

September 11, 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 Julia Silverio, Lawrence City Councilor and local business owner, 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.

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

I. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair, John Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. who held a moment of silence for the victims of 9/11 and the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Public Participation

Homayan Maale, 53 Chester Street – He addressed the board and noted the 1st anniversary of the gas crisis. He requested support for the leadership, the teachers and the Teachers Union during election year.

III. New Business

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Paris opened her report with highlights of the district. The district had a strong new school year opening with school-based celebrations for new families and school-based members, the district commemorated the one-year anniversary of the gas crisis and a Triple E notification went out to families to notify that outside after school schedules would be adjusted for safety reasons.

- Fiscal Update – Marsiel Jordan, CFO, provided the fiscal update and answered the members' questions.

Jessica Andors arrived at 6:10 P.M.

- New Leadership Team Policy

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

VOTED: To adopt the Leadership Team Policy as presented.

- Facilities Update – Christopher Merlino, Director for Facilities, provided a video presentation, which detailed the repairs/renovations completed in the district schools during the summer.
- Parent to Para Program – Marianela Delacruz, Lawrence Working Families Initiative Manager and James White, Principal for the Adult Learning Center, provided a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation was informative on what the initiative provides to the community and parents, on the Para-Educator program and the next planned steps to further educate the community. The members noted their support for this program and its ongoing potential.

Mayor Rivera arrived at 6:25 P.M.

Report of the Chair

- Turnaround Plan - Chair Connolly turned the discussion over to Superintendent Paris for her review and recommendation.

Superintendent Paris noted internal conversations took place with principals and leadership to consider the current plan and still believe it is still well-aligned with priorities that assist the students' progress anticipated by the district and was designed to accelerate the progress the district requires. She recommends a renewal of the current Turnaround Plan to include new priorities such as, high school redesign with specific priorities and EMOs and autonomies criteria.

Recessed at 6:28 P.M.

Returned at 6:30 P.M.

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

VOTED: To accept the Superintendent's recommendation to renew the Turnaround Plan and thereby initiate the Turnaround renewal process in accordance with pertinent Massachusetts law and regulations.

Mayor Rivera recommended that the Plan be publically available for the community. The members are in support the Superintendent's recommendation. Jessica Andors wants to assist in the community engagement process. Ventura Rodriguez commented that a conversation including a wide-range of stakeholders would be beneficial to create different strategies to meet the results the Turnaround Plan anticipates.

Chair Connolly recognized Kim Barry, LTU President in attendance.

IV. Other Matters

- Approval of Minutes – August 14, 2019 Executive and Regular. Chair Connolly will hold the approval on the August minutes until October meeting.
- LAE Board Meeting Location - Patricia Mariano suggested that meetings be at different school locations to involve more parents. Jessica Andors supported her suggestion. Chair Connolly designated they be on a subcommittee to select meeting locations in accordance with open meeting law. He recommended they have conversations with the Superintendent and staff for aspects involved.

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 6:43 P.M.
meeting.

John Connolly, Chair