

Subject: Fwd: Information Requested

Date: Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 12:28:41 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Eva Lueck

To: Cesar Morales, Misty Key

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I mentioned you in my email below and so I wanted to share it with you. I just noticed my first sentence is repetitive...so much for fast typing..

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Eva Lueck** <evalueck@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Feb 16, 2023 at 12:25 PM

Subject: Information Requested

To: Atticus Reyes <atticus.reyes@ojaiusd.org>

Hi Atticus, as follow up to your request regarding the timing of the offer made by VCOE to assist the District and the timing -

On Friday -February 3rd, which was the end of my first week in Ojai, I met with Dr. Morales and Misty to discuss the challenges that Ojai was facing. I explained that Ryan really needed a lot of assistance...he was new to his position...new to school fund accounting.. new to understanding VCOE processes for payroll,benefits, cash deposits, etc....and he walked into a situation where records were not accurate and systems were not in place. We discussed what was needed given the time crunch for 2nd Interim reporting and the need for accuracy.

The VCOE team was going to give this some thought and we re-grouped on Tuesday afternoon via phone and developed the following plan. I and the Fiscal Expert would pull together the 2nd Interim budget, multi-year projections, and cash flow. This would be accomplished by working closely with the District staff and VCOE.

Ryan, rather than doing budget development, would be working closely with the VCOE staff to learn the various systems/processes (payroll, fringe benefits, accounts payables, cash deposits, etc.), clean up the coding on payments, do reconciliations, and clean up categorical program accounting.

Once the 2nd Interim deadlines had passed and Ryan had made progress in the areas mentioned above. We would

work with Ryan to learn budget development and the various reports.

The goal was to assist the District in meeting deadlines, having accurate data, and developing the capacity of the District staff through mentoring/training and system development.

The idea was shared with Tiffany on Wednesday Feb. 8th. She said absolutely not - she did not know me and she had never met the Fiscal Expert...she said others had done work before and it had been inaccurate and that was why they had issues now. She said they were well on their way to cleaning up the categorical programs, they would have the budgets completed by Feb. 15 for VCOE to review. She eventually stated that if we did the cash flow that would be helpful and VCOE has committed to do that if documents are received in time to do the calculations.

I had thought the proposal was a positive one, because it would really place the ownership on us to do a good job and allow her staff the gift of time to develop skills in the other areas of his job.

The Feb 15th deadline was not met and it was only through a significant amount of pressure that I was invited to attend a budget reduction meeting that Tiffany had with her leadership team (Sherrill & Angie) at 3:00 on Feb 15. Tiffany told me it was their first budget reduction meeting. If that is accurate, it is concerning since it was occurring past the timeline the final report was to be completed.

Tiffany is now saying, the 2nd Interim budget and multi-year projection information will be available on Friday the 17.

It is frustrating to not be included in the discussions. I have tried to explain it would be so much better to be part of the conversation rather than receive a new set of numbers in the 2nd Interim and have no context (detail) as to why they changed.

Tiffany explained to me that if I had meetings with Board members without her then she was not going to have me in meetings that she held. As I mentioned in our call Shelley met with Tiffany and I yesterday to discuss the need for me to be involved in budget/staffing discussion. I believe Jim had that conversation with her as well. Those conversations are the reason I was invited to the 3:00 meeting yesterday.

It is frustrating.

I hope this is responsive to your request. It should not be this hard.

Best regards, Eva