

From: Dick Corso dick.corso@me.com
Subject: Consider your legacy..
Date: March 12, 2016 at 11:32 PM
To: LVCS Council Council@lvcs.org



LVCS School Council Members,

I am aware that an email that I wrote to the LVCP School Council was also forwarded to you. That was appropriate given that the message referenced what I believe is a real possibility of impact to our two Livermore Charter schools and to the two Acacia Charter schools in Stockton.

In a recent meeting, one of your representatives, along with the President of the TVLC Board, stated that there is no crisis. I'm not sure how that could be the case given all the indicators. Therefore I question those relatively unqualified statements. I believe that you need to look closely at your nominated and appointed Board of Directors and ask a very simple question, "am I adequately represented?"

School communities are closely knit. What parent wants to have to call another parent to question, especially when that parent is seemingly well respected and long tenured in a role. It is both uncomfortable and potentially impactful when there is incongruity.

It appears that your Council meets monthly with various subcommittees meeting more frequently. I would recommend that meeting schedule may not be sufficient to address the kind of issues you are being presented with in a timely manner. Like both the LVCP School Council and the TVLC Board, it may be time for you to consider a more frequent schedule. There are critical situations occurring that could have a direct affect your school, indeed all of our schools. There are likely some decisions that may need to be made on a more timely basis. You are the only ones who can make those decision for your school.

As both a former LVCP Council Member and former TVLC Board Member, I have deep appreciation for the commitment that is necessary to contribute in any volunteer role relative to our schools. No role is without responsibilities, those on your shoulders may be greater than some even understand.

I want to dispel what seems to have become a myth about my resignation from both the TVLC Board and the LVCP School Council on October 26, 2015. The myth that I have heard was that the board "pushed" me out. That could not be further from the truth. After two years on the LVCP Council and nearly that long on the TVLC Board, I felt that my growing concerns about the direction of the corporation could not be adequately reconciled, nor my position influence sufficiently. Given the then composition of the board, actions and decisions expected of the board, the level of information that was available to board members in order to make decisions and the constructs that were present which inhibit gathering of external information, I decided that my time and energy could be directed at activities closer to my heart, in places where I could have a greater impact. In essence, I felt that my impact toward the direction of TVLC could be greater off the board than on. It was likely the hardest decision I have made in a number of years.

After only a month and a half, in early December 2105, my household received an email from TVLC asking that families show up at a City Council meeting to speak out and contact the City of Livermore including Mayor Marchand about an occupancy permit. I did exactly that. I reached out to the Mayor directly and found out the truth about the situation. I also then attended the City Council meeting...a meeting that essentially solidified tensions between TVLC and the City of Livermore. In that meeting, parents and students stood up, one after the other to ask the City to grant an occupancy permit. I asked the Mayor and the Council to "help us understand the impediments". Clearly at that time Mayor Marchand did and he uncovered for the whole community what was later admitted to be misleading information provided by TVLC to parents. After that meeting, I immediately wrote a letter to both the LVCP School Council and the TVLC Board of Directors asking for accountability by the corporation. That accountability finally came, only after repeated requests from parents, LVCP School Council members, City Council Members and especially Mayor Marchand.

I have been active visibly and vocally since then. As a former TVLC Board Member, I am deeply concerned about the future of the corporation. As a parent, I am deeply disappointed in the leadership direction. As a community member, I am embarrassed by behaviors of those who claim to be doing things for our best interest. I am sure some of you can relate.

When an authorizer, after due diligence, "qualified" budgets presented to them, I am left more deeply concerned. There is incongruence between the fact that State of California Superintendent of Schools Tom Torlakson was called to Livermore to look into an incident and left with a promise to come back in 7 weeks, and the statements made by the corporation represented what essentially was a message of all's well. How many salient indicators of a problem are needed before the Board of Directors consider the corporation in a state of crisis. Multiple Notices of Violation that have been delivered to TVLC for the Livermore and Acacia Schools. Are we to believe that the 7 weeks was just going to be some sort of inactive waiting period? Is it not likely that there is a deeper review by the state and authorizers taking place? This is not operations as usual, yet one Board Member said there will always be these sorts of Notices of Violation...only to recant it later.

These schools were created by people as well intended as you and me. The schools have served our community well for more than a decade. I am not concerned about the schools. None of us should be. In fact, while I am desirous of seeing our schools maintain autonomy through independence of the school districts under which they are authorized, I am aware that safety nets would be present for our kids if we fail to take control of the operations of our schools. I am not "pro district" as some people have stated about me. I am pro-charter. However, I am supportive of an action by our authorizers that will substantially protect our children from what we as a charter community seem slow to recognize as an implosion. Will you need to see financial statements in a way that you have never seen them before or a paper trail of overlapping organizations or maybe a list of incongruent statements before you are moved to act? I hope not. The story is available to be unfolded...and it will do so even more directly in the days to come.

I leave this back to you. You have the authority to cause change. Exercising that authority, or not, may well be the difference between whether you will help affect change in the governance of our schools or have change affect our schools from external. It may well come down to whether or not you have the courage to act and do to help protect your interests in our schools for our children. I believe you hold the

to whether or not you have the courage to act and do to help protect your interests in our schools for our children. I believe you hold the legacy of our charter schools in your hands. Many others trust you will take your role seriously.

With great regard,

Dick Corso