

June 12, 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 South Lawrence East Educational Complex Library, 165 Crawford 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 and Patricia Mariano, Lawrence School Committee member. Absent were: Julia Silverio, Lawrence City Councilor and local business owner, Dr. Noemi Custodia-Lora, VP of NECC Lawrence Campus and Chairman John Connolly, Chair of the 1647, Inc. Also present was Mrs. Joan Milone, as the Recording Secretary for this meeting.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Ventura Rodriguez called the meeting at 6:10 P.M. by the– he then held the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Public Participation

Homayan Maalé, 53 Chester Street – He addressed the board on the leadership and 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.

Jessica Andors arrived at 6:14 PM.

III. New Business

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Paris noted some of the amazing district highlights including: LHS Graduation of over 700 students, 34 teachers who received advanced / master awards and 17 Para Program graduates who can now interview for Paraprofessional positions in the district.

- Review of Attendance and Family Engagement Policies – Denise Snyder, Deputy Assistant Superintendent provided a PowerPoint presentation in which she provided the process and collaboration in implementing the policies for Family Engagement and the proposed changes for the Student Attendance Policy.

Mayor Rivera is concerned on the Student Attendance policy's complexity and suggested the condensing the policy to one page for easier reference and understanding. Patricia Mariano suggested training for parents on the school portals.

- Superintendent Mid-Year Review – Ventura Rodriguez reviewed the process in that the LAE Board adopted a 9-month evaluation cycle, which began with the Superintendent's Assessment and the presentation of the Superintendent's Plan. This year's evaluation will conclude in September with the Board providing their evaluations to the Chair, who

will compile their results. Superintendent Paris provided her update with a mid-year review of her progress to date for Professional Practice, District Improvement and Student Learning.

- CREST Board – Ventura Rodriguez recommended to the Board for the approval that the Superintendent participate on the CREST (Collaborative for Regional Education Services & Training) Board.

Upon the recommendation made by Dr. Rodriguez, there was a motion made by Mayor Rivera, seconded by Patricia Mariano, and was unanimously

VOTED: To approve Superintendent Paris to participate on the CREST Board.

Report of the Chair

- External Management Organizations Update – The LPS district has a partnership with four outside organizations who manage a number of the district's schools. The MOU's for these organizations will expire on June 30, 2019. In order to have further discussion to renew these agreements, the Superintendent and the organizations would like an extension until August 15, 2019. The members requested separate votes for each organizations' MOU.

Upon the recommendation made by Dr. Rodriguez and motion made by Patricia Mariano, seconded by Mayor Rivera, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the extension between Lawrence Family Development, Inc. and the LPS for services related SISU Center/RISE Academy Program.

Upon the recommendation made by Dr. Rodriguez and motion made by Mayor Rivera, seconded by Patricia Mariano, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the extension between UP Education Network and the LPS.

Upon the recommendation made by Dr. Rodriguez and motion made by Mayor Rivera, seconded by Patricia Mariano, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the extension between Lawrence Family Development, Inc. and the LPS for services related Lawrence Family Public Academy.

Upon the recommendation made by Dr. Rodriguez and motion made by Jessica Andors, seconded by Patricia Mariano, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the extension between Community Day Care Lawrence, Inc. and the LPS.

Ms. Mariano requested data for the CDA students' achievement be provided to the members.

Minutes

Upon the recommendation made by Dr. Rodriguez, motion made by Jessica Andors, seconded by Mayor Rivera, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the May 8, 2019 Regular Minutes as submitted.

Members discussed the process to follow to implement the agenda and addendums for the new school year. Dr. Rodriguez suggested that a proposal for the process be presented at the August meeting. The members also discussed when and where to hold the LAE meetings for the new school year, and it was decided to discuss it further at the August 14 meeting.

Upon the recommendation made by Dr. Rodriguez, motion made by Patricia Mariano, seconded by Jessica Andors, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 7:40 P.M.

Ventura Rodriguez, Acting Chair