

February 8, 2023

Minutes of the Lawrence Alliance for Education Board – LAE

The Lawrence Alliance for Education Board meeting was held in person at the South Lawrence East Educational Complex Auditorium with the following members present: Jessica Andors, Executive Director for the Lawrence Community Works, Maria Moeller, CEO/The Community Group, Patricia Mariano, Chair. Remote Present: (Virtual) Dr. Noemi Custodia-Lora, Vice President of Northern Essex Community College Lawrence Campus, and (Virtual) Julia Silverio, Silverio Insurance, Absent: Mayor Brian De Peña

Also in person, was Interim Superintendent Juan Rodriguez and Maria L. Campusano, Recording Secretary for this meeting.

Chair Mariano, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The Chair called Mr. Homayoun Maali to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment: Chair Mariano explained what the expectation of public participation is and how it is conducted, she called the following:

- Homayoun Maali, Lawrence resident. Spoke about a passage of “Nelson Mandela related to education the most powerful weapon to change the world” referencing that change is only possible by supporting the teachers and their union. He also addressed the importance of hiring the best leader who supports the teachers, their unions, and the paraprofessionals.

Chair Mariano took the opportunity to thank the LPS family for the outpouring of support and kindness shown to her during the recent passing of her husband Nelson.

Chair Mariano, welcomed Interim Superintendent Juan Rodriguez to his first meeting with the board, adding that the board is committed to work alongside him during the next months to support the students, families, and staff.

Interim Superintendent Updates:

- Interim Superintendent, Juan Rodriguez thanked LPS operations and the facility team for responding during the extreme cold weather of Friday and Saturday, for quickly mediating issues which allowed the schools regular operations on Monday. Thanked the staff for answering the call when they were needed.
- Attendance Update: Interim Superintendent provided a powerpoint presentation showcasing the district enrollment which currently has 13,432 students explaining that this number should be stable until the end of the school year. The presentation was followed by a historical description by grade level, classification of students representation, attendance metrics, and a review of what chronic absenteeism is.
- Acceleration Academies: Emma Ploucha Belzaa, Acting Director of Curriculum and Instruction provided a powerpoint presentation showcasing February academy. Reviewed the instructional vision, 2023 program highlights, program overview, enrollment allocations, staffing and an example of student schedules.
- School Quality Review (SQR): Melissa Spash, Assistant Superintendent, provided a powerpoint presentation with an update of SQR including what the process is, what it is, goals, principles, rubric framework, and a timeline of the ratings and summary report.

- Grants Update: Christopher Heath, Grants/Title I Director. Provided a powerpoint presentation on ESSER I, II, III grant funds update. He explained that in ESSER I, 100% of all allocations were utilized. Esser II, all funds were done and allocated to the Lawrence Public Schools. Esser III allocations will be done by SY 2024.

VOTED: To approve the first reading of the job description for Deputy Superintendent, and to table it until the next meeting for a vote

Vote: Upon the motion made by Chair Patricia Mariano to approve the job description first reading for Deputy Superintendent and to table it to the next meeting for a vote; So moved by Jessica Andors; Seconded by Maria Moeller.

Chair Mariano made the following edits to the Deputy Superintendent job description prior to the vote taking place: to add, *advise and counsel the Superintendent in all areas of the Deputy Superintendent responsibilities and recommend actions; eliminate serve as a primary supervisor and evaluator for district principals , and add other duties as assigned.*

The Vote
 Yes - Jessica Andors
 No - Julia Silverio
 Yes - Maria Moeller
 Yes - Noemi Custodia-Lora
 Yes - Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the December 14, 2022 meeting.

Vote: Upon the motion made by Chair Mariano to approve the minutes of December 14, 2022 meeting; So moved by Julia Silverio; Seconded by Jessica Andors

The Vote
 Yes - Jessica Andors
 Yes - Julia Silverio
 Yes - Maria Moeller
 Yes - Noemi Custodia-Lora
 Yes - Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the December 20, 2022 meeting.

Vote: Upon the motion made by Chair Mariano to approve the minutes of

December 20, 2022; So moved by Julia Silverio; Seconded by Maria Moeller

The Vote Abstain - Jessica Andors
 Yes - Julia Silverio
 Yes - Maria Moeller
 Yes - Noemi Custodia-Lora
 Yes - Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 7:43p.m.

Vote: Upon the motion made by Chair Mariano to adjourn the meeting at 7:43p.m, So moved by Jessica Andors; Seconded by Julia Silverio

The Vote Yes - Jessica Andors
 Yes - Julia Silverio
 Yes - Maria Moeller
 Yes - Noemi Custodia-Lora
 Yes - Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

Mr. Juan Rodriguez, Interim Superintendent
Date: