

Good evening, members of the LVCS and LVCP councils.

I am Dr. Mary Divin, the concerned parent of 2 children currently enrolled in TK and in 1st grade at LVCS with a 3rd child to follow. I am speaking tonight on behalf of myself and my husband Dr. Charles Divin.

In addition to the items on tonight's agenda, I am here tonight to voice my concern about the financial health of our Charter Management Organization, TVLC, and how this directly affects our schools.

The most recent Notice of Violation against TVLC from the New Jerusalem School District is especially disturbing with its several allegations of misconduct and financial mismanagement. Following this notice of violation, many parents, including myself and my husband, are deeply worried about the status of our CMO and of our schools.

TVLC's past budgetary problems, recent issues with on-time teacher pay, and alleged conflicts of interest all paint a picture of an immediate financial problem for TVLC and their schools. I am worried about the long-term stability of LVCS in particular and the future prospects for our students should TVLC prove unable to effectively manage our independent charter.

Additionally, I am concerned TVLC's focus for the immediate future will need to be on correcting past mistakes, and I am alarmed that this will inevitably shift focus away from where it should be – on the quality education of our children.

It is time to show evidence of reform, and this must start by reforming the TVLC Board of Directors. The TVLC website currently lists only four active board members. I have no doubt that there are parents (possibly parents in this room) that would suggest the further removal of current board members active during the allegations set forth in the notice of violation. While I also question whether their continued presence on the board is in the best interest of our schools, their removal will only leave an empty board. We need to repopulate the board at this critical time.

I understand two new members have been recently appointed by the Acacia schools, and I find this encouraging that there will be new perspective on the board. I encourage more new board members including respectable, ethical council nominations as space permits as well as at large board members. Increasing the number of reputable board members means an increase in board accountability – accountability that is needed to avoid any repeat of past mistakes and to rebuild the damage that has already been done.

It is clear that a change needs to be made. The community questions our leadership, teachers are concerned over the stability of their paychecks, and parents are scared about our schools' future.

Every family in our schools made the choice to be there; please don't let fear, misinformation, and mistrust become the driving forces for these families to choose to leave.

Thank you.