

EL CAMINO REAL CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

A California Distinguished School

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JON WASSER
Chairman of the Board

DAVE FEHTE
Executive Director

October 5, 2016

Dear Members of the ECRCHS Community:

The El Camino Real Alliance (“ECRA”) Board of Directors is fully aware of the gravity of the threat of revocation of El Camino Real Charter High School’s (“ECRCHS”) charter petition by the Los Angeles Unified School District (“LAUSD”). We understand the substantial unrest this has caused for students, teachers, staff, and the community, and for that we truly apologize. We also acknowledge that this time has been particularly difficult, in light of the long history of high performance and success at ECRCHS. The ECRA Board and Charter School leadership are united toward the end of preserving the ECRCHS charter.

The ECRA Board wishes to act transparently, decisively, and cooperatively on matters resulting from the issuance of a Notice of Violations from LAUSD. It is for this reason that we wish to communicate the following to you:

Changes to Operations and Policies

During its Regular meetings, the ECRA Board has taken the following extraordinary actions to ensure good fiscal management and oversight going forward:

- Revoking all credit and charge cards from employees, except one card that remains on campus and vendor-specific cards used by shop and home economics teachers, severely curtailing spending and drastically limiting spending limits.
- Hiring a respected statewide entity to review our fiscal systems, make recommendations for changes, and train staff
- Prohibiting the purchase of alcohol, or any items related to the consumption of alcohol, with Charter School funds
- Requiring that all out of state travel must be approved by the ECRA Board Travel Committee prior to the trip.
- Prohibiting air travel on first class, business class, economy plus, and other similar fare classes
- Prohibiting meals paid for with Charter School funds from occurring off campus, except those where students are present or those associated with out of town travel

The list above is not exclusive; it highlights some of the major changes that the Board has made. The ECRA Board remains confident that these items, along with its lengthy and detailed Response to the Notice of Violations, will provide substantial evidence that all items have been remedied.

Transitions in the Fiscal and Operational Departments

The ECRA Board has also approved staff transitions in the ECRCHS fiscal and operations departments. Effective December 31, 2016 or earlier, Marshall Mayotte will no longer be ECRA’s Chief Business Officer (“CBO”). The Board sincerely appreciates Mr. Mayotte’s contributions to ECRCHS. During the next 90 days, the Board will be recruiting and selecting new staff. We anticipate splitting the CBO position into two roles,

one focused on ECRA finances and one focused on Charter School operations. By doing this, we are creating multiple layers of oversight.

Board Actions to Ensure Checks and Balances

The Board understands that the sacred trust of the public was seriously shaken. To this end, the Board is bolstering all of its fiscal control policies, and is seeking additional independent training for the administrative team, starting with the Executive Director, to provide insights and systematic recommendations for best practices.


Additionally, the Board and Mr. Fehte wish to communicate that Mr. Fehte has agreed to restructure his contract (resulting in a reduction of base salary and contract term and establishment of performance benchmarks), as a sign of moving forward. Mr. Fehte is fully committed to taking all necessary steps to restore any lost confidence in the Charter School and in himself as the Executive Director. Further, the Board wishes to assure the public that it is committed to maintaining the most vigorous fiscal policies and systems of checks and balances to re-earn the highest level of trust by all stakeholders in the leadership of ECRCHS.

Transitions on the ECRA Board

The Board will be seeking to fill the vacant community representative seat within the next two months. The Board also advises the ECRCHS community that three elected seats will be open in the spring: 2 teacher representatives and 1 parent representative. The Board and staff will communicate a clear and fair election process in a timely manner.

It is our hope that the actions taken will help mend the ECRCHS community over the coming months, so that the entire community is focused on our shared goal: ensuring the success of our students.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Wasser
Board Chair



David Fehte
Executive Director