

December 9, 2020

### **Minutes of the Lawrence Alliance for Education Board**

A virtual meeting of the Lawrence Alliance for Education Board was held at 6:00 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, Patricia Mariano, Lawrence School Committee Member, Dr. Noemi Custodia-Lora, VP of NECC Lawrence Campus and Acting Chairman Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, Associate Commission for statewide support DESE.

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

The Acting Chair, Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M, and held the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Report of the Chair

Student Representative – Jessica Andors noted it was a hard decision based on the three great candidates. After reviewing each candidate’s statement essay, Ashley Dominguez was selected feeling she would be strong advocate for students and families.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair, a motion was made by Jessica Andors and seconded by Julia Silverio, it was

VOTED: To approve Ashley Dominguez as the Student Representative for the LAE Board.

Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora

Yes – Jessica Andors

Yes – Patricia Mariano

Yes – Julia Silverio

Yes – Ventura Rodriguez

Ashley will be invited to participate on the LAE Board beginning at the next meeting.

Turnaround Plan/Earned Autonomy Update – Ventura Rodriguez provided a brief update stating that these are important work of the district. About one year ago, the Board approved the renewal of the current Turnaround Plan. The TAP subcommittee will meet next week to continue its work. The Earned Autonomy subcommittee has recently met. The Earned Autonomy goals are using the core of the open architecture model and not access or review by just the State matrix

but through quality school reviews and family surveys. The next step is designing the details of the process. This discussion will continue at the January meeting.

Mayor Dan Rivera joined the meeting at 6:10 P.M.

### Superintendent's Report

- MSBA Oliver schematic Design Project Approval – Odanis Hernandez, Acting Chief Operating Officer, provide an update on the process and submission for the OPS schematic design submission to the MSBA by the end of December 2020. She introduced Alex Pitkin of SMMA, who provided a presentation of the OPS design which would be submitted to the MSBA with the approval of the LAE Board. He opened the discussion to questions from the Board. The Board was concerned with the parking situation.

The Chair noted that the Board's approval is to support the schematic design to be submitted to the Mayor and the LPS Building Committee representative for final review.

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

The Vote: To approve the Schematic Design Submittal for submission to the MSBA in accordance with the presentation at this Meeting dated December 9, 2020 which report is subject to revision and final approval by the Mayor of the City of Lawrence and by the LPS Building Committee Representative.

Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora

Yes – Jessica Andors

Yes – Patricia Mariano

Yes – Mayor Dan Rivera

Yes – Julia Silverio

Yes – Ventura Rodriguez

Attendance Update – Superintendent Paris provided the most current update on the district's attendance (86% this year compared to 93% last year). She introduced "teams" from three schools: Lisa Conran, Principal, Lawrence Family Academy; Peter LeFebre, Principal, Parthum Middle School and Robert Cayer, Principal, School for Exceptional Studies. Each principal and team provided information on their efforts and strategies to support students on their engagement and attendance.

The LAE Board appreciated the presentations, had concerns on the daily attendance and noted their agreement in the importance in developing relationships.

Enrollment Update – Denise Snyder, Assistant Superintendent, provided the current enrollment as of 12/7/2020 in comparison to the last six years (5% decrease from 2019). She noted the current data since October 1, 2020 there has been 416 new enrollments; minus 179 withdrawn equalling 237 new enrollments. She will also provide data on the transition of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to high schools (parochial / GLTS) at the next meeting.

Ventura Rodriguez that monthly updates be provided based on the changing data.

Special Education Update – Dr. Mary Twomey, Assistant Superintendent, provided an in-depth presentation on the LPS remote learning process (CSELPS) and the services NWEA Map) provided for the high needs learners. Based on the Covid-19 cases in the area of the district, the in-school learning for these students has been postponed multiple times and is now anticipated to begin in January 2021 phasing in the different grades over the next two months. She informed the members that 259 teachers are anticipating to return to in-person teaching.

The members requested that the discussion be continued at the January meeting based on the amount of information presented. Jess Andors suggested that information be gathered from other districts how to support these parents during remote learning. Noemi Custodia Lora requested more information on the progress of the students this year from last.

The Members commended on the reorganization of the Special Education Department, COVID-19 Special Education Learning Plan and the district’s work continuing even with difficult obstacles this year. Patricia Mariano anticipates the SOA funding in the near future to provide more targeted groups to more students to see how it may change the students’ grades.

Ventura Rodriguez stated for the record that an Executive Session will be held immediately after the regular meeting.

Budget Process – Masiel Jordan, Chief Financial Officer, presented the timeline of the budget process; the school planning meetings’ overview, the progress towards FY21 budget priorities (Student Achievement, Support Services, Engagement) and the budget subcommittee’s goals.

Ventura Rodriguez noted that the Budget Subcommittee reviewed this information last week.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair, a motion was made by Mayor Dan Rivera, seconded by Jessica Andors, it was

VOTED: To approve the FY21 Budget Goals as presented.

Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora

Yes – Jessica Andors

Yes – Patricia Mariano

Yes – Mayor Dan Rivera

Yes – Ventura Rodriguez

Ventura Rodriguez noted for the record that Julia Silverio left the meeting at 8:45 P.M.

Superintendent Paris presented a couple of videos highlighting the districts teachers' virtual teaching and learning.

Superintendent Paris noted that the Act Secured Recycling has offered the LTU a donation of 32 laptops to the Oliver Partnership School.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair, a motion was made by Mayor Dan Rivera and seconded by Jessica Andors, it was

VOTED: To approve the donation as submitted.

Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora  
Yes – Jessica Andors  
Yes – Patricia Mariano  
Yes – Mayor Dan Rivera  
Yes – Ventura Rodriguez

Upon the recommendation of the Chair, a motion was made by Mayor Dan Rivera, and seconded by Jessica Andors, it was

VOTED: To approve the November 11, 2020 LAE Minutes as presented.

Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora  
Yes – Jessica Andors  
Yes – Patricia Mariano  
Yes – Mayor Dan Rivera  
Yes – Ventura Rodriguez

Upon the recommendation of the Chair, a motion was made by Patricia Mariano, and seconded by Jessica Andors, it was

VOTED: To approve the November 11, 2020 LAE Executive Session Minutes as presented.

Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora  
Yes – Jessica Andors  
Yes – Patricia Mariano  
Yes – Mayor Dan Rivera  
Yes – Ventura Rodriguez

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting and go into Executive Session at 9:08 P.M.

Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora

Yes – Jessica Andors

Yes – Patricia Mariano

Yes – Mayor Dan Rivera

Yes – Ventura Rodriguez

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Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, Acting Chair