



Matthew Weingart <weingartma@gmail.com>

Unacceptable (Non-)Communication

Matthew Weingart <weingartma@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 21, 2016 at 5:57 PM

To: llysko@trivalleylearning.org

Cc: bod@trivalleylearning.org, council@lvcs.org, Phillip Weiss <phillipweiss@lvcp.org>, Linda Ransom <lindaransom@lvcp.org>, Gary Falcon <gfalcon@lvcp.org>, Brian Scharmann <bscharmann@lvcp.org>, Mary Wyosnick <mwyosnick@lvcs.org>, Scott Lessard <scottlessard@lvcp.org>, Eric Dillie <eldillie@lvcp.org>, Louann Tung <ltung@lvcp.org>, Brett Banducci <bbanducci@lvcp.org>

Dr Lysko,

Apparently the point I tried to make last month with my email below requires reiterating:

As a parent at TVLC schools, I WILL NOT STAND for my schools and/or their parent corporation not keeping me informed of significant issues affecting the safety and education of my children.

(1) Regarding the LOC issued on 3/18, concerning student safety at LVCP: TVLC has still communicated NOTHING to the parent community about the true nature of this issue (other than your email of 3/25, below, which avoided and redirected the topic rather than addressing it; and the response to LVJUSD, which although technically 'publically available' affords nothing in the spirit of "keeping parents informed" and addressing most of our obvious questions).

(2) Regarding the LOC issued on 4/19, concerning teacher credentialing and allegations of deliberate deception by administrators at LVCP: TVLC has communicated NOTHING to the parent community, period. (Despite the fact there has been a joint Site Council meeting since then, which would have been an opportunity to address it in person, as well as two elapsed days in which to send an email.) Most parents are doubtless completely unaware of this issue that could gravely affect all our students' academic standing; those of us who have become aware (thanks solely to the diligence of other parents) are completely in the dark about the true extent of the problem, and whether TVLC/LVCP plans to address it with sincerity in a way that will ensure the integrity of our students' transcripts, or will instead practice typical deception and evasion, which will leave them in limbo.

(3) About the numerous issues concerning governance, financial stability, and the future of our schools raised at the joint Site Council meeting on 4/19: TVLC has communicated NOTHING to the broader parent community. No announcement to all TVLC families (it might have felt like every one was there in the room to hear it for themselves – but not even close); no acknowledgement of the issues; no expression of shared concern; no commitment to deliver answers. Nothing to give reassurance; nothing that makes us think it won't require coercion to get you to respond.

My previous email below may have been too vague, so here I will be more direct: Any hope TVLC has of doing its job depends upon a continuing presumption by the parents that “These are good people, trying to do the right thing.” You are frittering away that presumption at an amazing rate.

Your duty to deliver the information we need to do our job as informed parents is not optional.

Sincerely,

Matt Weingart

LVCS/LVCP Parent

From: Matthew Weingart [mailto:weingartma@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 10:33 PM
To: llysko@trivalleylearning.org
Cc: taderman@lvcs.org; 'Eric Dillie' <eldillie@lvcp.org>
Subject: FW: Message from Dr. Lysko, Director of Charter Development

Dr Lysko,

I think it's important you understand what a disappointing and jarring note you struck with this email.

This is the first communication many of us have received from you.... So basically we don't know you, and perhaps you don't know us.

But you are dealing with a parent community that is exasperated to the point of fury with continually finding out “bad news” about TVLC, from every source BUT TVLC.

You missed the whole, fundamental point of Mr Corso's email. There have been 7 days, 2 Site Council meeting TVLC reports, and 1 cancelled TVLC Board meeting elapsed since this NOC was issued – and yet it took the digging of a PARENT for us to find out.

There is no case in the past year, that I can remember, when any meaningful piece of unpleasant TRUTH came proactively from TVLC. It has always been “uncovered” by others; and then the standard response has been

for it to be trivialized, dismissed, and obfuscated by TVLC – often to be found out later to actually be worse than originally thought. Information is always given parsimoniously in a spirit of deflection and evasion, never of openness. There seems to be a compulsive instinctive fear on the part of TVLC that if issues were dealt with in the open, there might be no option left but to handle them properly. Opaqueness seems to be a conspicuous TVLC core value.

Specifically, we know – from experience – that issues such as NOC's/NOV's, "Qualified" budgets, foreclosures, and State Superintendent visits, are not considered important by TVLC, or even worthy of honest acknowledgement, unless parents pound a table and INSIST they are important.

So your email, however well-intentioned, comes across as fitting strikingly into the old pattern. For those who want to give you the benefit of the doubt initially, it is not helpful. You need to understand that you cannot send out an email on a TVLC byline, and expect a presumption of trust: we have been conditioned to expect only poisoned fruit from that tree. If you want to be understood to be a change agent, your tone needs to be entirely different.

What I personally wanted to hear was your mortification at the whole affair, and your heartfelt commitment that you view such matters so seriously that you agree it is unconscionable that we all found out from anyone other than the top leadership of TVLC. Not, "Oh that? Yeah, we're handling it..."

Specifically, you needed to repudiate anyone responsible for the fact that the "TVLC Report" to two schools' Site Council meetings culpably omitted this critical piece on information. You needed to censure whoever's job it was but failed to send out a community-wide notification of an NOC concerning student safety IMMEDIATELY once it was received. We will not tolerate your countenancing of us being lied to (and yes, omissions are "lies" too).

I believe most parents are probably prepared to grant you latitude in how you eventually dispense with the details of this affair. What we are not willing to grant latitude in is whether you handle it with candor, accountability, and integrity.

I need to be explicitly, unambiguously clear: Those of us who have experience with TVLC believe you will try to use misinformation and diversion to carve out the maneuvering space to be free to do the "wrong thing", if that's what is needed to protect nefarious agendas (e.g. concerning the exchange students and CPA) that the community at large is apparently not permitted to know about. Your intentions, communications, and ACTIONS must be masterfully persuasive to the contrary.

You asked that we "collaborate and communicate openly", and that is why I am responding to you directly, in candor, as I am above.

Of course I am at your disposal, for any honest discourse that will further the welfare of our students.

Sincerely,

Matt Weingart

LVCS/LVCP Parent

(925) 667-7794

weingartma@gmail.com

From: LIVERMORE VALLEY CHARTER PREP HIGH SCHOOL [<mailto:email@blackboard.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 1:19 PM
To: weingartma@gmail.com
Subject: Message from Dr. Lysko, Director of Charter Development

A message from LIVERMORE VALLEY CHARTER PREP HIGH SCHOOL

LVCP Site Council and the LVCP Community,

Good afternoon,

I want to reassure you that your concerns are being heard and that I am taking the situation about the Letter of Concern from LVJUSD very seriously. I appreciate Mr. Corso's email from yesterday and would like to reiterate that I am doing everything possible to investigate the situation and to ensure that students are always safe and at the forefront of every decision.

Yesterday, the Executive Team - all principals (except for one who was out of state), Director of Student Services, and the Director of Development met to discuss the status of the notices of violations/concerns and to investigate the status of the exchange student situation. We are still in the process of information gathering but we intend to make a report about the exchange program in the very near future when we have all of our facts straight. In the meantime, please rest assured that people associated with the situation in the Letter of Concern from 3.18.16 have long been removed from being around our students and our own internal investigation is indeed in progress.

It is the belief of the **entire Executive Team** that your representative to the TVLC board, Dr. Scott Lessard, is an excellent problem-solver and has demanded swift change at the corporate and board level. He is motivated by the desire to what is right not only for LVCP students but all the students we serve in our organization. He is asking the tough questions and demanding answers and solutions; we welcome and are grateful for his energy and leadership.

Please continue to collaborate and communicate openly with him as we move forward together. Our desire is to do what is best and what is right for our students in a responsible and appropriate manner. We hope to count on your continued support to that end.

Respectfully,

Lynn Lysko

Director of Charter Development

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