

**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 Patricia Mariano, Lawrence School Committee member, Julia Silverio, Silverio Insurance, Domely Salcedo, Student Representative, Ventura Rodriguez, Chair. Absent: Dr. Noemi Custodia-Lora, Vice President of NECC Lawrence Campus, Maria Moeller, CEO, The Community Group. Jessica Andors, Executive Director for the Lawrence Community Works arrived at the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Also in person, was Superintendent Cynthia Paris and Maria L. Campusano, Recording Secretary for this meeting.

Chair, Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. The Chair held the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public comment: Dr. Ventura Rodriguez called the following:**

1. **Homayoun Maali**, Parent and Lawrence resident. Spoke about teachers bringing hope to the students during a time of the pandemic; even when seeking their education during remote time or in person. Brought up a comparison of students seeing their families suffering and dying; but, when they came to school to see their teachers, students were happy. Demanding the best contract for the teachers, fair compensation. Also, talked about being grateful for the Lawrence Public Schools' nurses; being grateful for the Mayor of Lawrence Brian de Peña.
2. **Kristin Colucci, ELA Teacher, Upper School LHS Campus**. Spoke about coming to the board meeting until she heard answers regarding what the LPS is doing with \$240 million. Expressed that the board and Cynthia should be respectful and share the information. She specified that the money is not intended for stipends. Colucci referred to a document signed on December 13 by Governor Baker announcing a \$4 billion spending plan which included essential workers. Also cited that on December 16, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona urged schools not to "waste the chance to use relief money, schools are facing dire staffing losses for which the money should be used to hire more substitute teachers and give permanent teachers much time off or to offer teachers better salaries through hiring or retention bonuses.
3. **Santina M. Turowski (Sunny Ski)**, Spark Academy Teacher. Spoke about the meeting starting late; also wondering how closely LPS works with DPW since students were reporting that sidewalks were not de-iced and some of them had fallen. Also reported that high school students were saying that they were having a hard time diverting around the school because the area is not cleared for them. Also, some co-workers had emailed public comments; had asked if their public comments could be read aloud during the meetings.

Chair announced that he was taking a five minutes recess at 6:16 p.m. which resumed at 6:22 p.m. The Chair explained that this was necessary as he was trying to check whether there was a quorum for the meeting. With the arrival of Jessica Andors at 6:21 p.m. the meeting resumed with full quorum.

Jessica Andors, introduced Ms. Domely Salcedo, as the new LHS student representative to the LAE. Jessica explained that she had the opportunity to meet Ms. Salcedo, prior to the meeting,

indicating that Ms. Salcedo has been very active in student government since middle school and has continued through high school, student also sings, and is very well spoken and articulate. She will be heading to college next year.

Cynthia Paris, had had the opportunity to meet Domely in preparation for this meeting, giving her advice on taking it all in and is looking forward to her contributions to the meetings.

Chair, encouraged the student, letting her know how important it was to have her onboard and that this was a learning opportunity to bring up her voice and experiences, adding if there was anything that she wanted to ask that they were there to support her. Chair said that he was glad to have her representing the students.

VOTED: To approve student Domely Salcero as the student representative to the LAE for this year

Vote: Upon the motion made by Dr. Ventura to approve the student representative to the LAE board; So moved by Jessica Andors; and Seconded by Julia Silverio

The Vote            Yes - Jessica Andors  
                          Yes - Julia Silverio  
                          Yes - Dr. Ventura Rodriguez  
                          Yes - Patricia Mariano

### Motion Passes

### Superintendent Updates:

- **Maricel Goris, Assistant Superintendent**, provided the final report presentation regarding the Portrait of a Graduate. This was composed of driving questions about what knowledge, skills, and dispositions do our students need to be successful in today's world and the future. The project consisted of methodology, stakeholders group, survey, focus group. Ms. Goris also presented the emerging themes, and the next steps.
- **Odanis Hernandez, Chief of Operations and the Consigli team** provided a presentation regarding the 60% construction of the Lawrence Oliver K-8 Education Complex which included the design status, schedule, and the construction activity. The group also sought the "approval of the 60% construction document package for submission to the MSBA in accordance with the presentation at this meeting dated February 9, 2022 which report is subject to revision and final approval by the Superintendent of Lawrence Public Schools and by the LPS Building Committee Representative"

VOTED: To approve the 60% construction document package for submission to the MSBA in accordance with the presentation at this meeting dated February 9, 2022 report is subject to revision and final approval by the Superintendent of Lawrence Public Schools and by the LPS Building Committee Representative.

Vote: Upon the motion made by Dr. Ventura to approve the 60% construction; So moved by Jessica Andors; and Seconded by Julia Silverio

The Vote            Yes - Jessica Andors  
                          Yes - Julia Silverio  
                          Yes - Dr. Ventura Rodriguez  
                          Yes - Patricia Mariano

#### **Motion Passes**

- **Dr. Ventura**, provided an overview of a nine-month evaluation cycle of the Superintendent, which included self-assessment, plan presentation, implementation, mid-cycle goals, and summative evaluation.
- Superintendent Paris talked about her goals which were developed based on the feedback from the SQR evaluation. These goals included the following:
  1. Creation of a vision for instruction that drives student achievement
  2. Deepen the efforts to recruit and retain culturally responsive and highly effective teaching and professional staff in all aspects of our community
  3. Deepen and expand ways in which we engage our families, students, and partners
  4. Effective lines of communication with not only the LAE Board, but with all the community members specific to city officials.

VOTED:            To approve the Superintendent’s goals as written with the addition of the Portrait of a Graduate in the first area and the language explicit about partnering with community faith organizations

Vote:            Upon the motion made by Dr. Ventura to approve the Superintendent’s goal with the two additions; So moved by Patricia Mariano; and Seconded by Jessica Andors

The Vote            Yes - Jessica Andors  
                          Yes - Julia Silverio  
                          Yes - Dr. Ventura Rodriguez  
                          Yes - Patricia Mariano

#### **Motion Passes**

**Masiel Jordan, Chief Financial Officer.** Provided an overview presentation of the LPS budget for SY 22-23. This presentation consisted of the FY 23 school planning timeline, reviews by school department, funding sources, steps to determine state aid, net school spending, Lawrence Net School Spending (NSS) requirements, FY 23 NSS calculation based on Governor’s budget, the Student Opportunity Act, how does LPS fund the schools, what is funded, budget priorities, and ESSER II update.

**Maricel Goris, Assistant Superintendent.** Provided a Human Resources follow up powerpoint presentation outlining the LPS pre and current Turnaround plan on students and staffing numbers from 2010-2021, followed by a 2021 District comparison with other districts on student to teacher ratio, the LPS pre and current turnaround plan 2009-2021, comparison by districts on teacher retention rates for 2009-2021, 2021 district comparison starting salary with other surrounding districts, a 2021 district

comparison average on salary with other surrounding districts, overview of resignations since October 2021 - January 2022, and the summary of the LPA exit survey.

Dr. Ventura read a reminder from Michael Armano, DPH stating that the mask order is in effect until the City of Lawrence moves out of higher risk level.

Dr. Ventura discussed setting up an executive session to discuss strategies and where they are at.

VOTED: To approve the minutes of January 12,2022

Vote: Upon the motion made by Dr. Ventura to approve the minutes of January 12, 2022 with the following amendments , substituting the word “convening” for “covering” and correcting the date of the minutes to January 12th; So moved by Julia Silverio; Seconded by Jessica Andors

The Vote            Yes - Jessica Andors  
                          Yes- Julia Silverio  
                          Yes - Dr. Ventura Rodriguez  
                          Yes - Patricia Mariano

**Motion Passes**

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Vote: Upon the motion made by Dr. Ventura to adjourn the meeting at 8:46p.m, So move by Julia Silverio; Seconded by Jessica Andors

The Vote            Yes - Jessica Andors  
                          Yes - Julia Silverio  
                          Yes - Patricia M  
                          Yes - Dr. Ventura Rodriguez

**Motion Passes**

Next Meeting on schedule for Wednesday, March 9, 2022.

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Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, Chair  
Date:

