



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVISION

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June 7, 2017

Gene Straub, Board President
10535 Zelzah Avenue,
Granada Hills, CA 91344

Yvette King-Berg, Executive Director
YPI Charter Schools

Dear Board President and Ms. King-Berg,

I hope this email finds you well. I am reaching out to both of you out of concern, as the CSD has received a few anonymous phone calls in the past few weeks, regarding the three YPI Schools. Note that in all instances I have referred them back to the Complaint Procedures delineated as part of the charter petition, however during one phone call on June 7, 2017, the stakeholder stated that she had already addressed her concerns with the Executive Team and that she had felt “threatened when she voiced her concerns.” Know that such concerns aim to better understand how you and the board intends to address the following stakeholder concerns:

Monsenor Oscar Romero

One of the stakeholders stated:

1. The school administration has told staff not to mark absent students absent to be able to accrue more funding.

Questions from CSD:

- a) What is the attendance marking policy at the school and how does the school notify teachers and parents regarding the attendance policy?
- b) What is the schools process to ensure that staff is accurately inputting attendance?
- c) Who is the point person that oversees such policy?

Bert Corona Middle School

Several stakeholders have stated:

1. The school administrator has hired staff who is related to her and as a result this employee is receiving preferential treatment. Employee voiced that such employee is not fulfilling his duties and is never at his post. The caller noted that she has noticed that he is not held to the same criteria as the rest of the employees. She also stated that several employees have raised a concern in regards to a conflict of interest and bias in treatment from the school administrator towards this employee with no resolve to this issue. To this date, CSD has also received several complaints in regards to this issue.

Question from CSD:

- a) What is the policy at the school regarding nepotism? Please look into this complaint and provide an update to the CSD. What had initially been shared with school administration and stakeholders around parameters for employees who are relatives? And who is the point person that oversees such policy?

2. There is a student at the school that is related to the school administrator that travels every day from Lancaster. The student I. Gonzalez, has been given preferential treatment by allowing him to participate in sports even though he is ineligible due to his poor punctuality at the school while other students were denied participation to the same team. The caller also indicated that when he checked the records he noticed that his attendance is not reflective to the actual facts.

Question from CSD:

- a) Is I. Gonzalez related to any staff member at Bert Corona Middle School?
- b) How does leadership ensure that there is no preferential treatment in how the school administrator handles family members in relation to employment and treatment of family related students at the school?
- c) Please look into this matter and the allegation that the student had not met participation requirements and provide an update to the CSD. What is the attendance marking policy at the school in relation to sports participation? How does the school notify teachers and parents regarding the sports participation requirements and the attendance policy?
- d) What is the schools process to ensure that staff is accurately inputting attendance?
- e) Who is the point person that oversees such implementation of the attendance marking policy?

Bert Corona High School

One stakeholder has stated:

1. Parents have complained about the cheerleading coach who allegedly verbally abuses the cheerleading team and the school has not done anything about it.
2. Staff observed students playing “fitness pong” a take on the game called “beer pong” during Physical Education.

Questions from CSD:

- a) Has the school investigated such allegations? What were the findings?
- b) What is the instructional value for the students in terms of playing a game that might resemble a drinking game amongst young adults?
- c) What are the guidelines provided to staff in regards to the exposure to appropriate games, movies and activities to the students?

The CSD recognizes the difficulty that can arise when stakeholders telephone anonymously. Please look into these matters and provide a response by Friday, July 14, 2017.

Thank you.



Dr. Blanca Castillo-Alves,
Specialist
Charter Schools Division

Cc Sharon Bradley, Senior Coordinator, CSD
Emma Baquir, Fiscal Oversight Administrator, CSD