

August 19 2020

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

A virtual meeting of the Lawrence Alliance for Education Board was held at 4:30 P.M. with the following members present: Honorable Dan Rivera, Mayor of Lawrence, 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, Jessica Andors, Executive Director for Lawrence Community Works.

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 4:45 P.M.

Pursuant to the Governor's executive order, the meeting was held on Zoom and streamed live on Facebook.

Dr. Ventura Rodriguez held the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Public Participation**

There was no in-person comment; any emailed comments will be provided to each Board Member and will be part of the meeting's minutes.

Superintendent Paris updated the Board noting that she and her staff have been working for the remote model; a survey has been drafted for staff for their expectation to return, also discussed was the situation with the ventilation of the district's buildings.

Chris Merlino, Facilities Director, noted LPS has worked with CBI Inc. for HVACs, elevators etc. He reached out to Mike Teller, CDI Principal, to overview the ventilation of the LPS facilities. Mike Teller explained that CDI is an architectural firm which provides repair and restoration of existing buildings. CBI's goal is to problem solve environmental controls to assist in having the LPS staff return. Ken Beck of CBI will implement walk-throughs of the facilities to determine how many staff can attend with students in the schools for hybrid models. A proposal will be submitted to the City, there will be site(s) visits, interviews will take place with maintenance staff and a draft report (customized by each school's need) will be submitted, a meeting with Chris Merlino and leadership to discuss.

The discussion was opened to the Board for their questions concerning the need for specific areas of the schools to be reviewed for ventilation, how the process impact the school's opening, and what would be the guidelines for school ventilation.

Ken Beck provided the ratio requirements needed for the schools to be up to code. He noted that each school's ratio would be different by building.

Mayor Rivera joined the meeting at 5:26 PM.

Based on the Board Members' concern, Ken Beck, CBI, reassured the members that each school had a path to meet the required guidelines.

Mayor Rivera requested and received confirmation that this process was part of the required Covid safety guidelines. He reiterated the need for safety especially for the children with high needs who may need to attend school in person. The other members agreed that all is to be done for the children's safety.

Dr. Rodriguez closed the discussion noting the understanding that an assessment will be implemented and that between the assessment, our facilities department, and the guidelines this will ensure the safety for the students.

Mayor Rivera noted for the record that the City is on board to assist the schools in any way possible.

Mike Teller noted that it would be 3-4 weeks for the assessment but with the drafting of the proposal and paperwork, it would be 6-8 weeks.

The Superintendent will return with an anticipated start date for the high needs students based on the anticipated process for CBI.

Mayor Rivera provided a Covid update for the City of Lawrence.

Superintendent Paris suggested to meet in two weeks in order to gather the information from the staff and student/parent surveys.

Upon the motion made by Mayor Dan Rivera, seconded by Patricia Mariano, it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 5:58 PM

The Vote: Yes - Mayor Dan Rivera  
Yes - Patricia Mariano  
Yes - Noemi Custodia Lora  
Yes - Dr. Ventura Rodriguez

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Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, Acting Chair