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EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: October 29, 2014, 4:30 p.m.

Location: Ferrahian High School, 5300 White Oak Ave., Encino

Proposed minutes

Welcome by Chair Shelley Rivlin at 4:30. Presents - committee members Shelley Rivlin, Jean Strauber, and Kathy Kantner, and Jennifer Taylor, Jennie Kamm, Erick Hansen, Rebcca Galvan, Andres Flores, Cara Schneider, Marcia Koff, Gurmet Khara, Heather Penrod, David Acevedo, Julio Anleu, Determination of a quorum of 3. (committee members: Victor Miller, Cecily Lerner absent) .

Introductions were made. Elizabeth Hovannisian welcomed us to her school and gave information on the program.

Jeanne Strauber made a motion to approve the minutes from September 17, 2014 and October 17, 2014. Second by Kathy Kantner. No opposition.

Monica Hanna and Kelsey Larsen, Program Coordinator of KOREH LA, provided a presentation. The program is non-sectarian, through the Jewish Federation, and provides literacy support to elementary school students. It pairs volunteers (adults, high school students, and occasionally middle school students) who meet with elementary school students one hour each week to promote a love of reading.

A Teen Literacy Core program partners entire high school classes with elementary school classes, but only within walking distance due to the cost of transportation. Koreh provides training and check-in supervision and support throughout the year. Americorps fellows provide administrative support to the program. Informational materials and Ms. Larsen's business card with contact information was distributed.

Next there was a discussion and review of the draft application for the Encino Neighborhood Council grant including the form from the DONE website. All schools

serving students assigned by residence from Encino are eligible. A total amount of \$5,000 will be disbursed to the highest rated projects. Maximum of \$1,500 per project will be awarded during this cycle. No personnel will be funded. The check will go to the schools directly, not to the vendor as in previous years. The application will be due by January 16, 2015.

Comments included a request to simplify the wording per project, and clarify that no personnel will be funded. There was a question about the affiliation language. Committee recommendations for application - clarify first paragraph of cover letter by striking "elementary, middle, and secondary school through one or more applications" and by adding examples of personnel that cannot be funded.

The rubric for evaluating applications is simple, with key measures from one to five, pulled from the DONE document. Shelley reviewed the timeline, including due date (Jan. 16, 2014) review (weekend of Jan. 16) vote by Encino Neighborhood Council (Jan. meeting, 28th?) and that funds must be expended by June 2015. Jeanne Staruber made a motion to accept the application materials as revised, seconded by Kathy Kantner. No objections.

Old business: Shelley noted that a lot of changes had occurred within LAUSD in the past month: we have a new Superintendent, Ramon Cortines. Regarding the iPads project updates, Principal Marcia Koff said they were asked via survey if they preferred Chromebooks or iPads for SBAC testing.

As for MiSiS, high schools continue to see significant disruption, which is impacting college applications. Mr. Cortines is making college applications a priority, pulling administrative staff and principals out of retirement to provide assistance at high schools, reviewing transcripts, etc. Ms. Schneider, Instructional Supervisor from ESC North, provided this update, and David Azevedo of Tamar Galatzan's office conveyed appreciation to staff, who are reviewing 38,000 transcripts. Shelley also requested information about whether records are available for high school students applying for deferred action (DACA). Ms. Schneider will look into it.

It was noted that Tamar Galatzan's resolution to revise the Title 1 eligibility threshold so that schools with 40-49% of students enrolled in free and reduced lunch would once again qualify will be revisited at the February 2015 LAUSD School Board meeting. For many years, the threshold was 40%, however it was moved to 50% in 2011. Schools throughout the San Fernando Valley and elsewhere lost critical funding. Ms. Galatzan's resolution to roll the threshold back to 40% did not prevail in 2013. However, continued analysis of the issue finds that there are carryover funds available, ever since LAUSD received the CORE Waiver. Shelley asked whether the

ENC Ed Committee might write a letter in support. David Azevedo thought this would be helpful. Marcia Koff and Erick Hansen were neutral on this issue, as neither Lanai nor Encino are impacted by this. However, this is relevant to Portola.

New business: Jeanne Strauber proposed that the ENC Ed Committee draft a letter to the LAUSD Board of Education recommending that a woman be considered for our next Superintendent; in fact, she would recommend Michelle King. Shelley pointed out that this topic cannot be discussed at today's meeting as it did not appear on the agenda, but could be agonized for our next meeting. Ms. Koff felt that, rather than recommend particular candidates, we could suggest a list of qualifications.

Regarding the feeling that newspapers and other media do not print positive updates about what is happening in our schools, Laura Bernaz, City Editor of the Daily News will soon introduce a column to promote public and private school events. Holly Anders is the contact; Shelley dispersed her contact information. Also, Shelley reminded everyone that, with enough notice, she can announce school fundraising events -- especially ones that the community can attend -- at Neighborhood Council meetings.

Lanai Road Elementary has received this year's National Blue Ribbon award, in recognition of its success in closing its achievement gap over the last five years, which, as Ms. Schneider explained, is the more difficult category to qualify for. Principal Erick Hansen provided an overview of some of Lanai's best practices, noting that collaboration is what makes the school work so well. Other important practices are scheduling consistent grade level planning time, collaboration between the RSP and AUT Inclusion teachers and an aide who work together to provide intervention services in the Learning Lab; successful fundraising which provides an array of enrichments; PD focused on using Kaplan icons across grade levels, and dedicated volunteers. In short, Lanai benefits from many good people working hard for kids.

Lanai teacher, Jennifer Taylor, discussed how she wrote the application. She provided a teacher's perspective of how Lanai has changed over the 15 years that she has worked there. She highlighted Jeannie Kamm's involvement as a community advocate who worked to encourage our residential neighborhood to once again invest in the school.

Ms. Schneider provided an update from ESC North: LAUSD is hosting Saturday Parent Academies to help parents understand CCSS and the new A-G requirements. Three more are scheduled, and ESC North is the only ESC offering this program. David Azevedo provided a shout-out to Marilú Pigliapoco for coordinating these.

Ms. Schneider also noted that there is currently a ban on staff travel and meetings are being cancelled that pull personnel away from school sites. Common Core trainings are under review. MiSiS is a priority; both Superintendent Cortines and Byron Maltez want administrative staff on high school campuses assisting counselors.

Restorative Justice programs are being phased in, with the expectation that by 2019 all schools will implement RJ programs. The first school in the Valley to implement the program is Plummer. RJ provides an alternative way to handle behavior with students taking more ownership for how they contribute to and solve problems. There was further discussion about restorative justice and the need for building relationships at schools. Mr. Alatorre discussed the philosophy used at Reseda High School.

A Student Discipline seminar will be held on November 10 at Panorama High School.

School updates:

- Encino - issues with graffiti and homeless at the fire station continue. Encino and Lanai will begin joint PD trainings, with grade levels sharing best practices. Encino also offers Parent University - at the end of school meetings, topics of interest to parents are introduced.
- Lanai Road: Meet the Middle Schools event, November 3; Blue Ribbon celebration is November 17, 2014.
- Portola: Meet the High Schools event is this evening; Movie Fright Night was yesterday.
- Reseda High school: AP Andres Flores distributed printed materials showing Reseda HS's school profile; it is as good or better than other nearby high schools. Mr. Flores and teacher Heather Penrod are developing new programs and solidifying career pathways with local organizations, such as:
 - . an arts academy or magnet
 - . partnerships with Theater West
 - . partnerships with CSUN's Art Gallery
 - . journalism partnership with CSUN
 - . dual credit program with local community colleges

Their principal, Jose Rodriguez, is an asset to the school, and together they are working to build community awareness and increase local enrollment. They have submitted an SSP grant seeking seed money to implement these new programs. Reseda is interested in plotting students to see where local middle school students

enroll in high schools. For example, they are supposed to receive 70% of Portola students, but instead these students go to Taft, based on outdated reputations. Shelley observed that this is a wonderful opportunity to involve our local community to work together so that our schools can attract Encino students.

Board member updates:

Julio fAnleu from Monica Ratliff's office noted that they are supporting Reseda HS, working to integrate students in District 6. Also, Ms. Ratliff is sponsoring three upcoming events: Cash for College at the LA Convention Center on November 5 and 6 for HS seniors, funding is available for buses if 45 students RSVP.

- . Warner Center Opening: Zev Yaroslavsky will attend. Good resource for the community.

- . Ms. Ratliff's office will send out a new bulletin of grant resources and other community news next week.

David Azevedo for Tamar Galatzan:

- . sponsored an event at Valley Academy of Arts and Sciences in Granada Hills on digital citizenship.

- . facilitated having Code.org, a nonprofit that provides computer science curriculum, to partner with LAUSD to expand its K-12 technology curriculum. This will include teaching students to build websites, code, etc. During President Obama's recent visit to Los Angeles, he applauded LAUSD's efforts to make computer technology more accessible to students.

Ms. Galatzan's office partnered with the mayor and AJC to assist eligible DACA applicants. Ms. Galatzan is committed to ensuring that educational opportunities are available to everyone in her district.

A special meeting will be scheduled the weekend of Jan. 16 to review and award grant applications. The next general meeting will be scheduled before then, as needed, based on upcoming events

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00, as moved by Shelley Rivlin, seconded by Jeanne Strauber.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Rivlin, based on notes from Kathy Kantner.