

February 12, 2020

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, Julia Silverio, Lawrence City Councilor and local business owner and Jessica Andors, Executive Director for Lawrence Community Works, Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, Associate Commission for statewide support DESE, Dr. Noemi Custodia-Lora, VP of NECC Lawrence Campus and Chairman John Connolly, Executive Director of The 1647, Inc. Patricia Mariano, Lawrence School Committee Member attended the meeting via phone.

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

The Chair, John Connolly, called the meeting to order at 6:20 P.M

I. Pledge of Allegiance

John Connolly held the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Public Participation

No Public Participation.

Chair Connolly recommended a vote to move the item of Student Representative to be the first item on the agenda.

Upon the motion made by Mayor Dan Rivera, seconded by Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, it was Unanimously

VOTED: To move the item of Student Representative to be the first item on the agenda.

Jessica Andors provide an overview of the selection process for the student representative. This student provided a great application and the selection subcommittee recommended Joseph Trinidad.

Upon the motion made by Jessica Andors, seconded by Mayor Dan Rivera, it was unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Joseph Trinidad, a senior at the Upper School as the LAE Board student representative.

III. New Business

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Paris opened in providing the district highlights: LHS Accreditation Celebration; Headmaster search in which two semi-finalists have been elected. She will keep the board informed of the next steps and anticipates selecting the selection of the finalist in March.

- Oliver School Building Project – Deborah Morai opened the presentation with the update on the development of the PSR (Preferred Schematic Report). There has been more research into the options (736-student option of the OPS, the Stone Mill and the Gateway). The concerns about the optional site locations have been brought forward. Alex Picken from the design team SMMA continued with the presentation adding that additional information was gathered from the Stone Mill site, such as soil characterizations, which has been discussed with the Building Committee. Cost estimations were engaged with the additional information, such as escalations and design specifications. He noted that the Building Committee voted to take pause with support for further research into the environmental background at the Stone Mill and for the MSBA process at the Oliver site. The Committee will probably vote to move forward for the Oliver site with the 736-student capacity, grades 1-8. Mayor Rivera and Building Committee member commented that the Committee has requested more financial information from the design team before they can make a decision of either pivoting to the Oliver School or continue with the Stone Mill. Superintendent Paris added that the option of pivoting would mean not satisfying the educational plan, loss of seats and disrupting and relocating students. She needs to advocate for the educational plan based on the district's needs now and in the future. Members noted the need to find other options. Mr. Picken explained that he anticipates the MSBA would recommend continuing through the Phase 2 analysis before overcommitting to the schematic design. Jessica Andors stated that the costs to confirm the use of the Stone Mill is worth it to make an informed decision. Julia Silverio encouraged the Building Committee to compare the sites simultaneously and requested they research back to the construction of the Gateway for the pertinent records. Ms. Silverio suggested reaching out further from the Oliver School to the Senior Center for additional space for renovation.
- Budget Overview Process – John Connolly explained that this the overview process not the substance of the budget. Superintendent Paris provided a PowerPoint presentation beginning with a summary / forecast of the FY21 budget; the proposed Budget Guidelines, which lists the FY21 budget priorities: Student Achievement, Support Services and Engagement (align the Superintendent's Goals); School Planning Meetings are with the school's leader to review their school-based budgets. She noted two, additional LAE Board meetings scheduled on March 10 and 31 to discuss for vote for the Student Opportunity Act whose deadline is April 1. Superintendent Paris asked Masiel Jordan to provide the Chapter 70 funding process and Net School Spending. She provided a slide with information on the Student Opportunity Act, which makes a \$1.5 billion investment in public education based

on the approval of a 3-year, evidence based plan to be submitted by April 1 by all districts for approval by the Commissioner.

Members noted the importance to integrate the engagement process for the Student Opportunity Act and the Turnaround Plan. Superintendent Paris noted the complexity of the process and will provide the design established with the stakeholder groups. The Superintendent also noted that the Budget would be internally template as close to the City's budget as possible. Mayor Rivera requested a draft of the template.

Chair Connolly noted that a SOA Budget Hearing will be held on March 10, Regular meeting on March 11 and a SOA Budget Hearing on March 31 to meet the April 1 SOA submission deadline.

- SY21 Student/Family Calendar – Superintendent Paris presented the proposed FY21 school year calendar, which is in the same format as the FY20 calendar. The only difference is an additional ½ day on December 23, 2020. There was collaboration from the principals, CO leaders and LTU leadership and the EMOs have reviewed the calendar.

Report of the Chair

- Turnaround Plan Update / Earned Autonomy Framework – Chair Connolly introduced Erica Alvarez Warner, representing Lauren Woo, DESE to answer any questions related to DESE. He provided an overview presentation on the two major initiatives for the LAEs approval in June, the Earned Autonomy Framework and the Turnaround Plan Renewal. There are two consultants, Great Schools Partnership (GSP) is the consultant for the Turnaround Plan who will lead the stakeholder engagement process and Center for Public Research and Leadership (CPRL) is the consultant for Earned Autonomy Framework who will gather community input to create a Framework to assess school progress. He presented the schedule of the processes until the LAE's anticipated approval.

Joseph Trinidad inquired how the students would be involved in providing their input. Chair Connolly requested that he be the Student Representative for the Joint Subcommittee.

Chair Connolly invited Great Schools to present on the process it will follow in the Turnaround Plan stakeholder engagement process. Moe Nunez, Senior Associate for Great Schools, provided an overview for the process including the stakeholder groups, the method of engagement, the process timelines and the approach to gather indirect/direct data from the stakeholders.

Jess Andors noted that the subcommittee thought the Great Schools should contact the School Committee.

Chair Connolly invited CPRL to present on the process it will follow in building LPS an Earned Autonomy Framework. Maddie Simms, Project Director, presented an introduction to CPRL and an overview of the Earned Autonomy Framework that will enable Lawrence to collect, analyze and act upon school-level data needed to support decisions around

autonomies, supports and interventions. Chair Connolly will create an opportunity for to connect with the Commissioner and previous leadership to understand the previous open architecture program. Dr. Rodriguez pointed out the CPRL model is very interesting. Ms. Simms added that communities use school culture/environment as criteria beyond test scores to evaluate. This and teacher surveys will be included as additional measurements in the process.

School Choice SY20-21 – Chair Connolly noted the required vote based on the Education Reform Act of 1993 whether a school district in Massachusetts will participate in School Choice.

Upon the recommendation made by the Chair, and motion made by Mayor Daniel Rivera, seconded by Julia Silverio, it was unanimously

VOTED: To NOT participate in the School Choice Program for the 2020-2021 school year.

Other Business

- Approval of Minutes

Upon the recommendation made by the Chair, and motion made by Mayor Daniel Rivera, seconded by Julia Silverio, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Regular Minutes for the November 13, 2019 LAE Meeting as submitted.

Upon the recommendation made by the Chair, and motion made by Mayor Daniel Rivera, seconded by Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Regular Minutes for the December 11, 2019 LAE Meeting as submitted.

Upon the recommendation made by the Chair, and motion made by Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, seconded by Mayor Daniel Rivera, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Executive Session Minutes for the January 8, 2020 LAE Meeting as submitted.

Upon the recommendation made by the Chair, and motion made by Julia Silverio seconded by Noemi Custodia-Lora, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Regular Minutes for the January 8, 2020 LAE Meeting as submitted.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair and motion made by Julia Silverio, seconded by Noemi Custodia-Lora, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:40 P.M.
meeting.

John Connolly, Chair