



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Hogan
President

Nicole Bergner
Vice President

Chris Campion
Treasurer

Karen Goldberg
Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

Virginia Berry

Melinda Choy

Bob Comlossy

Beth Delacour

Michelle Feeney

Tyler Fair

Ivone Larson

Matt Lucksinger

Bill Martinez

Greg Ochoa

Cinnamon Pakes

Michelle Reilly

Jeanette Riva

Kelly Shanahan

Harold Singer

Kathy Strain

Belen Urrutia

EX-OFFICIO

Del Laine
LTEF Honorary

Brooke Olivares-Laine
LTEF Honorary

Jim Tarwater
LTUSD Superintendent

Superintendent James R. Tarwater, Ed. D.
Lake Tahoe Unified School District
1021 Al Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, California 96150

June 1, 2020

Dear Jim –

On behalf of the Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation board of directors, we are writing to congratulate you on your upcoming retirement after decades of dedicated service to students in California, and particularly LTUSD.

Looking back, some of us remember your arrival in Lake Tahoe fifteen years ago when our situation was dire. Severe enrollment declines and a failed parcel tax led to closing two schools, elimination of Class Size Reduction and dozens of teacher positions, and the prospect of cuts to many more essential programs.

Little did we know when you rode into town how quickly things would change. In what has to be some kind of record, you took on not only the superintendent role, but also assistant superintendent, CFO, and principal of the Magnet school, which you managed to re-open in your first months here.

Your leadership continued through passing a school bond measure and obtaining matching funds to build state of the art facilities, especially at our high school, that are the pride of this community. Most do not know how truly amazing this was – doing project after project on schedule and in budget. You set out the vision and you made it happen.

Along the way, you helped bring us much needed technology upgrades, amazing Career Technical Education (CTE) programs, Two Way Immersion (TWI), Preppie K, enhanced alternative education, the new middle school track, and 'Friday Night Lights' - to name a few.

You may have been best known for high-5'ing Magnet School kids every morning for eight years and directing traffic at the middle school each morning and afternoon. But we who watch education closely know how deep your commitment to student safety and wellbeing runs. Kids are at the heart of all your amazing work.

The education community will surely miss the only 'Supe' most current students and



Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation

have ever known. From the Angora Fire through COVID-19, you have led our schools with a strong and sure hand that inspired confidence in troubled times. You have left LTUSD and South Lake Tahoe much better off than you found us. Thank you for your superb leadership and a truly outstanding career in education.

As you ride off into the sunset, we wish you a long and happy retirement with more time for yourself, Gina and the kids. We hope to see you at a proper retirement celebration (when appropriate) and, of course, around town and at home football and basketball games.

We will miss you JT!

Best regards,

LAKE TAHOE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Brian Hogan, President

Nicole Bergner, Vice President

Karen Goldberg, Secretary

Chris Campion, Treasurer

Ivone Larson, Past President

Beth Delacour, Funding Chair

Kathy Strain, Grants Chair

Matt Lucksinger, PR Chair

Bob Comlossy, Board Member

Michelle Reilly, Board Member

Harold Singer, Board Member