

July 31, 2012

Danny Corwin, Chair
Board of Directors
Larchmont Charter School

RE: Resignation

Dear Danny and fellow LCS Board members:

It has been my absolute privilege and honor to have served several terms as a member of the LCS Board of Directors since 2004. It is not every day that one has the opportunity to participate in the formation of a truly extraordinary institution from day one. I and my family have benefited in more ways than one from the magic of Larchmont Charter Schools: two gifted children nurtured through the schools, lasting friendships, and an enormous wealth of knowledge gained. Faced with unavoidable personal circumstances, I submit my resignation from the Board of Directors, but not without a tinge of sadness that my journey with the school has come to an end.

As I look back at the last eight years, I marvel at all the challenges that LCS has faced and overcome, sometimes with not much more than simple gumption and the willingness to take risks so that the vision of the school could live. Growth sometimes means institutionalization and the accompanying caution to protect what has been achieved. Such changes are necessary, yet I hope that LCS will also always keep its pioneering audacious spirit of the earlier years so that our mission continues to inspire others to join the quest to improve education in Los Angeles.

There are multiple communities within LCS. Some defined by geography. Others defined by race, ethnicity, class, and culture. Still others divided by the history of LCW and LCS founding. I hold dear the notion that diversity is our source of strength, but division is our greatest foe. LCS was always the strongest when its communities were united and focused on a common objective. Conversely, we are weakest when we let our differences articulate into separate priorities and interests, and when we forget that extra effort is required to truly be inclusive of all voices. I hope that the LCS Board of Directors will be the leader in bridging these differences, practicing the art of inclusive shared leadership, and truly come together to define a unified agenda that benefits all LCS communities and keeps utmost our common mission.

I hate being long winded in most situations, but I could go on forever talking about LCS because it is still dear to my heart. I leave knowing that the school is in your excellent care and with a leader in Gene Straub with whom I share a fanatic devotion to the mission of the school. I look forward to hearing about the next 100 successes of LCS. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Lee, JD