

February 7, 2016

TVLC Board,

At the Board meeting on January 28th, I asked a question in connection with the topic "CEO Performance Review", which was not answered at that time. By this letter, I am formally requesting that your answer to that question be placed on the agenda of public topics for your next meeting.

The question is: *Does the Board consider the TVLC to be in a state of crisis? Why or why not? If so, what fundamental changes of direction is the Board making to respond to the crisis?*

I believe it is essential to have a public discussion that results in a shared understanding on this critical point, if the Board and its stakeholders (primarily, the parents) are to be of a common mind on the course TVLC should be pursuing. If we agree there is a crisis, then subsequent discussions can focus on how best to respond and recover. If we disagree on whether there is a crisis... then we have a more fundamental difference that needs to be settled first, or the relationship between the Board and parents will remain in unsustainable tension.

So that no confusion arises over differing definitions of the word "crisis", I am using it in Webster's sense: *"An unstable or crucial time or state of affairs in which a decisive change is impending; especially: one with the distinct possibility of a highly undesirable outcome."*

I request that your answer take account of the following factors, in addition to any others you think relevant:

- TVLC is under Notices of Violation from both JVJUSD and NJSD, and has had their petition rejected by EGUSD, based on extensive, well-documented business irregularities.
- Occupancy of the Independence Dr site has been delayed a minimum of 7 months due to project mismanagement; and there is no published project plan that shows when the actual occupancy date will be.
- There are widespread reports of a long-standing pattern of unpaid TVLC bills.
- There is the recent "discovery" of a substantial un-budgeted debt to Las Positas College, arising from un-documented agreements.
- The CEO has demonstrated a pattern of providing untrue and misleading information in the past (which the Board has tolerated and expressed no disapproval of, suggesting it may have been directed), and nothing has been said about what assurances are being put in place to prevent that in the future.
- The Mayor of Livermore has indicated the City cannot extend TVLC a presumption of trustworthiness due to its past behavior, and needs to see some evidence of substantial reform first.

- Because of concerns about mismanagement, bad governance, and an uncertain future, student/parent and teacher morale are being negatively affected; in consequence, student recruitment, teacher retention, and fundraising will inevitably begin to suffer.
- Press reporting in the communities where TVLC operates regularly raises questions about TVLC competence, which have gone essentially unanswered.
- A lack of transparency about the strategic goals of the SFPBA international school relationship, vis-à-vis our own local schools, and intertwined personal conflicts of interest, are leading to rumors that TVLC is using LVCS and LVCP merely as disposable “stepping-stones” to get that school into place.
- TVLC Board meetings are conducted with a carelessness which reinforces the reputation for slipshod corporate operations, shows little regard for earning the confidence of constituents, and may in fact be barely compliant (or less) with Brown Act requirements. Specifically: the Board meets infrequently, considering the volume and tempo of business; meetings are cancelled informally and on casual justification; duly submitted correspondence goes unacknowledged and is not placed on the agenda; packets of relevant information are not made available to attendees; public-comments are not timed with a visible timer, leading to the impression that cut-offs are arbitrary; and, the facility is poorly prepared, leading to distractions, slow-starts, and lack of the video record which parents expect.
- The published TVLC Core Values (which include the statement: *“We encourage honesty and integrity, mutual trust and respect, and open communications within each board and within each school; between all boards, schools, and employees; and between each of our organizations and their volunteers, their parents, and their community”*) have been shown to be viewed cynically, at best, by the corporation; in fact, these precepts appear to be deliberately violated by some of the officers. This leaves constituents in doubt about what the ethical anchor-points actually are.

Taken together, these issues cause many parents to feel that a state of crisis does in fact exist, and that the futures of our schools are threatened by it. I think most of us believe turnaround is possible, but as long as our assessment remains that this is an emergency, parents will be looking for the Board to address the pattern of the above concerns with a plan that is highly aggressive, demonstrative, involves fundamental change, and truly resolves root causes.

We request a public response on whether the Board feels the same.

Sincerely,

Matthew Weingart  
LVCS/LVCP Parent

Copy to: LVCP Site Council; LVCS Site Council