

From: Dick Corso dick.corso@me.com 

Subject: Update on New Jerusalem

Date: March 11, 2016 at 10:48 AM

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



LVCP School Council Members,

I have intentionally omitted the student representatives from this distribution.

In the midst of TVLC Board Members having told the community that there is no crisis, this week New Jerusalem Elementary School District took two significant actions:

1. NJESD issued another notice of violation to TVLC (see attached) for Acacia schools. This was be the third such notice from NJESD after several letters of concern.
2. NJESD reviewed TVLC financials including budgets for the Acacia schools. The NJESD Trustees then voted unanimously to “qualify” those budgets. Please feel free to click on the link below to a presentation by the California School Board Association in which it states, amongst other definitions and implications.

Per the CSBA document (page 6): “Qualified” means it is projected that the district may not meet its financial obligations in one of the three years.

Why is this important when LVCP and LVCS are authorized by the Livermore school district versus NJESD? While certainly not definitive, it is not at all inconceivable that this action on TVLC by NJESD could result in a revocation of the Acacia Charter. I would recommend that to understand what such an action could result in for TVLC and all the schools under the TVLC umbrella, you might want to dig in further.

Could it affect enrollment? Could it affect revenues? Could it affect the allocation of corporate overhead to any, or all other schools either directly or indirectly? I believe the answer to that is yes. You should find out for yourself. You might want to look past the first answer to get to some of the details.

You have an incredibly difficult job to do, you have all the authority you need to act on your responsibility and your accountability. You represent a large community of people. While normally, I would tell you to pay attention to the details, I am going to recommend that you not just stop there. Instead, you might want to listen also to your heart. Listen also to the heart of others in your constituent group and ask if you are really as aligned with them as you think.

As a reminder, California Superintendent of Schools Tom Toralkson came to Livermore for an occurrence which resulted in some press. His commitment to return in 7 weeks is nearing an end, unless extended. Without doubt, he provided the LVJUSD with resources to understand TVLC operations. PLEASE do not underestimate the scope of their review, especially given the pending NOV's. It is not at all inconceivable that a result of their discovery could result in a similar financial qualification as was given by NJESD.

Your role is important in this...your primary voice is your representative on the TVLC BOD. That representation should directly reflect your collective opinions, which should also reflect the views of your constituents. If it does not, you should move to make a change.

Your time is spent on this volunteer role is critical...and it is appreciated...even when there are critical opinions expressed. This is a particularly important time for the corporation that runs our schools to be given not only feedback, but direction. You only have three ways to do that:

1. Make your board member represent your inputs
2. Become visible and present to the BOD
3. Remove your kids from the schools

Even in their issuance of the latest NOV and the “Qualified” budget, the New Jerusalem staff acknowledged to their board we have good schools, All 4 of the TVLC Schools are amazing. The School Administration and teaching staff is superior. Do not lose that. But it is not just your problem, it is all of ours. We depend upon you to represent us.

Thank you for all that you do for the kids of OUR community.

-dc

Just one parent...one constituent.

https://www.csba.org/TrainingAndEvents/OtherTrainingOpportunities/~/_media/CSBA/Files/GovernanceResources/EducationIssues/FairFunding/DistrictFinance/2013QandNBudgetCERT.ashx





STEVE PAYNE
Deputy Superintendent,
Student Services

DAVID THOMING
Superintendent

JEFF TILTON
Deputy Superintendent,
School Services

March 4, 2016

Mr. John Zukoski
Tri-Valley Learning Corporation
7901 Stoneridge Drive, Suite #211
Pleasanton, CA 94588

Dear Tri Valley Learning Corporation Board of Directors and Mr. Zukoski:

RE: Notice of Violation

California Education Code 47604.3 states:

"A charter school shall promptly respond to all reasonable inquiries, including, but not limited to, inquiries regarding its financial records, from its charter authority..."

On January 29, 2016, the following email was sent to Acting CEO, John Zukoski:

Dear Mr. Zukoski,

As the authorizer of Acacia Elementary Charter School, and Acacia Middle Charter School, the New Jerusalem Elementary School District requests copies of the following documents:

-All bank statements (including, but no limited to, deposits, withdrawals, and copies of cancelled checks) for TVLC for the time frame in which the two charter schools have been in operation (August 2013 to present)

-A report from the financial software being used by TVLC which reconcile the corporation's books to the bank transactions.

*Thank you,
David Thoming*

The district has made repeated attempts via email since January 29, 2016, to seek the financial records detailed in the request. To date, no documents have been produced which constitutes a violation of California Education Code 47604.3. Given the fact that the request was made more than 30 days ago, the district requests this Notice of Violation to be remedied no later than 1 p.m. on March 8, 2016.

Please be advised, as the Acacia Elementary Charter School and Acacia Middle Charter School authorizer, the District expects that you remedy this violation. If you do not understand any of the aforementioned or are unsure regarding how to comply, discuss your questions and concerns with me immediately. Further violations will not be tolerated. Failure to comply be subjected to further disciplinary action, up to and including revocation.

Should you have any questions regarding the aforementioned, please contact me at 209.830.6363.

Sincerely,

David Thoming
Superintendent

C: NIESD Board of Trustees
TVLC Board of Directors
File

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