

From: Dick Corso dick.corso@me.com 

Subject: Serious Concern: Public Records Request

Date: April 5, 2016 at 5:08 PM

To: BOD@Trivalley BOD@trivalleylearning.org, LVCS Council Council@lvcs.org, Brett Banducci bbanducci@lvcp.org, Brian Scharmann bscharmann@lvcp.org, Eric Dillie eldillie@lvcp.org, Gary Falcon gfalcon@lvcp.org, Linda Ransom lindaransom@lvcp.org, Louann Tung ltung@lvcp.org, Julie Weingart julieweingart@lvcp.org, Phillip Weiss phillipweiss@lvcp.org, Mary Wyosnick mwyosnick@lvcs.org, Scott Lessard scottlessard@lvcp.org

Bcc: SL Harrison sistahs4hh@gmail.com



Dear TVLC Board Members,

I have attached the following public records request response from New Jerusalem today. This was based on NJESD's posting on April 4 for their Board Meeting schedule April 7, 2016.

It is difficult to send these to you without comment. As only one parent of a community of many parents who are becoming increasingly aware, I call for immediate and decisive action. This documentation will be the tipping point for many parent sentiments. For those who have put their children in the hands of LVCS, LVCP, AECS and AMCS and for the community at large who have relied upon TVLC to maintain the public trust, these revelations are disturbing. However, these are not new.

Over the past several years an increasingly vocal community has attempted to call this Board of Directors to action, only to be called enemies of TVLC. While at times that community has been vocal and with a tone not just of caution or concern, but also of anger, this Board of Directors has chosen not to listen. When people aren't heard and they have legitimate concerns, they become vocal, they become frustrated, they become visible and some become angry.

I want to acknowledge that at times you must feel the need to protect what you have been elected to manage. Indeed, it is incredibly difficult to do so without information. It is also incredibly difficult to do so when you know that a structure has been put in place that makes you question whether you have the right to act or the right to act differently. You not only have the right, you have the responsibility. In your cases, it is accountability.

This role you are in is not a political one. It is not where you should seek to drive some agenda larger than the safety and education of our children. Buildings and real estate are not your business. Children and their safety are your business. In light of recent news and the attached documents, I believe you are failing.

Indeed, it is difficult to drive change under scrutiny; I know that no less than any of you. It is particularly difficult when the people within the structure forget that they work for you. Not you for them. As a manager of people for many years, I know that when an organization acts disparately from my vision and direction, that does not change my accountability. When an organization fails, those in accountable and responsible roles must take responsibility not only for what they have done but what they have not done to net the result.

I empathize with those of you who have good intention. As a board member, I experienced the inability to get adequate answers. That did not stop me from asking subject matter experts. Nor did it immune me or my actions from being labeled as attempts to "usurp" control of the board when I asked for a special meeting to create a committee to develop a CEO job description, a committee to develop a CEO search committee, and a committee to help develop strategic goals. I can understand because I was told by a staff member in front of other members of the board that board members have an expectation of "fidelity to the board". I can understand and I can even empathize when you act in align under such pressure. After all, we're just all family. Family tend to keep together. But you have constituents. I had constituents. Those constituents are who you should each have fidelity to. Your constituents are the families and the friends of TVLC students and the many volunteers whose hard fought efforts created these schools...and those like me came later.

It is not excusable that while I was on the TVLC Board of Directors, that these alleged things may have happened. I looked at the voting record for the past several years, and realized something stark; there were few occasions that any item voted on resulted in anything but unanimous decisions. That means EVERY single board member, whether directly or indirectly, has a responsibility. I have a responsibility. Some of this happened on my watch. While I understand that there is a section under corporations code that limits liability, that is the legal. I am talking now about moral responsibility.

It is time for change. I expect that some of you will be swept up in that change. I don't mean that in a way that should be threatening. It is just time for most, if not all of this board to move on. As one parent, I call for it.

Dear LCVS and LVCP School Councils,

I urge that you ask the question of yourselves as individuals. Did I really sign up for some really difficult decisions? I know some folks joined councils because they want to do good. They want to support the schools: beautify the schools, better the arts, better the sciences, better the volunteerism, better the special needs. Each of you...and I...felt called in a different way to do help make a difference. That's what parents and teachers and administrators do. We make a difference in kids lives. Yes, though...even if you thought you were just here to help your special way, you signed up to make difficult decisions when necessary.

We are at risk of losing two of our schools now to revocation under what appear to be serious charges. That is two schools whose students are in an underserved community, not an affluent community like Livermore. But those issues from NJESD apply to all of TVLC. They therefore apply to our schools. They apply to your kids...my kid. They apply to our community. It is time that each of us really take a look and ask, given what we see here, "how could you not have known?" and "when others started to show you, why didn't you ask more?". Then I would challenge you both on your next site council meetings, should you be recalling your representatives? It is very easy. You just vote them off the council and they are off the board. Or...you might politely ask them to leave. If you don't take action individually and collectively as councils, are you not individually complicit as well? Don't huddle closer in protection, step up individually to help us all out

scenarios, are you not individually culpable as well? Don't make excuses in protection, step up individually to help us all out.

It is time for us to move forward. I'd urge you to not act out of fear, rather out of conviction that we not lose our schools. We can't continue with the same leadership. I won't. Will you?

With deep concern,

Dick Corso

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Jeff Tilton Sr. Ed.D." <jtilton@njes.org>
Subject: Public Records Request
Date: April 5, 2016 at 12:06:24 PM PDT
To: Dick Corso <dick.corso@me.com>
Cc: David Thoming <dthoming@njes.org>

Mr. Corso –

Per your public records request, please see the attached and the following URL:

<https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/OGkq0>

-- Jeff

Jeff Tilton, Ed.D.

Deputy Superintendent, Charter Schools Services
New Jerusalem Elementary School District
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Agenda April 7
2016.pdf



