

**High Desert “Partnership in Academic Excellence” Foundation, Inc. dba  
LEWIS CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH**

17500 Mana Road, Apple Valley, CA 92307 (760) 946-5414 (760) 946-9193 fax

**Minutes for Regular Meeting of the Lewis Center for Educational Research  
Board June 9, 2025**

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Carlos called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** LCER Board Members: Yolanda Carlos, Mike Razo (arrived at 4:45 p.m.), Marisol Sanchez and Lucy Tello were in attendance. Board Members Steve Levin, Jessica Rodriguez and Pat Schlosser was absent.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
4. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**
  - .01 Retirement Presentations – Cynthia Allen (28 Years), Teresa Dowd (27 Years), Charlotte Wilmeth-Street (23 Years) – Lisa Lamb thanked them for their long standing service and dedication. They will be missed and are loved by many. Charlotte is irreplaceable and holds so many hats. Cynthia is the district’s longest standing employee and has always been a call or question away. Teresa has made a huge impact on the Lewis Center and with the Ambassador’s program. The Ambassador’s program has never existed without her, and she has only missed one board meeting in 27 years. Lisa says that she will try to make them proud and the legacy that they are leaving behind will not be forgotten. Yolanda thanks Teresa for all of her support over the years and wished her the very best in her retirement. Yolanda thanked them all for their time and dedication. Certificates, gifts, and plaques were presented to each in appreciation.
  - .02 LCER Ambassadors Student Update - Ward Halwani and Elizabeth Chapman updated the board on AAE events. ASB talent show was a huge success and would like to continue it annually. Prom was also a success at Hilltop. The new Ambassador group has been selected along with their officer positions. The Ambassadors are hosting a blood drive on 06/18 at AAE in the gym and invite all to join. Club elections have been held (such as ASB and GWH) and were successful. SFJROTC are preparing for yearly unit evaluations on 10/22 and the newly appointed board are working together to set the plans and goals for next year. Bethany Ehlmann gave a presentation for NASA in Your Neighborhood as a guest speaker on lunar water and current space missions related to the studying the moon. Students and the GAVRT team were invited to give a presentation at JPL’s Headquarters. The presentation went well and the group got a tour of the facility, including their Mission Control. David Ruiz and Tiffany Good updated the board on NSLA events. Current events include a field day from middle school ASB that took place today and the SLC car wash happening now. Upcoming events include high school field day on 06/10, Senior Sunset on 06/09 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., semester awards on 06/11 at 5:30 p.m., and Senior Breakfast on 06/11. The last day of school is on June 12<sup>th</sup> and dismissal is at 12:30 p.m., then Senior graduation at 6:00 p.m. No school for students on Friday, but teachers are still required to attend. Yolanda congratulated them on all the wonderful activities and thanked them for making our schools look bright.
  - .03 AAE School Update – Chet Richards updated the board on AAE attendance data. CAASPP testing results are coming in and most results have improved, with 99% completion rate. Climate data results have improved in all areas from students and parents. Students and parents are reporting that they feel safe and respected in school. The “P” restrooms are seeing less vandalism and they are working well. SFJROTC has completed over 16,000 hours of community service, and it is more than any other existing unit. Upcoming events include Kindergarten promotion on 06/10, 5<sup>th</sup> grade promotion on 06/11, 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion on 6/12, TK promotion on 6/12, and Senior graduation on 06/13. Mr. Richards reported that Grad Nite at Disneyland was on 06/06, and Senior Awards were

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06/08. Both went great. AAE on boarded new hires for next school year that included 5 teachers, and 3 SPED staff. Yolanda thanked Chet and is happy to see the data moving in the right direction because it is not easy to do. She congratulated him for that. Chet responded that it was a group effort, and that it is all coming together.

- .04 NSLA School Update – Erika Agosto updated the board on graduation updates and senior week activities, which kicked off with Grad Nite on 06/06. Planning for next school year is in full swing. Dates already planned include “Registration Days” that will extend to elementary, staff summer training, back to school night dates, Cafecito dates, ALT dates, ELAC dates, and volunteer workshop dates. Family and staff feedback was considered when implementing changes that would make them better for families. Erika thanked the board for their support and that it has been a great year for growth. Erika Thanked Dr. Lamb for guiding her through all of this year’s lessons. Yolanda is excited to see the data also moving in the right direction and thanked her for the update.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- .01 Approve Minutes of May 19, 2025 Regular Meeting
- .02 Approve Minutes of May 29, 2025 Special Meeting
- .03 Approve Resolution 2025-01 Regarding AAE Education Protection Account (EPA)
- .04 Approve Resolution 2025-02 Regarding NSLA Education Protection Account (EPA)

On a motion by Marisol Sanchez, seconded by Mike Razo, vote 4-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved Consent Agenda Items 5.01-5.04 by roll call vote.

