

May 12, 2021

Minutes of the Lawrence Alliance for Education Board

An Executive Session of the Lawrence Alliance for Education Board was held virtually at 5:30 P.M. with the following members present: Dan Rivera, CEO/President Mass Development, 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. Absent: Julia Silverio, Lawrence City Councilor and local business owner

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

Ventura Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 5:32 P.M.

Upon the motion made by Dan Rivera, seconded by Noemi Custodia Lora, it was

VOTED: To enter Executive Session at 5:33 P.M. for the purpose of LTU consultations.

The Vote: Yes – Jessica Andors
Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora
Yes – Patricia Mariano
Yes – Dan Rivera
Yes – Ventura Rodriguez

Superintendent Paris provided the update of the LTU consultations. She noted there have been multiples meetings, which have been positive. There is still ongoing discussion regarding compensation. Superintendent Paris noted that additional compensation was provided to teachers with a stipend, shortened teaching hours and 10 less days in the school year. No other district has provided additional compensation to their teachers.

Members discussed the topic of additional compensation due to the challenging teaching process during the Covid pandemic. Superintendent Paris added that the additional funding provided to the district was used towards additional PPEs, reopening needs, facility expenses and especially for a robust Summer Program in which these teachers will receive an additional stipend.

Dan Rivera requested the Superintendent provide the Board what would be the total amount of a teacher compensation package. It is important to keep staff from resigning.

Patricia Mariano and Ventura Rodriguez suggested ~~addressing the concerns raised by teachers by compensating the teachers in~~ providing them additional support for instruction ~~as a way of nd~~ addressing morale issue.

Ventura Rodriguez requested another Executive Session held for the Superintendent to provide ~~an update on the next consultation meeting template for a compensation package~~ and to discuss other options.

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

VOTED: To adjourn Executive Session at 6:04 P.M.

The Vote: Yes – Jessica Andors
Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora
Yes – Patricia Mariano
Yes – Dan Rivera
Yes – Ventura Rodriguez

Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, Chair

May 12, 2021

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: Dan Rivera, CEO/President Mass Development, Jessica Andors, and 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. Absent: Julia Silverio, Lawrence City Councilor and local business owner.

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

The Acting Chair, Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M, and noted in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order, the meeting was being held with all Board Members, District Staff and guests remotely. Facebook is streaming the meeting live. He held the Pledge of Allegiance. Public comment may be submitted via info@lawrenceallianceforeducation.org by 12 noon the day of the meeting to be included as public record.

- Superintendents Report

Teaching and Learning –

Reopening Update – Superintendent Paris provided an update on the current in-person student enrollment (K-high school) as of 5/12/21. Higher attendance in grades 4 – 8; lower attendance in lower elementary and high school students. The district provides this information to DESE weekly and can be found on the DESE website.

High School Redesign Update (Portrait of a Graduate) – A priority in the TAP and continued commitment. A school and community collaborative to provide students the necessary tools through education to reach their desired outcome for success. Maricel Goris and Simone Wright provided a PowerPoint presentation on the program. The campaign will be launched mid-May, with a media and survey campaign; facilitate stakeholder focus groups through mid-June with the Focus Groups to meet in June providing their feedback in August to present final draft to the LAE in September 2021. Once the draft is approved, it will move into implementation.

LAE will provide feedback as part of the community groups; the compilation of everyone's input will be brought back to the LAE for approval.

Leahy MSBA Project – Schematic Design

Suresh Bhatia Atlantic Construction & Management, Inc., Adolfo Cuevas, Susan Taylor and Dennis Daly of Mt. Vernon Group Architects, Inc., presented an update of the Leahy School's

schematic design plan for the MSBA. It included the overview of the proposed site and the steps for approval. The new Leahy School will hold 1000 students (Lawlor, Leahy and UP Leonard). Mr. Bhatia provided the estimated project budget and costs and the estimated timeline for construction to completion to be late spring 2024.

Members recommended they advocate this information to City Council to assist to receive their approval.

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

VOTED: That the LAE Board recommends the submission of the schematic design for the Francis M. Leahy Elementary School to the MSBA Board.

The Vote: Yes – Jessica Andors
Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora
Yes – Patricia Mariano
Yes – Dan Rivera
Yes – Ventura Rodriguez

Proposed New and Updated Policy Recommendations – Denise Snyder with the support of Attorney Angela Magula presented the proposed new and updated policy recommendations, which included six policies and a procedural document....she noted the policies are to meet the statutory requirements.

1. Title IX Proposal – recommendation to replace existing policy (Sexual Harassment Policy – ACA), which will remove/untangle non-related forms of sexual non-discrimination;
Seeking a vote for the revised ACA policy and approval of the ACA-R (procedure to file a grievance).

Patricia Mariano and Dan Rivera left the meeting at 7:04 P.M.

2. Three new policies: 1) Homeless students enrollment rights and services (JFABD)
2) Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care (JFABF)
3) Educational Opportunities for Military Children (JFABE)
3. Equal Educational Opportunities (JB) and School Admission Policy (JF) (approve cross references of other policies within these).

Ms. Snyder closed her presentation noting that the only requested vote will be for the Title IX policy; all other policies will be on the June meeting agenda for approval.

Dan Rivera returned to meeting at 7:15 PM

The Chair opened the discussion for questions pertaining to the Title IX policy; there were none.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair, Ventura Rodriguez, with a motion made by Jessica Andors, seconded by Noemi Custodia Lora, it was

VOTED: To adopt the Title IX Proposal ACA (policy) as submitted.

The Vote: Yes – Jessica Andors
Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora
Yes – Dan Rivera
Yes – Ventura Rodriguez

Upon the recommendation of the Chair, Ventura Rodriguez, with a motion made by Dan Rivera, seconded by Noemi Custodia Lora, it was

VOTED: To adopt the ACA-R (procedure) as submitted.
separate as submitted.

The Vote: Yes – Jessica Andors
Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora
Yes – Dan Rivera
Yes – Ventura Rodriguez

- Other - NONE

Upon the recommendation of the Chair, Ventura Rodriguez, with a motion made by Jessica Andors, seconded by Noemi Custodia Lora, it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 7:25 P.M.

The Vote: Yes – Jessica Andors
Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora
Yes – Dan Rivera
Yes – Ventura Rodriguez

Ventura Rodriguez, Chair

