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Subject: One Corporation - One Family
Date: June 28, 2016 at 11:03 AM
To: BOD@Trivalley BOD@trivalleylearning.org, Lynn Lysko llysko@trivalleylearning.org



Dear TVLC BOD Members and Dr. Lysko,

At your board meeting last night, some very strong words of support, appreciation and encouragement were given to Dr. Lysko. Clearly those were from members of the Acacia community. Both of them Staff members. Yet none in Livermore seemed to respond.

I want to acknowledge openly that Dr. Lysko has chosen and accepted a very tough role, knowing it would be an interim role and that as such it would be scrutinized. She is in a role where she is charged with starting and taking actions to clean up many issues of the past that are affecting the present. She is in a role requiring effective communication to a large parent community who has disaffection with TVLC, but loves their schools. She is an educator, an administrator, something that many of us wanted to see in the role of "Superintendent" or CEO. In the role, Dr. Lysko is dealing with issues that range from poor decisions and contracts of the past to loss of confidence in the corporation by parents who otherwise love their schools...and many things in between. All of these have snowballed to a level of chaos now looks to be chaotic. In my opinion, she is also dealing with the fallout of some of her own actions. But then, none of us is perfect.

When Dr. Lysko first became apparent in a leadership role, her first visible act was to respond to an email that was sent to the LVCP School Council. She did so and at the time showed her substantial support along with that of the "entire executive team" for Dr. Scott Lessard. That was at a time when there was no representation visibly or vocally present in the parent community that aligned with Dr. Lysko's vote of confidence. Now many months later, it is not only Dr. Lessard still on the board without support of his peer representatives, but also Mr. Goulart now in the same situation. It is no wonder that confidence, trust, support are not present. Unfortunately, it may be impossible for Dr. Lysko to enjoy that support when she is in the shadow of mistrust of the board.

With that and no other point, I want to remind you that while 2/3 of you never had a say in the decisions of the past, you are affecting the decisions of the present and the decisions of the future.

2/3 of you are holding up action on a decision made now by each of the LVCP and LVCS School Councils. 2/3 of you are watching the LVCS and LVCP community lose faith in TVLC and your actions do not resolve that.

Dr. Lessard and Mr. Goulart, both of whom have been voted as no longer the BOD representatives for their respective schools by the representatives of those separate schools, continue to sit in their BOD seats. 2/3 of you have the ability to finalize that action, but you have not. Not only have you not removed them, you have not acted to remove them.

While I am sure there are side discussion and persuasive reasons you've heard that have swayed you, you are expected to be the arbiters of decisions brought before you. In a way, you are collectively and individually expected to be Solomon. You are expected to make decisions. Yet, you fail to do so. You are the representatives of the representatives not just for your respective interests or schools, but for all the schools.

Let me start first with an analogy that seems to be present. Last night one principal spoke authoritatively as a representative for three of four administrators and did so with favor for Dr. Lysko. While two of the three purported to be in favor were not present, one staff member in Acacia also spoke up for Dr. Lysko. Those TWO statements, in and of themselves were powerful. They showed support for an administrator that some people have come to love and with whom at least two administrators have had long prior personal connection.

The affection and support was palpable. I personally felt it appropriate to send Dr. Lysko a message of moral support, not because I personally agree with the statements of her competency or value, but because indeed she is in a very challenging role. Whether she should remain is not for me, rather you. It is not personal. Dr. Lysko has chosen to persevere in a time when, under scrutiny and in the face of disfavor, action is required and action is being taken. You all chose her and you all continue to choose her by your actions. In fact it is your choice and all the rest of us need to get comfortable with that.

You choose her in the role for the time being. Your decision does not be equivalent to public opinion, but your decision should be influenced but that opinion. That is especially so because your individual seats on the BOD, except for one that is at large, are expected to represent the desires, opinions, needs and hopes of the parents at each school. You chose and continue to choose Dr. Lysko, and whether I or any one else is to agree or disagree, that is your prerogative.

Now let me juxtapose that with the alternate similar scenario related to Dr. Lessard and Mr. Goulart. You still have a say in this, however your say should be not only influenced by, but driven predominantly by public opinion and desires. A board member elected by the board, nominated by the respective councils and sustained by the vote of confidence (or indeed silence) that is expected to represent the will of the community. That is what should guide you to keep that board member, unless there is cause and then, under Article 7 of your bylaws, that member should be removed.

Yet, in the face of one very difficult situation, you fail to act. LVCP Council has represented that Dr. Lessard is no longer their nominated representative. The LVCS council states that not only is Mr. Goulart not their representative, but they also voted to remove him from their council. Both individuals stand before you, before the entire community of TVLC and refuse to step down. You, by inaction and silence on the topic, stand in front of parents in the community without action and then you wish for support. Quid pro quo is not expected here. The community expects your support. They elected most of you and the supported all of you, in theory, at one point.

It appears that the Acacia parent community has hands on involvement with their schools. That is the nature of the TVLC schools. While it is rare to see Acacia parents in attendance of TVLC BOD meetings, it is easy to presume that Directors Harrison and Lewis have the backing of their Acacia community. Therefore it must also be presumed parents trust those representatives. In fact that is what appears to be missing

from the Acacia community. Therefore it must also be presumed parents trust these representatives. In fact, that is what appears to be missing for the Livermore community...trust. But then, the Livermore community has seen many years of actions that have caused lack of trust to have built up. That lack of trust is powerful.

To make the situation more difficult, the Livermore community is split. The split isn't between those who support one representative over another, rather between an entire community and the decisions of their representatives vs the action of two Board Members who defy the vote of that community. You as a board further polarize the community because you have not acted. You have, for months, left the situation without resolve.

Certainly no presumptions should be made by members of the public in judging any unknown motivations. The judgement however, as to the support of Dr. Lessard and Mr. Goulart, in contrast to the vote of their boards can be scrutinized. While on at least one occasion an attempt was made by a Livermore BOD member to get a special meeting together, that failed to get a quorum. That failure to gain quorum, and the subsequent failure to add any item to the agenda to deal with the issue are both telling.

Last night, I heard the passionate call for community...for ONE...for FAMILY...but I do not see the action as ONE. The Livermore community has a problem. It has asked that the problem be resolved. The Livermore community has two representatives that the respective school leaders have asked to be removed from the BOD. That cannot happen without the vote of the Acacia community. Has the Acacia community supported the Livermore community in solving the problem or has the Acacia community left the problem to be dealt with by the Livermore community? I believe it is the later. That problem has gone on too long unresolved. If ONE FAMILY is what is desired, that should be unilateral. Livermore parents are asking that the Acacia community support their desire for new representation. Instead the board fails to act. The board fails to add actions to the agenda.

Maybe the next voice to speak out in support of the choices of the Livermore Community shouldn't be a Livermore Community Member. Maybe, in the defense of the decisions made by the Livermore community, it would be better for the FAMILY if decisions made by those at one schools were supported, or at a minimum talked about in public session.

That is not the case today. I wish to call that out. I wish you would too. I call on you to act upon the decisions of the a respective individual communities that make up this larger FAMILY. If you cannot, maybe your commitment to being ONE is not so strong.

You have received my note last week that was sent to NJES, and other education officials at the state and county. In that note I supported not only the voices of the two Acacia principals, but the value of the Acacia Schools. You are aware that in my discussion with all the authorizers, I have personally advocated for not only LVCP (the school my son has attended for the past 3 years), LVCS (the school that is the basis for TVLC inception, therefore that of all the other schools) but also for Acacia. The Acacia schools are something of pride for most parents who have ever had a child in attendance.

The schools are gems. They are not the the problem. But, if they become a problem to each other, then they tear the corporation apart. As was alluded to last night so eloquently by Director Lewis, they fail or succeed but either way they affect each other. If the schools are part of ONE FAMILY that will fail or succeed together, then the decision of each needs to be considered and supported.

I would encourage the unilateral support of the Acacia Board Members and the Livermore Board Members to remove Dr. Lessard and Mr. Goulart. It is my opinion that their continued involvement in the BOD, in defiance of the direction of their respective councils, is detrimental to the corporation...even if the Dr. Lessard and Mr. Goulart believe they are doing the right thing.

If healing is to occur, FAMILY should become ONE to support the decisions each the four family members: LVCS, LVCP, AECS and AMCS. It has already been voted upon that both Dr. Lessard and Mr. Goulart that they no longer represent their councils. Please act to finalize it. Please call a special meeting of the BOD to address this topic alone.

With regard,
Dick

Sent from my iPad