**6. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

- .01 Approve Request for Approval of Ashley Dayanara Martinez to Serve as a Full-Time Elementary Teacher (4<sup>th</sup> Grade) for the Norton Science and Language During the 2025/26 School Year on a Multiple Subject Provisional Internship Permit (PIP) – Rebecca McCoy reported to the board that Ashley is short 1 semester until she is intern eligible, and this will allow her to continue until that is completed.

On a motion by Marisol Sanchez, seconded by Lucy Tello, vote 4-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved the Request for Approval of Ashley Dayanara Martinez to Serve as a Full-Time Elementary Teacher (4<sup>th</sup> Grade) for the Norton Science and Language During the 2025/26 School Year on a Multiple Subject Provisional Internship (PIP) by roll call vote.

- .02 Approve AAE Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Budget Overview for Parents, 2025-26 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), 2025 Annual Update and Local Indicators – Chet Richards reported to the board that the LCAP presentation had one minor change recommended by Pat Schlosser that helped improve the LCAP. The area added focused on the English Learner indicator, to show how funds are spent. A goal was created that will help support that demographic of students. Everything else remains the same as before.

On a motion by Mike Razo, seconded by Marisol Sanchez, vote 4-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved AAE Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Budget Overview for Parents, 2025-26 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), 2025 Annual Update and Local Indicators by roll call vote.

- .03 Approve NSLA Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Budget Overview for Parents, 2025-26 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), 2025 Annual Update and Local Indicators – Erika Agosto reported to the board, that in collaboration with Mr. Schlosser, they identified the areas needed to make them clear. No changes were made.

On a motion by Mike Razo, seconded by Lucy Tello, vote 4-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved NSLA Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Budget Overview for Parents, 2025-26 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), 2025 Annual Update and Local Indicators by roll call vote.

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- .04 Approve LCER Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26 – David Gruber – David thanked those who were able to attend the budget workshop and work through the LCAP, creating a balanced budget. Mike Razo commends the staff and appreciates the efforts. Marisol also thanked the staff in keeping a balanced budget.

On a motion by Mike Razo, seconded by Marisol Sanchez, vote 4-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved the LCER Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26 by roll call vote.

- .05 Discuss Future Revisions of Board and Administrative Regulations Policies – Lisa Lamb discussed the importance to looking at all of the current board policies. A link was shared for the board and staff to review that includes all of the current policies. The goal is that each individual will review their areas of oversight, then bring back older policies that can be updated. Lisa encouraged to reach out to her with any questions. Yolanda thanked Lisa, stating it is a heavy lift and that she has full confidence in her.
- .06 Lewis Center Foundation Board Update – Marisol Sanchez, Foundation Board Chair, updated the board that they held a productive meeting on 06/06. Honorees have been determined and meeting frequency was moved to a bi-monthly basis to encourage more membership from the community to join the foundation board. Marisol thanked Teresa for being their guiding light and thanked her for her service. Committees were created and members have been selected. She hopes to receive a lot more involvement and have a broader reach to share the foundation’s mission. A google survey will be sent out to determine the best meeting dates for the committees to meet. Yolanda thanked Marisol for all of the good, happy news. Lisa added that it can be a good way to introduce someone to the Lewis Center.

- Annual Gala – September 27, 2025 – Location: Courtyard by Marriott in Hesperia, CA

**7. INFORMATION INCLUDED IN PACKET:**

- .01 President/CEO Report
- .02 Grant Tracking Report
- .03 LCER Financial Reports
  - Checks Over \$10K
  - Budget Comparisons
  - AAE and NSLA March 31, 2025 Campanile Quarterly Financial Reports
  - AAE and NSLA Consolidated Application and Reporting System (CARS) Semi Annual Reports
  - Lewis Center Foundation Financial Reports
- .04 LCER Board Attendance Log
- .05 LCER Board/Lewis Center Foundation Give and Get

Lisa encouraged questions to be asked or if there was information that they would like to see included in staff reports, to reach out to her. The board strategic planning was unable to be held this year due to scheduling conflicts, but the admin team will be meeting for 2 days next week to look at goals arising, seeing if there are different trends or emerging themes. Yolanda thanked Lisa for that update.

**8. BOARD/STAFF COMMENTS:**

- .01 Ask a question for clarification
- .02 Make a brief announcement or a brief report on his or her own activities -
- .03 Future agenda items

**9. CLOSED SESSION:**

- .01 Conference With Legal Counsel, Existing Litigation – In The Matter of: Parents on Behalf of Student, v. Academy for Academic Excellence. OAH Case Number 2025020996

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The board entered in to closed session at 5:16 p.m.

The board returned from closed session at 5:31 p.m.

Chairman Carlos reported out that the LCER Board of Directors approved the Final Settlement Agreement and Release for OAH Case Number 2025020996 by unanimous vote.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Carlos adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m.