

Fwd: Crisis, indeed

Rob Acree <acreeerl@gmail.com> Fri, Apr 15, 2016 at 8:24 AM

To: eldillie@lvcp.org, gfalcon@lvcp.org, scottlessard@lvcp.org, lindaransom@lvcp.org, bscharmman@lvcp.org, ltung@lvcp.org, julieweingart@lvcp.org, phillipweiss@lvcp.org, mwyosnick@lvcp.org, bbanducci@lvcp.org

Dear LVCP Council members,

I forward you the following e-mail that I sent to the TVLC board of directors last night. I originally intended to cc each of you, but did not yet have e-mail addresses for you. I apologize if I have missed anyone on this email and would ask that you forward it on to any council member that I may have missed.

I am a parent of LVCS students, but I believe it is in the best interest of everyone for me to include you in my correspondence as well.

Kind regards,
Robert Acree

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robert Acree <acreeerl@gmail.com>

Date: April 14, 2016 at 10:19:50 PM PDT

To: bod@trivalleylearning.org

Cc: council@lvcs.org

Subject: Crisis, indeed

I attended my first TVLC board meeting a little over a month ago after the situation with the LVCP exchange students. At that meeting, we (parents) were assured by one particular board member that TVLC was not in crisis. I truly wanted to believe this, but I also wasn't naive enough to just go along with it.

Fast forward to this evening where I hear that the teachers at LVCS were told that they would not be receiving their next paycheck. I'm happy to hear that after some push back they will be receiving a check after all, but this certainly highlights that TVLC is, in fact, in crisis. Additionally, I recently found out about a Notice of Violation (NOV) sent to TVLC by NJESD on April 8th. After the notice of concern from LVJUSD dated March 18th, I urged the board at the next board meeting to notify all parents of this notice as all stakeholders have a right to know about it. And here we are again, a week after receipt of the NOV, and there has been absolutely no communication to stakeholders of the receipt of this document. I find myself yet again urging the board to notify all parents of such an important document. I assure you that I will comment on the subject at the next board meeting. It's in your court to bring the topic up first.

From the first day that I have began to involve myself with TVLC, I have found myself wondering why there was such a lack of transparency. It does not take a PR expert to send an email out with a link to the document and an explanation that a response would be forthcoming. This problem needs to be resolved. None of you are above anyone else in the community. You answer to us regardless of how you manipulate the bylaws. It is our tax money and donations that fund TVLC (though there is some question about mixing of public and private funds as you are well aware). If you do not answer the call to action, I assure you that others will...and you will find yourself replaced one way or another.

Here are my demands:

1. Every board member should be subjected to a public vote of confidence in order to remain on the board of directors. I suspect that this demand will not happen because some of you know that you wouldn't receive the votes necessary to stay in your place.
2. Scott Lessard should resign from the board effective immediately. The actions during the March 28 board meeting were disgusting and in direct violation of the existing bylaws. This lack of regard for rules is completely unacceptable and unforgivable. There was no agenda item for the election of a new board president, yet the board continued with a vote in clear violation of the Brown Act. The questions surrounding Mr. Lessard's election to the board should have been enough to hold the vote until those questions could be cleared up even if the Brown Act weren't a concern.
3. Derek Austin should be removed as the general counsel for TVLC and a replacement found as soon as possible. His suggestion that Mr. Lessard's election to the board could be upheld by a simple change to the bylaws also shows a complete lack of regard for rules and is unacceptable and unforgivable. As I mentioned before, none of you is above the stakeholders that you represent. You do not mold this organization into what suits your motives best. You mold it into what suits our children the best.
4. I applaud Tim Hall for stepping down as president, but that should be taken one step further and he should resign completely. He has indicated on multiple occasions that he doesn't understand the frustration amongst parents and has even seemed to indicate that anyone who would question the actions of the TVLC board is somehow missing the point. It's in fact Mr. Hall that has missed the point...and the repeated calls for his resignation.
5. Remove John Zukoski as the CFO and find a replacement as soon as possible. It is clear that under his watch, TVLC has become fiscally challenged. There are too many questions about the mixing of funds and the amount of debt that TVLC and its associated corporations has taken on.
6. Immediately sever all ties with William Batchelor, Nina Stoiën, and Gabe Arechaederra. If you are unsure why I have demanded this, you should probably resign.

7. Bring suit against Goldstone for predatory lease agreements.

8. Renegotiate the lease agreements to one that is sustainable, fair, and does involve a conflict of interest.

9. Find a permanent CEO as soon as possible. It has been almost 10 months now, I believe? Why are we still awaiting a replacement CEO?

I want to impress upon you that you as the board are running the show at TVLC. The corporate officers are accountable to you. You represent the parents and students. You do not answer to Bill Batchelor. You do not answer to the CFO. You act on behalf of the best interests of our children. I strongly urge you to do that going forward or the stakeholders will find people who will.

Sincerely,
Robert Acree