

June 25, 2020

Minutes of the Lawrence Alliance for Education Board

A virtual meeting of the Lawrence Alliance for Education Board was held at 2:00 P.M. with the following members present: Honorable Dan Rivera, Mayor of Lawrence, Julia Silverio, Lawrence City Councilor and local business owner, Jessica Andors, Executive Director for Lawrence Community Works, Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, Associate Commissioner 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.

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

The Chair, John Connolly, called the meeting to order at 2:02 P.M

1. Pledge of Allegiance

John Connolly held the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Participation

No public comment.

3. Superintendent's Report

Remote Learning Update – Superintendent Paris provided a PowerPoint presentation including the data/percentage of the number of students who log in for remote learning and the percentage by school(s). The Superintendent explained that the data is based on the student had logged in “at least” once per day in 7 days (last week of school) and once over the last (June) month. The members requested to gather the data based on how the student logs in (email vs. ID).

Superintendent Paris provided examples of a remote learning tracker for both elementary and high school, which provided detailed information of communication between teachers and students/families pertaining to school work and also personal information based on situation. Members noted the data shows the lack of remote learning for many families and the district's need for students to return to school as soon as possible. Members suggested in the case that remote learning continues that the dashboard be improved to show more detail. Summer school data could provide additional information on the remote learning. Superintendent Paris noted Lawrence's data is similar with many districts nearby and within Massachusetts; she will continue to gather information as she meets with various districts' Superintendents. The Chair requested the Superintendent provide the LAE members with a chart by students/grade levels with the 7-day week-by-week averages, which could provide information on the consistency.

Earned Autonomy Framework – Chair Connolly reviewed the EA Overview he provided the members prior to this meeting. He reviewed the outline for the process (same process as Phase I) for Phase II of Earned Autonomy: 1. Target Setting for indicators in the dashboard (August 2021) and 2. Applying Autonomies (June 2021) each with working groups including staff, principals and an LAE member w/hired consultants. He reviewed a workflow chart for phase 2.

The Target Setting working group will provide a rating of autonomies, menu system, how to apply the autonomies and a timeline for implementation for the coming year. He asked the members support in order to start the process and to implement the working groups.

Superintendent Paris noted she and her leadership team hadn't enough time to review this document and asked that she and her team have the opportunity to review the process in July and if needed make an amendment at the August meeting.

Mayor Rivera and Jessica Andors left the meeting at 3:00 P.M.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair and motion made by Patricia Mariano, seconded by Ventura Rodriguez, it was

VOTED: To adopt the Phase II process as outlined in the provided document.

The Vote: Absent – Mayor Dan Rivera
Yes – Julia Silverio
Absent – Jessica Andors
Yes – Ventura Rodriguez
Yes – Patricia Mariano
Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora
Yes – John Connolly, Chair

School Closure/Covid-19 Response Update - Superintendent Paris updated the Board noting that she and her leadership team continue to meet with the stakeholders. A task force will be implemented to support the district's operations for opening of school. A social/emotional task force has already been implemented to support students, parents, and the community needs in the coming months.

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

VOTED: To go into Executive Session to discuss the contract for the Cafeteria Workers' bargaining agreement at 3:05 P.M.

The Vote: Yes – Julia Silverio
Yes – Ventura Rodriguez
Yes – Patricia Mariano
Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora
Yes – John Connolly, Chair

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

VOTED: To come out of Executive Session at 3:20 P.M.

The Vote: Yes – Julia Silverio
Yes – Ventura Rodriguez
Yes – Patricia Mariano
Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora
Yes – John Connolly, Chair

Upon the recommendation of Chair Connolly, a motion was made by Patricia Mariano, seconded by Julia Silverio, and was

VOTED: To approve the proposed collective bargain agreement between LPS and the Local Cafeteria Workers, Local 3, as submitted.

The Vote: Yes – Julia Silverio
Yes – Dr. Ventura Rodriguez
Yes – Patricia Mariano
Yes – Noemi Custodia-Lora
Yes – John Connolly, Chair

Superintendent Paris expressed her appreciation to the LPS staff who have met and went above expectations.

Chair Connolly noted his appointment of Ventura Rodriguez as Chair of the Earned Autonomy Subcommittee along with Patricia Mariano and Mayor Dan Rivera as members of this subcommittee.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair and motion made by Ventura Rodriguez, seconded by Julia Silverio, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 3:30 P.M.

John Connolly, Chair