

May 10, 2023

## 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 Educational Complex Auditorium with the following members present: Edgar De Leon, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director at Noble and Greenough School, Mayor Brian de Pena, Dr. Dolores Calaf, Early Childhood and K-12 Education, and Consultant with Community Collaborative, Maria Moeller, CEO/The Community Group, Patricia Mariano, Chair. Absent: Juana Matias, Regional Administrator for the New England Regional Office, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Also in person was Interim Superintendent Juan Rodriguez, and Maria L. Campusano, Recording Secretary for this meeting.

Chair Mariano, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Chair introduced and welcomed Dr. Dolores Calaf to the LAE board who expressed being invited to be part of the board an important aspect for her as part of Lawrence for over 30 years, but also because of her belief that education open doors from the moment we are born we need excitement in learning and discovering; thus, hoping that through the school system this message is conveyed to all students and parents. Honored to be part of the process.

Public comment: Chair Mariano explained what the expectation of public participation is and how it is conducted, she called the following:

- Homayoun Maali, 53 Chester Street, Lawrence, MA. Expressed that while the search of a permanent superintendent, the priority should be supporting the teachers and their union who are helping the students get their education; Mr. Maali referred to a quote from Nelson Mandela, *“Education is indeed the most powerful weapon to change the world”* indicating that to do this we need to support the teachers and not to allow other cities to take the teachers with better wages.
- Jonathan Guzman, Vice Chair of the Lawrence School Committee, 39 Lynn St, Lawrence, MA. Expressed that since the creation of the LAE, it has always been the subject of the open meeting law since powers from the school committee were taken away; asking why the bylaws got accepted on February 12, 2018 when the first meeting was on February 25, 2018. Further expressing that it should be a proven record of working with underperforming schools. He added that under chapter 69:1 K clearly gives the board full power of the school committee including hiring, suspending a superintendent, creating policies for jobs etc. Mr. Guzman explained that during the March 28th meeting, Julia Silverio, former member, implied that the board does not have a say on implementation of policies and further expressed that the development process of the hiring superintendent should begin already.

### Superintendent’s Report on LPS highlights and Updates

- Presentation highlighting the performance of HS students over the Performance Art Center “Rent”, HS students recognized during the AP day by State Representative Pavel Payano at the state house for taking advanced placement courses, Mayor Brian De Peña alone with Counselor Infante and Counselor Rosario speaking with parent during the Lawrence Family Institute for Student Success graduation, Superintendent attended the GROTC Senior ball alone with City Council Marc Laplante, Richard Russell, and Mr. Mejias from the Mayor’s office, welcoming the

Mayor alone with his team, City councilors, to go over safety procedures, how restorative practices are implemented to work with students in order to have a good environment, lastly the celebration of the 150 district art work and self portrait from the students displayed at the Heritage State Park for folks to see it.

- information related to the year to date district metrics, family engagement questionnaire feedback, school quality review indicator 4
- shared information regarding Prek and K registrations that are currently open.
- School Site changes for next school year: HLC moving to the swing space at 1 Parker St., Enlace & International will merge and move to LHS Campus, Leahy S. will be moving to the NCEC
- Teaching and Learning update on indicator 1 of the turnaround plan on focusing on data and structures for student success
- Diversity on the workforce under strategy number 2 promoting paraprofessionals with BA to teaching positions, partnerships with post-secondary institutions to diversify educator pipeline
- Operational updates on technologies, playgrounds work that had been completed

VOTED: To not have Lawrence Public Schools participate in School Choice for School Year 2023-2024

Vote Upon the recommendation made by Chair Patricia Mariano to not have Lawrence Public Schools participate in in School Choice for the School Year 2023-24; So move by Maria Moeller; Seconded by Edgar De Leon

The Vote Yes - Dr. Dolores Calaf  
Yes - Edgar De Leon  
Yes - Maria Moeller  
Yes - Mayor Brian de Peña  
Yes - Chair Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

VOTED: To approve the 2023-24 School Calendar Year

Vote Upon the recommendation made by Chair Patricia Mariano to approve the Lawrence Public School calendar for SY 2023-24; So move by Maria Moeller; Seconded by Edgar De Leon

The Vote Yes - Dr. Dolores Calaf  
Yes - Edgar De Leon  
Yes - Maria Moeller  
Yes - Mayor Brian de Peña  
Yes - Chair Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

Juana Matias, joined the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

- William Frangiamore, Central Office. Provided an overview presentation regarding FY 24 Budget priorities, FY 24 Revenue Update, how is the Budget spent, Student Opportunity Act (SOA), and next steps process for next fiscal year.

VOTED: To approve the proposed Lawrence Public Schools FY 24 Budget in the amount of \$260,133,057, and to forward it to the City Council for approval.

Vote: Upon the recommendation made by Chair Patricia Mariano to approve the proposed Lawrence Public Schools FY 24 Budget in the amount of \$260,133,057, and to forward it to the City Council for approval.

The Vote            Yes - Dr. Dolores Calaf  
                           Yes - Edgar De Leon  
                           Yes - Juana Matias  
                           Yes - Maria Moeller  
                           Yes - Mayor Brian de Peña  
                           Yes - Chair Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

VOTED: To approve the minutes of March 28th as presented

Vote: Upon the recommendation made by Chair Patricia Mariano to approve the minutes of March 28, 2023 as presented; So move by Juana Matias; Seconded by Maria Moeller

The Vote            Abstain - Dr. Dolores Calaf  
                           Abstain - Edgar De Leon  
                           Abstain - Juana Matias  
                           Yes - Maria Moeller  
                           Abstain - Mayor Brian de Peña  
                           Yes - Chair Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

Chair Patricia Mariano presented Luis Morroquin with a gift from the LAE members reading a note about him and to thank him if he's was watching as *your Chair "I can only call this moment bittersweet for anyone who hasn't had the Good Fortune to get to know Luis he is an extraordinary young man who represents the very best of Lawrence just as he has as the president of the class of 2023, and a member of the superintendent student cabinet. He has brought in his essential student voice to the work of the LAE simply put he made us better Luis is off to Northeastern next year on a nursing path as we say goodbye and good luck we could not be more grateful or prouder thank you Luis we can't wait to see what your future holds and I think we should just wish him well"*

Chair Patricia Mariano wished a very happy staff week during the staff appreciation week, acknowledging the many victories that happen in the classrooms each day. It is through the summation

of these days that will continue to make the district strong and supportive of all students. Thanking Staff of the Lawrence Public Schools

Juana Matias left the zoom meeting at 7:33 p.m.

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting

Vote: Upon the recommendation of the Chair Patricia Mariano to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.; So move by Mayor Brian de Pena; Seconded by Edgar De Leon

The Vote        Yes - Dr. Dolores Calaf  
                      Yes - Edgar De Leon  
                      Yes - Maria Moeller  
                      Yes - Mayor Brian de Peña  
                      Yes - Chair Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

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Mr. Juan Rodriguez, Interim Superintendent  
Date: