

March 28, 2023

Minutes of the Lawrence Alliance for Education Board – LAE

03.28.23
[Meeting](#)

The Lawrence Alliance for Education Board meeting was held in person at the South Lawrence East Educational Complex Auditorium with the following members present: Jessica Andors, Executive Director for the Lawrence Community Works, Maria Moeller, CEO/The Community Group, Patricia Mariano, Chair., Julia Silverio, Silverio Insurance, Absent: Mayor Brian De Peña, Dr. Noemi Custodia-Lora, Vice President of Northern Essex Community College Lawrence Campus

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 6:11 p.m. The Chair called Mr. Homayoun Maali to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 St . Spoke about the departure of the previous superintendent, demanding the board to inform how many people applied for the superintendent's position, demanding that when the board cancel any meeting to provide enough time in advance. Concluding that during the budgetary meetings there is the best compensation for LPS staff and to work together.
- Online Public Comment:
Jeremy DaCruz, Assistant Business Agent, Firemen & Oilers, Local 3, shared a video of their members press conference in front of the district office in their fight for a servsafe stipend [here](#) Richard Brenton. richardbrenton513@yahoo.com Expressed being disturbed as no one talked about the safety of the schools during the meetings. In addition, he shared wether Lawrence was a special city and why there is an acting superintendent without a license

Chair Mariano, welcomed the Lawrence High School Students who sang a song "Believe" Chair also congratulated the students and Laurie Donlan. Ms. Donlan expressed that the High School Theater Program won the Superior Rating Trophy for The Wiz at the national Performing Arts Festival Arkida Saiwai, Caroline Rodriguez, and Jasslyn Rodriguez won Best performance medals and Arkida Saiwai also won Best Female Vocalist. The ensemble also received the Judge's Trophy for Excellence in Artistry which gave the group the honor of performing for the public at Universal Studios in the Lagoon Stage, Arkida was also the solo vocalist.

Chair Mariano, thanked the group for representing Lawrence so well.

Chair's Report

- Announcement from Commissioner Riley regarding the LAE membership shift of LAE members effective during the Spring which represents a further step toward local control. Chair Mariano further expressed that the Commissioner had asked members of the state legislator representing Lawrence to recommend to him four new members for the board; the other three seats of the board will remain the same. There is an anticipation that the new members will be appointed late in may. Chair Mariano thanked Jessica A., Julia S., and Naomi C. for their services and dedication to the students and the families of Lawrence followed by some remarks:

Chair Mariano, thanked Jessica A. for always bringing her perspective of the community by always holding the families need in the forefront which made the board stronger in achieving significant milestones ensuring that the Leahy School will be built for the families.

Chair Mariano, thanked Julia S. for her keen sense and understanding of the budgets which was significant as the board became familiar with its creation, its approval by the board, and the presentation to the city council. Julia always advocated for justice and fair wage.

Chair Mariano, thanked Naomi C. for bringing a post secondary perspective on the curriculum and how the students needed to be prepared for college and beyond. supporting the students as they participated in the early college programs.

- CREST Collaboration Board of Directors, each member district school committee must appoint either a school committee or the superintendent of the schools to serve on the collaborative board of directors (board or collaborative board)

VOTED: To appoint Juan Rodriguez as the Superintendent Member to serve as Lawrence's representation on the CREST Collaborative Board of Directors.

VOTE: Upon the motion made by Chair Patricia Mariano to appoint Juan Rodriguez to serve as Lawrence's representation on the CREST Collaborative Board of Directors; So move by Julia Silverio; Second by Jessica Andors

The Vote	Yes - Jessica Andors
	Yes - Maria Moeller
	Yes - Julia Silverio
	Yes - Chair, Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

VOTED: To add the Raytheon donation to the agenda

VOTE: Upon the motion made by the Chair Ms. Patricia Mariano to add the Raytheon donation to the agenda; So move by Maria Moeller; Seconded by Julila Silverio

The Vote	Yes - Jessica Andors
	Yes - Maria Moeller
	Yes - Julia Silverio
	Yes - Chair, Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

VOTED: To accept a \$1,000.00 Raytheon donation to Shannon Morey (Abbott Stem Teacher of the Year)

VOTE: Upon the motion made by the Chair Ms. Patricia Mariano to accept the \$1,000.00 Raytheon donation from Shannon Morey for the use of science supplies; So move by Julia Silverio; Second by Maria Moeller.

