

January 9, 2019

Minutes of the Lawrence Alliance for Education Board

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

Also present was Superintendent Cynthia Paris and Joan Milone, Recording Secretary for this meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M. by the Chair, Mr. John Connolly; he then held the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

None

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Paris noted the achievement of the LHS Boys' Basketball Team who won the Christmas Basketball Tournament. She also noted she attended her 5th session out of 8 Superintendent Institute, which is a 3-year program and thanked the Board for their support in allowing her to attend.

Report of the Chair

Chair Connolly noted the Board just attended a DESE training on the Superintendent's Evaluation process. The Superintendent will provide a report of her 100-day tour and will present her Goals to implement the Superintendent Evaluation process.

High School Accreditation Update

Michael Fiato, Headmaster and Rich Gorman, Chair of the LHS Accreditation Steering Committee presented the update including the process before, during and after the scheduled visit by NEAS&C, with a PowerPoint presentation and then answered questions of the Board.

Jessica Andors arrived at 6:10 P.M.

The Board suggested they be informed (snapshot form) of the campus' critical strengths and needs the Steering Committee has determined so they can be a productive support during the NEAS&C visit.

Chair Connolly noted that LTU members Kim Barry and Laurie Burnham were in attendance.

Appointment of Student Representative for LAE – Chair Connolly noted that DESE informed the Board that a Student Representative is required by law to be nominated to participate at the LAE meetings. It is a non-voting representative who will only attend its regular meetings. He provided the process taken to receive the student recommendations. After the Chair sought the opinions from Jess Andors, Mayor Rivera, the Superintendent and DESE between the last two candidates, the nominee chosen was Alma “Gabby” Taveras, a High School Learning Center high school student. Chair Connolly provided Ms. Taveras’ background in school and extracurricular activities.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair, motion be Jess Andors, seconded by Ventura Rodriguez, it was unanimously

VOTED: To nominate Alma Taveras to be the student representative for the LAE Board.

Fiscal Update – Christine Bufagna, Chief Financial Officer, provided an update for the fiscal budget and answered questions of the Board.

Superintendent Evaluation Process – Chair Connolly referenced the DESE’s PowerPoint presentation from their training in Executive Session on the Superintendent’s Evaluation process and the Superintendent’s Self-Assessment/Goals and noted that the evaluation process began at the November meeting when the Superintendent reported on her “Goals”. In February, she will present “Goals” for the Board to approve, which will drive the Superintendent’s Evaluation process. He asked that the Board review these “Goals” carefully and provide input to implement the final document for the February meeting. A timeline has to be set by the Board for this Evaluation cycle. There are three options: 7 month-cycle ending June 2019; 9 month-cycle ending September 2019 or 12-month cycle ending in December 2019. The Board discussed the scenarios for each cycle to work best for the district’s schedule and Superintendent’ contract renewal.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair, motion was made by Jess Andors, seconded by Noemi Custodia-Lora, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve a 9-month evaluation cycle that will run to September, 2019.

Budget Guidelines – Chair Connolly noted that there will be discussion tonight but the Board will vote on this at the February meeting. Superintendent Paris presented the Budget Guidelines for FY’20, which specifies its process and its priorities. Chair Connolly will designate a LAE budget subcommittee who will be involved throughout the budget process prior to the vote in

April. Discussion included whether this budget would allow IEPs to be translated to Spanish, the need for revenue/unit clarity, the need for more resources/investment in the Family Resource Center, a capital improvement plan and that board be updated on the budget implementation and its priorities.

LAE Work Plan & Priorities – Chair Connolly noted this document was provided at the last meeting.

Adoption of Minutes

Upon the recommendation of the Chair and motion made by Mayor Dan Rivera, seconded by Ventura Rodriguez, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Regular Minutes of the November 14, 2018 meeting.

Miscellaneous

Mayor Rivera inquired on the status of the Turnaround process. Chair Connolly explained that the pieces currently in motion i.e., Superintendent Goals, Superintendents Evaluation and Budget Process are the prerequisites to the Turnaround Plan.

Upon the motion made by Patricia Mariano, seconded by Mayor Rivers, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

John Connolly, Chair