

September 8, 2021

## Minutes of the Lawrence Alliance for Education Board – LAE

The Lawrence Alliance for Education Board meeting was held in person at the South Lawrence East School Auditorium with the following members present: Jessica Andors, Executive Director for the Lawrence Community Works, Patricia Mariano, Lawrence School Committee member, Julia Silverio, Dr. Noemi Custodia-Lora, VP of NECC Lawrence Campus, Maria Moeller, Chief Executive Office, Community Group, Lawrence, Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, Chair.

Also present was Superintendent Cynthia Paris and Maria L. Campusano, Recording Secretary for this meeting.

Absent: Daniel Rivera, MA, Development

Chair, Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m. He held the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence to honor the fallen soldier and LHS Alumni Johanny Rodriguez.

Dr. Rodriguez, also acknowledged returning back to have the meeting in person, and welcomed new board member Maria Moeller, Chief Executive Office, Community Group, Lawrence.

### Public comment: Dr. Rodriguez called the following:

1. Mr. H-Maali, 53 Chester St, Lawrence, MA

Superintendent for her excellent job in overcoming the challenges of the pandemic, 100 days in listening sessions with the LPS community, creating policy to improve parent and community engagement. Cited a quote by Horace Mann: "Education the most powerful equalizer to overcome cultural, and economical barriers; cited a quote by Nelson Mandela: "Education the powerful weapon to change the world...."

2. Mr. Danny Suriel, 14 Plymouth Ter, Methuen, MA

Shared his experiences at the Up Leonard School where he pointed being proud of working with a network coworker that allowed the autonomies about what was best for specific families, specific community needs, incoming ELL students adding systems and policies to address those needs. Also, the experience of families who had perspectives and opinions, coming from a level 4 to a level 1 school, in addition, to building character and seeing student's growth, seeing suspension decreased

3. Mr. Cesar Gonzalez, 140 Common St, Lawrence, MA

Shared his experiences of having his three children attending the Up Leonard which has been a great one. Shared an example of his oldest daughter assigned to the Up Leonard, begging for his daughter not to be assigned there because of the school reputation; however, someone said to give the school a chance because of a charter school model being implemented at the time. Then, I decided to leave my daughters there. Later one, talked to other parents about the school. The models, the program, the teachers, all working there, consider everyone as a family. Expressed a concern of still having his younger daughter and how other changes may affect her.

4. Andrea Uribe 140 Common St, Lawrence, MA

Very proud that her daughters came from the Leonard school, very proud of the fact that they have taught her daughters to stand up for themselves. Talked about daughter assisting Central Catholic High School and wanting her younger daughter to have the same opportunities. Also want other children to aspire for college careers.

### Superintendent Updates

- Acknowledged LHS hosting a ceremony for two medals of honor recipients' veterans from Vietnam and Afghanistan at the HS, students were very engaged in asking questions especially about the Vietnam veteran whose story is being told Horace Combat; also, thinking and honoring Johanny Rosario.
- Schools opened last week, lots of preparations weeks in advance and it showed. Opportunity to visit some of the schools, one of the pre-school visits, shared an example having a conversation with a student in kindergarten. Middle schools shared an example that there was not butter in the corn etc.
- Summer programing, the numbers served 2,300 hundred students of summer students of which 300 were students extended school year; with special needs, summer program was paired with partners to incorporate enrichment activities
- Highlights of attendance: first day of school attendance was 84%, it was ½ day. Last year was 81 and the prior year was 90%
- Transportation has been frustrating, due to shortage of drivers and 148 of students who are not in route.
- Teaching and Learning; focusing the principals this year will be in coaching
- Continue with anti-racist work, engaged with provider Black Print company which include a comprehensive audit of the entire district to make sure we are on track
- Data wise a framework that uses teachers summative and informative data to develop plans based on that data. Currently 21 schools have received this training; six other schools will receive training during the winter.
- CBI Consulting, LLC - Facilities update. It will cost \$126.2 million to repair all 14-air conditioning with a 4% rate escalation over the course of five years to 136.7 million and 151.5 million in 10 years.
- MSBA Project update.
  - VOTED: The LAE Board recommends the submission of the schematic design for the Francis Leahy Elementary School to the MSBA board.
  - The Vote
    - Yes- Jessica Andors
    - Yes- Julia Silverio
    - Yes - Maria Moeller
    - Yes - Dr. Ventura Rivera
    - Yes- Patricia Mariano
    - Yes - Noemi Cruz-Lora

- UP Network Contract Extension

VOTE: Up Education contract extension for 30 days.

Upon the motion made by Dr. Ventura: to approve extension amendment

So, move by Julia Silverio; Seconded it, by: Patricia Mariano

The Vote            Yes- Julia Silverio  
                          Yes - Maria Moeller  
                          Yes - Dr. Ventura Rivera  
                          Yes- Patricia Mariano  
                          Yes - Noemi Cruz-Lora

### **Motion Passes**

#### **Jessica Andors excused herself from the vote – has a child in one of the academy schools**

- Fiscal Update – Esser I, II, III, Grant Funds overview.
- Superintendent Summative Report
- Superintendent provided a comprehensive report which was divided by four main goals; each with supportive evidence of accomplishment during the school year. Board members will receive a form from Dr. Ventura so that they can provide feedback. This report should be ready to be approved in the next meeting.
- Dr. Ventura also suggested that the minutes of June 9<sup>th</sup> should be postponed for review on some votes and be submitted for approval with tonight's minutes on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

**VOTED:**            To adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

The Vote:            Yes- Julia Silverio  
                          Yes - Maria Moeller  
                          Yes - Dr. Ventura Rivera  
                          Yes- Patricia Mariano  
                          Yes - Noemi Cruz-Lora  
                          Yes – Jessica Andors

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Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, Chair