apologies, retraction, and acceptance of responsibility (with at least as loud volume as prior denunciations), as would be the obvious reaction if there were some

“honest misunderstanding” – but with stonewalling, avoidance (to the point of cancelling last week’s TVLC Board meeting, once it was known the Mayor would attend with facts-in-hand), and appeals to lock arms and stand firm with TVLC as a “team”.

It should be clear by now, folks, that TVLC is not on your “team”, or mine. They feel at liberty to lie to you the Site Council, and to others in our community, because they consider themselves unaccountable and answerable.

By now the TVLC Board should have sought every means possible to lay out the entire story in front of you and all of us stakeholders: clarifying all facts, making clear all accountabilities, issuing apologies where necessary, and presenting us with a transparent plan of corrective action. They should have – would have – been begging for that chance, if they were operating from sincerity and accountability.

What “should have” is not what is. Whether this is an issue of competence, or motive, matters little to how you need to respond: On behalf of LVCP families, and in defense of your own and our Principal’s hopes of believing anything ever said to you in the future, you need to call TVLC to account.

You deserve whatever you tolerate. I am calling on you to stop tolerating.

Matt Weingart
LVCP Parent