The Vote	Yes - Jessica Andors
	Yes - Maria Moeller
	Yes - Julia Silverio
	Yes - Chair, Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

Superintendent's Report:

Recognition of the Lawrence High School Theater

Interim Superintendent Juan Rodriguez thanked the students from LHS theater who were able to come out and perform. Superintendent Rodriguez indicated that the theater department will be putting on a production in the upcoming months and invited the community to come down to the LHS auditorium as it is as they are the best show in town

FY 23-24 Fiscal Update

Interim Superintendent Juan Rodriguez provided a powerpoint presentation explaining the Governor's FY2024 budget and implications for LPS's FY2024 budget, the impact of the Student Opportunity Act, how does the Governor's budget impact LPS's FY2024 appropriation, and the FY2024 budget process and next steps

Teaching and Learning : High School Update

Mr. Victor Caraballo, LHS Head Master and his team provided a powerpoint presentation showcasing the work that has been done at the HS explaining the focus of the year in coherence and consistency, instructional vision, "Rigor through Collaboration", teacher support, meeting diverse needs, college/career readiness , expand AP access, expand early college , strengthen career pathways, and implement Portrait of a Graduate

School Assignment Policy/LPS Street Directory for Enrollment

Interim Superintendent, Juan Rodriguez informed that the district is looking at street assignment policy to make some adjustments in some schools as numbers are increasing at the Arlington School Complex, Parthum School Complex, and also the South Lawrence's complex to make sure that all schools are not hitting capacity, and that schools are equitable as far as class sizes.

Student Support Services Update

Ms. Arlene Reidinger, Assistant Superintendent provided an overview presentation showcasing a breakdown of the district IEPs support system on full and partial inclusion, all sub-separates, School for Exceptional Studies and out of district indicating that these indicators are a good parameter of providing within district support. Reidinger further explained the different categories of disabilities, followed by initiatives done through the SOAs grand opportunities.

Construction Easements for the intersection improvement project at Marston and East Haverhill ST.

Mr. Daniel A. McCarthy, Director of Planning and Development, City of Lawrence. Presented a powerpoint explaining the redevelopment of the intersection to put in Signal lights and new crosswalks so that the traffic merges less and it becomes more of an intersection with crosswalks for the children and slows down the traffic on Marston Street. Mr. McCarthy explained what the process will be entitled and next steps from the city.

VOTED: To add a letter to Commissioner Riley for the request of a waiver of the extraordinary maintenance limit in 603 CMR 10.02 to the agenda

VOTE: Upon the motion made by the Chair Ms. Patricia Mariano to add the request waiver of the extraordinary maintenance for the purpose of funding the following long-deferred facilities repairs through the next net school spending; So move by Jessica Andors; Seconded by Julia Silverio

The Vote	Yes - Jessica Andors
	Yes - Maria Moeller
	Yes - Julia Silverio
	Yes - Chair, Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

VOTED: To approve a letter to Commissioner Riley to request a waiver of the extraordinary maintenance limit in 603 CMR 10.02

VOTE: Upon the motion made by the Chair Ms. Patricia Mariano to approve the request waiver of the extraordinary maintenance for the purpose of funding facility repairs through the net school spending; So move by Jessica Andors; Seconded by Julia Silverio

The Vote Yes - Jessica Andors
 Yes - Maria Moeller
 Yes - Julia Silverio
 Yes - Chair, Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the February 8 meeting.

Vote: Upon the motion made by Chair Mariano to approve the minutes of February 8, 2023 meeting; So moved by Jessica Andors; Seconded by Julia Silverio

The Vote Yes - Jessica Andors
 Yes - Maria Moeller
 Yes - Julia Silverio
 Yes - Chair, Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:11p.m.

Vote: Upon the motion made by Chair Mariano to adjourn the meeting at 7:43p.m, So moved by Jessica Andors; Seconded by Julia Silverio

The Vote Yes - Jessica Andors
 Yes - Maria Moeller
 Yes - Julia Silverio
 Yes - Chair, Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

Mr. Juan Rodriguez, Interim Superintendent
Date: