

December 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: 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., Julia Silverio, Lawrence City Councilor and local business owner and Jessica Andors, Executive Director for Lawrence Community Works. Absent: Honorable Dan Rivera, Mayor of Lawrence,

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

Upon the motion made by Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, seconded by Julia Silverio, it was unanimously

VOTED: To come out of Executive Session at 6:30 P.M.

Chair Connolly noted for the record that the Board unanimously approved a 2% salary increase in accordance with Section 6C of the employment agreement between the LPS and Superintendent Paris.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair, John Connolly held the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Public Participation

Thomas Barkstale – He requested consideration in redesigning the shirts for the LPS uniforms to a darker color based on it being difficult in keeping a white shirt white/clean.

Homayan Maale, 53 Chester Street – He addressed the board in recognizing the leadership, the budget, and the teachers. He asked for the community's support for the Teachers' contract.

III. New Business

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Paris opened her report with the district's highlights. Upcoming District performances: Once in December at the PAC and Holiday Winter concert. The LPS Auction was a success. LPS is a recipient of the Barr Foundation Grant, "A Portrait of a Graduate Cohort". Masiel Sheets is leading the program and will be providing information on its process. LPS is

also a recipient for the Kaleidoscope Collective for Learning pilot, an initiative by DESE, to involve teachers and students in deeper learning. The two schools listed as finalists are ENLACE and UP Oliver. There will be an LHS Accreditation Celebration on January 30 at 3:00 PM and all staff are invited.

- Superintendent Goals – Superintendent Paris provided the members with a copy of the goals based on their feedback from her evaluation. There are four goals for the next evaluation cycle. They are: 1) Turnaround Plan/Earned Autonomy Framework – she will provide the nominations of the committees and it will be a collaborative and transparent process. 2) LHS redesign which will include the Barr Grant and the needs of the high school students, 3) Students’ supports and ongoing continuum services for social, emotional and mental health; 4) Maintain effective district governance transparent Superintendent/School Board relationships.

Chair Connolly requested the Board to review the goals and provide feedback to the Superintendent prior to the next meeting in that she can revise the goals for a vote at the January meeting.

- Fiscal Update – Masiel Jordon provided a Fiscal update to include Transitional Relief Aid, the FY20 Second Quarter Financial report and a breakdown of the 2019-20 Title 1 Grants.

Jess Andors requested additional information on the amount of funds allocated for Special Education family outreach and athletics. Superintendent Paris confirmed that additional allocations would be made during the budget process.

- Oliver School Building Update – The designer team SMMA, project manager team PINK and Anne Marie Stronach provided a presentation on the Oliver School project.

Ms. Stronach opened the discussion by introducing each team: SMMA: Alex Picken and Kristin Olsen, and PINK: Deb Morai and Danny Garber Latisha.

Mr. Picken narrated the presentation, which began with Visioning/Listening process, which occurred in the fall by their Educational Planning Team. He presented each design option, which includes redesigns to the current Oliver school and building design options at other City sites, which totaled seven design options. Three major project goals for the redesign plans were to: 1) Have an impact for the highest number of students, 2) Prioritize Educational Complex Model (grades K-8), and 3) Limit number of stories to five or less.

After the presentation, discussion surrounded the possibility in acquiring additional available property adjacent to the current Oliver School, the purpose for the Oliver School if it was not renovated (swing space, ALC, etc.), availability of green space for student activity, the necessity for the facility to accommodate 1,000 students, concerns if school was to be built at the Gateway and what are the City’s parking agreements at the Gateway.

Ms. Stronach provided information on the steps in the whole process, which includes “Eligibility Stage” (community input), “Feasibility Stage” (the planning/selection of site and

educational vision of community). The education process (PDP Preliminary Design Program) is what drives the new building. The goals are SPED, EL population and open space/opportunities not available currently.

Kristen Olsen (SMMA) added that SMMA submitted the PDP, it was returned at Thanksgiving for the SMMA to respond to the comments and issue a final PDP, which includes a revised educational plan. The last part of the Feasibility process is the Preferred Schematic Report, which narrows every part of the process down for clarification and recommended for approval.

Ms Silverio requested that a special meeting be scheduled to present this to the City Council.

For the record, Ms. Andors agreed that there should be a 1,000-student accommodation included in this proposal.

Nutrition Services Update – Carol Noonan, Director for Food Services, began her presentation by provided information on the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), a non-pricing meal service option for school districts in low-income areas to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications. She continued in providing an overview presentation for Nutrition Services including USDA Meal Requirements and USDA Standards.

Report of the Chair

- Student Representative – Chair Connolly requested that the subcommittee members confer to provide their recommendation for the Student Representative at the January meeting.
- Turnaround Plan Update – Chair Connolly asked Ms. Andors to provide an update. She noted the subcommittee agreed to follow the same process as in selecting the Superintendent. Hold focus groups (community, staff, etc.) and offer many opportunities for them to meet, obtain media outlets to publicize these opportunities, post flyers, provide outreach targets, and create a template of questions to receive coherent data. The subcommittee is now waiting for dates to meet with the consultants.
- Earned Autonomy Update – Chair Connolly announced that the Steering Committee has been selected including key stakeholders such as teachers, partners, families and principals. They include, the Superintendent, Kinnon Foley, Kevin Qazilbash, Spark Principal, Kim Barry, LTU President, Lane Glenn, NECC President, parent C. Rizzo and himself. He will hold a weekly discussion between the consultants from the Turnaround Plan, Earned Autonomy, LPS and LAE to focus on the work progress and to stay in alignment. In January, the exact envision timeline will be decided for both processes, the consultants will brief the Board and the subcommittees will provide updates. Ms. Andors suggested that DESE provide clarity on the available budget for the process. Chair Connolly will discuss that in the first weekly discussion.

- Superintendent's Review – Chair Connolly noted that the LAE is officially in the new review cycle.

Other Matters

- Approval of Minutes

November 13, 2019 - Hold approval until the January meeting.

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 7:57 P.M.
meeting.

John Connolly, Chair