



## Board Meetings 2019-2020

7477 Kester Ave, Van Nuys CA 91405

Meeting will be held in Room # 303

07-02-2019 – 6:00PM at school site

08-14-2019 – 6:00PM at school site

09-18-2019 – 5:30PM at school site

10-23-2019 –5:30PM at school site

12-11-2019 –5:30PM at school site

1-22-2020 – 5:30PM at school site

3-18-2020 –5:30PM at school site

4-22-2020 –5:30PM at school site

5-20-2020– 5:30PM at school site

6-10-2020 - 5:00PM at school site

To contact the Board please email: [board@lashonacademy.org](mailto:board@lashonacademy.org)



## Board Members

### Maria Gennaro = Board chair

Miss Maria Gennaro started as a Kindergarten teacher in 2005 and now serves as the Director of Administrative Services for a charter school. Miss Gennaro holds a M.A. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and a B.A. in Liberal Studies, a Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential and an Administrative Credential.

"Education is a passion of mine and I strive to create an environment that is conducive to the development of every child: mentally, physically, and emotionally. In everything that I do, I incorporate my favorite quote: 'Believe deep down in your heart that you are destined to do great things.'" -Miss Gennaro

### Jim Tolle = VP

**Jim Tolle** is an American pastor, small college president, and radio host based in Los Angeles. He began his ministry with the well-known pastor, Dr. Jack W. Hayford and eventually served as Senior Pastor at The Church On The Way, a very well known congregation in the city, which became one of the largest multicultural churches in the United States. Today, he pastors El Camino Metro Church, a multi-ethnic congregation, which offers services in both Spanish and English. Having begun the church in 2013, it has grown to many thousands of members and has become an incubator for new leaders to begin 40 other churches

### Rivka Dori = Secretary

For over forty years I have been involved with language education {L1 (first language), L2 (second/Heritage language), and foreign language} in many educational settings. I am interested in both, the theories of language acquisition, as well as, the practice of language acquisition. Fortunately, my work at the Hebrew Union College and the University of Southern California has enabled me to inquire, experiment, and teach in these areas. I became aware of the power of languages as markers of group affiliation, as integral part of people's self-identity, and as an agent for diversity and tolerance. I believe that the success or failure of Hebrew Education outside of the State of Israel depends on both, attitudes towards Israel and its culture, as well as, on successful approaches, methods, programs, and techniques. I recommend that Hebrew language educators adopt the Learners' Centered approach to language education in order to explore their students' attitudes and specific needs, and to adopt the Proficiency approach. One additional area Hebrew language educators need to explore is the new emerging technologies and their effect on language education.

### Mendy Groner = Treasurer

Mendy Groner is a film producer and director. Mendy built a specialized, commercial studio in Cape Town, partnering with Moonlighting Films - the South African company responsible for films like, *Ali* starring Will Smith, *Blood Diamond* starring Leonardo DiCaprio, *10,000 BC* directed by Roland Emmerich and *Invictus* starring Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon and directed by Clint Eastwood. Mendy then founded a production company specifically to produce feature films for a global audience that have strong commercial appeal while at the same time foster greater understanding between different cultures, people and religions of the world.

### Avi Wagner = VP

Avi Wagner is an attorney with a broad-based business litigation practice encompassing a variety of contract and business tort disputes. Since a young age Avi has studied Hebrew and also became conversant in Italian through university studies and working in a law firm in Rome, Italy. After graduating from Georgetown University Law Center in 2002, Avi has successfully litigated in state and federal trial courts, federal bankruptcy courts, and state and federal appellate courts across the United States, including California, New York, New Jersey, Texas and Indiana.