

May 8, 2019

Minutes of the Lawrence Alliance for Education Board

A meeting of the Lawrence Alliance for Education Board was held this evening at 6:00 P.M. in the North Common Educational Complex Library, 233 Haverhill Street, with the following members present:, Julia Silverio, Lawrence City Councilor and local business owner, Jessica Andors, Executive Director for Lawrence Community Works, Patricia Mariano, Lawrence School Committee member, Dr. Noemi Custodia-Lora, VP of NECC Lawrence Campus, Chairman John Connolly, Chair of the 1647, Inc., and Elma “Gabby” Taveras, Student Representative for the board. Absent was: Honorable Dan Rivera, Mayor of Lawrence and Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, Associate Commission for statewide support DESE. Also present was Mrs. Joan Milone, as the Recording Secretary for this meeting.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6:27 P.M. by the Chair, Mr. John Connolly – he then held the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Connolly welcomed the board members and the audience.

State Seal of Biliteracy – Superintendent Paris introduced Carlos Cameron, teacher of the Upper School Academy, who provided the background for this distinction (high school graduates who achieve high academic levels of proficiency in English and a foreign language). This year/First year, 38 students earned this State Seal/13 students with distinction.

The Superintendent and LAE Board recognized each of the 15 students in attendance with a Certificate of Achievement.

II. Public Comment

Homayan Maale, 53 Chester Street – He addressed the board in the progress of the district. He also requested their support for the proposed 2019-20 school calendar and for their support for the teachers and the union.

Chairman Connolly recognized and congratulated the newly elected Lawrence Teachers’ Union officials in attendance. Kim Barry, LTU President, Lori Burnham/Trish Woolley, VPs; Kathy Delaney, Treasurer, Cheryl Travis, Financial Secretary; Mindy Richardson, Recording Secretary and Jim Cahill, Correspondence Secretary. Ms. Barry said a few words on behalf of the LTU.

III. New Business

Superintendent’s Report

- English Learner Education Report – Kinnon Foley, Director of ELLs, presented an ELs presentation by PowerPoint and detailed information on: Who are the English

Learners, What does EL Education look like, How is EL Education evaluated and What's new in EL Education?

Ms. Foley answered the questions of the LAE Board.

- Information Systems & Technology Report – Long Nguyen, Director for IS&T, provided his report with a PowerPoint presentation, which included: Adding more Chromebooks to schools, Deploying laptops to teachers, PowerSchool Parent/Student Portals, and E-rate Funding applications.
- Student Services Report – Mary Toomey, Assistant Superintendent, provided a PowerPoint presentation to provide detail on the new vision for Student Services. She provided information on what Student Services focuses and provides for the district - Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTII), Students' Health and Wellness, School Counseling, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Special Education. She provided detail of the district's focus on each of the items for SY19-20's Special Education redesign.

Ms. Toomey answered the questions of the LAE Board. Superintendent Paris will provide this presentation to the School Committee at their June meeting.

IV. Report of the Chair

- Budget Process Debrief - Mr. Connolly opened his report in noting the FY'20 Proposed Budget was approved at the April 30, 2019 meeting to go before the City Council for their approval. He will debrief with DESE, the LAE Board and Superintendent for their opinion on this year's budget process to determine how to implement next year's budget process and he will outline the proposed process at the June 12 meeting.

Ms. Andors requested that an invitation be sent to parents for next year's Budget Hearing.

Mr. Connolly noted Karla Baehr, former Lowell Public Schools Superintendent and mentor for the Superintendent Paris as part of the New Superintendent Induction Program, was in attendance.

Minutes

Upon the recommendation of the Chair, motion made by Julia Silverio, seconded by Patricia Mariano, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the March 13, 2019 Regular Minutes as submitted.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair, motion made by Patricia Mariano, seconded by Julia Silverio, it was

VOTED: To approve the April 25, 2019 Regular Minutes, as submitted.

The Vote: Yes – Julia Silverio
 Abstain – Jessica Andors
 Yes – Patricia Mariano
 Yes – Noemi Custodia-Lora
 Yes – John Connolly

Upon the recommendation of the Chair, motion made by Julia Silverio, seconded by Jessica Andors, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the April 30, 2019 Regular Minutes, as submitted.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair, motion made by Patricia Mariano, seconded by Jessica Andors, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:10 P.M.

John Connolly, Chairman