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Bob Greenberg, President
Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts
2709 Media Center Drive
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Sir:

When I joined the Board of LFCSA some two years ago, I was a community activist and member of the Glassell Park Neighborhood Council. I believed that the addition of LFCSA to our neighborhood would benefit our community, providing some excellent educational supplements to our existing public schools, and was a group committed to outreach in an effort to make the school look more like our community while maintaining high educational standards.

Two years later I find a school which operates in secrecy, is essentially run by its President and Principal without any significant oversight or input by its Board of Directors, and is providing little if any meaningful enrichment to the very multicultural, diverse, and underrepresented communities of Glassell Park, Cypress Park and surrounding areas. Further, the school seems obsessed with treating the parents as a giant ATM machine, extracting money at every turn. News flash - most of the parents in our Northeast LA communities are having a heck of a time making ends meet; they don't have extra cash to become 'a part of' a private club. We are not a private school.

As the treasurer of the school, I have no idea how much money we are currently spending on attorneys to act as counsel for the President and Principal with no prior authorization or public discussion with the Board as how this can be. I have never met one, although they evidently spend a lot of time with Mr. Greenberg and Staci Block according to the emails we receive.

I have no idea what consultants have been or are being hired by the Principal, or how much we are spending on them. I don't know who has been hired, under what job

descriptions, how they were hired with no outreach or formalized application, job posting, or equal opportunity to apply for the positions. I have no idea what contracts have been offered, executed or amended regarding employment because I have been denied the ability to see any of these documents, even though I have an absolute right of inspection under the Charter of the School. I have never even seen the contract for the Principal, (the negotiations were delegated to the President, and both he and the principal have refused to provide me copies). To the best of my knowledge, the Board has never received or ratified her contract either.

Finally, from a financial perspective, we will have 4 administrators under this 'new' plan, and we simply do not have the money to pay for them - I estimate a total cost of somewhere between \$300 to \$400,000. This with no finance committee meeting, explanation or any adjustments to the existing budget. The math simply doesn't work, and I am uninterested in being a party to fiscal malfeasance.

The Agenda for the August 29th meeting was the proverbial straw that broke this camel's back for this Board member - within the space of an hour or two, the President and the Principal are asking the Board to approve a massive transformation of LFCSA, most of which has already transpired including the hiring of people with absolutely no prior Board approval or discussion. So I guess the agenda represents an after-the-fact ratification of what has already been done. Specifically:

Item III A) Appointment/Reappointment of Board Members

Nice try. Starting with a prohibited meeting of 50% or more Board members with children in the school, the intent is to add two or three new Board Members who were preselected by a secret process, and then this is supposed to 'cure' the defect.

Here are the details: this evenings meeting is not even lawful under the provisions of the Bylaws of the school, which state that: *"There can never be 50% or more of board members with children currently enrolled in LFCSA."*

As of tonight there are seven (7) Board members, of whom four (4) are parents with children currently enrolled in LFCSA. In fact, this has been the case since the end of the Board meeting held on June 20, 2012, although that fact has been hidden from the public.

Item III C) Financial Report - *There is no financial report, probably because the math won't work and therefore no meeting was scheduled;*

Item III E) Organizational Chart and Administrative Job Descriptions - *All of these items violate the existing Charter of the School, and the source documents aren't even provided to do a side by side examination of the old and the new*

Item III F) Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Systems - *Here's a doozy. The teacher evaluation system is written into the Charter, and the proposal violates it in a number of ways. The Board doesn't even have the Charter sections, has never seen the 'old' teacher contracts, or the 'new' teacher contracts to even know how much they are in conflict, and are being asked for a retroactive blank check.*

Even better, the Principal has written the evaluation system for the Principal and her cronies that she has recently hired. I don't even know where to begin this one is so wrong.

Item III G) LFCSA New Policies - These are listed as 'updates', with none of the existing handbooks or policies being provided to the Board for review and discussion. This is a sham.

The Closed Session

Most troubling on tonight's Agenda, the President has chosen to bury two very important public policy discussions under a gobbledygook closed session caption of:

"A. Anticipated Litigation: Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 54956.9: two cases."

This masterful excuse for a caption really refers to two recent communications from the LAUSD to the Board of Directors, raising a number of issues which warrant an open and public discussion of how the school is to be run under the Charter and the Bylaws of LFCSA. And what may happen if the Board fails to comply. And I am told that even though the caption flies in the face of the requirements of the Brown Act, that our attorneys, whom I've never met, certify that it is all proper and legal. I don't know who the MYM (Middleton, Young & Minney) law firm is, but I'll bet it will take a bunch of money to have them defend this deliberate obfuscation.

I will not be a party to this perversion of public policy. I am attaching copies of my 2 page letter from the July meeting, which was never responded to by anyone, and the two documents, as well as the two communications from the LAUSD that the Board doesn't want you to know about.

So there you have it - a meeting designed to reshape the school only after school has resumed for the 12/13 school year, with so many confusing items on the agenda with no context or backup documentation that it defies the ability of any human being to absorb, much less have a meaningful discussion over the items in the space of one meeting.

Through deeds and actions, this school is demonstrating to me that President and Principal are heading a small group of founding parents who are running a private school with public money, and I do not believe that the LFCSA Board & Principal play by the rules as laid out in the Charter. Their actions violate every principle of Equal Employment Opportunity and outreach that I know of, and I choose not to participate in a secret society.

If you want to run a private school, do so. Don't take public money and then really run a private school. It's dishonest.

I resign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Butka". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Tony Butka