

**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 September 15, 2025
--

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Yolanda Carlos called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** LCER Board Members present were Yolanda Carlos, Steve Levin, Jessica Rodriguez, Marisol Sanchez, Pat Schlosser, and Lucy Tello. Board Member Mike Razo was absent.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
4. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**
 - .01 LCER Ambassadors Student Update – Ellianna De La Rosa and Sahara Dawson provided updates on recent AAE student activities, including Senior Sunrise, 9/11 Ceremony, and upcoming events such as Foundation Gala. SFJROTC is continuing preparations for evaluations, the band is actively participating in local parades and the Fall Festival. Tiffany Good and Fernanda Hernandez shared NSLA highlights, including new ASB initiatives, the first-ever 9/11 ceremony for NSLA, school spirit activities led by radio host Nick Nack, cheerleading tryouts, and Fun Fridays. Informational sessions for international trips were shared. Board members thanked students for their updates and expressed excitement for upcoming events.
 - .02 AAE School Update – Chet Richards reported strong attendance, near pre-COVID levels, and noted ongoing focus on career readiness, suspension rates, and academic progress. The Mojave River Project fencing is complete. Students will make up tardies starting September 20th. Plans for a school-wide science gallery and expanded after-school programs are underway, along with SEL lessons on suicide prevention. Board members expressed appreciation for the positive updates.
 - .03 NSLA School Update – Erika Agosto reported that Saturday school launched successfully with strong student participation, and plans are underway to expand it to elementary students. The recent Williams visit found no major deficiencies, and facilities were in excellent condition. The school celebrated CAASPP improvements and is continuing initiatives to increase student voice through Principal’s Cabinet and informal “Teacher Talk” sessions. Board members commended staff and students for these accomplishments and ongoing goal setting.
 - .04 Presentation of NSLA and AAE State Test Results and Current Assessment Data Using Parsec – Heather Muir and Ricky Baca presented CAASPP results for NSLA and AAE. NSLA showed a 10% increase in ELA proficiency and a 9% increase in math, with grades 4–8 cohorts demonstrating growth and subgroup performance improving. Approximately 4% of students will be reclassified based on ELPAC scores. AAE reported a 3% increase in ELA and a 5% increase in math proficiency, with growth in subgroup performance and continued progress toward WASC goals. PLC time revamps and Capturing Kids Hearts implementation are supporting these improvements. Challenges identified include student writing and foundational skills such as order of operations, with strategies being implemented to address them. Board members commended the progress and emphasized the importance of using the data to inform instruction and improvement efforts.
5. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
 - .01 Approve Minutes of August 18, 2025, Regular MeetingOn a motion by Jessica Rodriguez, seconded by Steve Levin, vote 6-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved Consent Agenda Item 5.01 by roll call vote.

**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

6. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- .01 Approve Proposition 28: Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act (AMS) AAE Annual Report – David Gruber explained the grant and how it supports students and programs within the school. Pat Schlosser asked if the program document ran out of space to include video production, and David confirmed that the document was limited to 2500 characters, but more information was submitted that is not shown on the printout. Pat asked for clarification on the computer science program and if it was a sequence of courses or not. Dr. Lamb confirmed that it is. Jessica Rodriguez asked why there was a difference in staffing for Norton and AAE and Mr. Gruber responded that it was due to each school’s programs. Dr. Lamb included that other funding sources that supported NSLA weren’t received at AAE, which contributed. Pat Schlosser asked that Mr. Gruber read out the narrative to include the amended language submitted, and a motion for that to be sufficient to approve. The narrative submitted was “The Academy for Academic Excellence utilized Prop 28 funds to enhance its academic offerings. They continued offering an AP Art History course, created a Computer Science program and grew their Video production program to expand and focus on the science and up to date industry technology to expand the arts behind the camera along with screen writing and design.”

On a motion by Pat Schlosser, seconded by Steve Levin, vote 6-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved Consent Agenda Item 6.01 by roll call vote.

- .02 Approve Proposition 28: Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act (AMS) NSLA Annual Report – Pat Schlosser added additional information to the rules of this funding. Steve Levin brought to the board’s attention the Annual Report Data URL link provided was broken for AAE and NSLA’s was accessible. Jisela Corona will update the website with the correct links. The narrative submitted was “Norton Science and Language Academy utilized Prop 28 funds to continue to offer Music to secondary students in Music Appreciation, Mariachi Band, Vocal Performance and Music Production, serving our middle and high school students. We continued the offering of our art enrichment classes.”

On a motion by Marisol Sanchez, seconded by Jessica Rodriguez, vote 6-0, the LCER Board of Directors approved Consent Agenda Item 6.02 by roll call vote.

- .03 Discuss Strategic Planning Meeting – Dr. Lamb reminded the board of the October 2nd meeting (8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.) to review spot analysis, goals, objectives, Capturing Kids Hearts, board commitments, self-evaluations, and organizational core values. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Board members were encouraged to wear Lewis Center polos or request one if it was needed. Dr. Levin noted a potential scheduling conflict with Yom Kippur. Yolanda thanked Dr. Levin for the reminder.

- .04 Lewis Center Foundation Board Update

- Annual Gala – September 27, 2025 – Marisol Sanchez updated the board. Dr. Lamb thanked Dr. Levin and his wife, Lisa, for donating 2 amazing baskets. Reserved seating was still available for board members who would like to attend. Yolanda thanked Marisol for her hard work organizing the event.

7. INFORMATION INCLUDED IN PACKET:

- .01 President/CEO Report
- .02 Grant Tracking Report
- .03 LCER Financial Reports
 - Checks Over \$10K
 - Budget Comparisons
 - Lewis Center Foundation Financial Reports
 - Quarterly Financial Report (Phan 6/30)
- .04 LCER Board Attendance Log

**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

.05 LCER Board/Lewis Center Foundation Give and Get

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 – Yolanda Carlos attended AAE’s 9/11 Ceremony and commended the students for their leadership and decorum.
- .03 Future agenda items – Dr. Lamb would like to add to the October 2nd Special Board Meeting agenda to amend the board meeting date of November 17th to November 3rd due to scheduling conflicts. Board members confirmed their calendars. Upcoming events include a Junior vs. Seniors Family Feud-style civil engagement competition at AAE on September 23rd and a dual immersion parent workshop at NSLA led by Dr. Jose Medina on October 1st. Board members were invited to attend both.

9. CLOSED SESSION:

- .01 Conference With Legal Counsel, Pending Litigation – Compliance Investigation Case S-0174-25/26
 - The LCER Board convened into closed session at 5:54 p.m. The LCER Board reconvened in open session at 6:24 p.m. Chairman Carlos reported that no action was taken in closed session.

10. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Carlos adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.