

June 8, 2022

Minutes of the Lawrence Alliance for Education Board

A regular meeting of the Lawrence Alliance for Education Board was held at 6:06 P.M. with the following members present: Maria Moeller, CEO, The Community Group, Patricia Mariano, Lawrence School Committee Member, Dr. Noemi Custodia-Lora, VP of NECC Lawrence Campus, Julia Silverio, Lawrence local business owner, Jessica Andors, Executive Director for the Lawrence Community Works, and Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, Chair.

Absent Mayor Brian De Pena

Also present was Superintendent Cynthia Paris, and Maria Campusano, Recording Secretary for this meeting.

Chair, Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M. He held the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Ventura spoke about receiving information in regards to a resolution from Mark Laplant's office that the City Council voted a no-confidence for the Superintendent Cynthia Paris. Dr. Ventura reiterated the importance of working together and addressing this engagement with one another, he added that the board will go into executive session and the meeting will be adjourned from there. Dr. Ventura clarified that the executive session was to discuss a collective bargaining agreement and an issue as it related to personnel. Dr. Ventura, pointed out that they had reached tentative agreements with two of the unions, one was the custodians, and the other was the LTU.

Public Participation

- **Santina M. Turowski** (Sunny Ski) Teacher spoke about who attended the Vocational and High S. graduations adding that a teacher wrote to her saying that he only sees the superintendent visiting the classrooms and how hard it is for him seeing the rest of the LAE making decisions when they don't visit the classrooms when these decisions make a great impact in peoples' careers, and in classrooms; but, these decisions don't impact them as LAE representatives. Turowski also shared wanting to ratify the teachers contract concluding that she does not ever again come to these meetings.
- **H. Maali, Parent** 53 Chester Street, Lawrence, MA, all united for the Lawrence cafeteria workers asking for the best compensation and contract for them. Also spoke about the superintendent's first 100 days listening sessions, the columbia gas crisis, the building of schools, the pandemic. Demanding the LPS to support the cafeteria, and teachers workers. Asking for the best compensation.
- **Kimberly Barry**, President of the Lawrence Teachers' Union. Spoke about members being successful in working with [Cynthia Paris](#) and her team. Ms. Barry further explained, the contract was ratified with the district; more than 70 members of the teacher's union voted to favor the contract and 82% voted to accept the terms favorable for which the

agreement guarantees benefits for the past two years contracts and three years moving forward.

- **Sondra Longo**, Teacher and Recording Secretary for the union. Addressed that the contract feels good and it is a step in the right direction. She understands that there's much to be done and to be competitive with other districts. Also reflected on the students knowing that their teachers matter. Thanked the LAE board for their commitment and understanding.

Superintendents' mid-year reflection

- **Superintendent** recognized the LHS graduation and acknowledged all that attended where 704 students graduated. She also highlighted the guest speaker Mr. Pedro Martinez. Ms. Paris also shared having the paraeducators' graduation which continues to be a pipeline for making sure of the increased staff members.
- **Elizabeth Daniels, CPRL team**. Provided a powerpoint presentation regarding an update of the mid-term report on the status of the earned autonomy framework. This presentation consisted of an overview of the earned autonomy framework, progress and status, an overview of stakeholders and engagement, shared revisions to the EAF, and the lay-out of the next steps.
- **Superintendent** provided a powerpoint summary presentation regarding the School Quality Review -SQR which consisted of a snapshot, a review report on 11 indicators, areas of strength and areas of focus tailored to action steps. This presentation also included a sample of how a school day looks like.
- **Christopher Heath**, Grants, Title One Director. Provided an overview of the ESSER I, II, and III. Starting with ESSER I appropriations, a proshare with private schools, and the end date of September 30th for the grant. ESSER II, describes amount allocated, end date of Sept. 30, 2023. ESSER II does not mandate equitable services/proportionate shares. It also describes specifics and targeted focus areas of grant activities. ESSER III describes the completion by Sept. 30, 2024. it describes the purpose of the fund and what must be included
- **Safety update**, Superintendent Paris shared the latest safety update that had been shared with the safety committee highlighting the safety protocol specific to the High School which continues to make progress. Superintendent also highlighted the hiring of a new restorative practice manager who had been doing an amazing job with the students.
- **Odanis Hernandez**, Director of Strategic Planning introduced Mr. Alex Consigly, MSBA team, who provided a powerpoint presentation regarding the MSBA 90% CD submission which included the due date of June 17th, the design status update, schedule, and construction activity.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair Ventura Rodriguez, a motion was made by Julia Silverio, Seconded by Jessica Andors.

Voted: Approval of the 90% Construction Document package for submission to the MSBA in accordance with the presentation at this Meeting dated June 8, 2022 which report is subject to revision and final approval by the Superintendent of Lawrence

Public Schools and by the LPS Building Committee representative.

The Vote: Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora
 Yes – Patricia Mariano
 Yes – Maria Moeller
 Yes – Julia Silverio
 Yes - Jessica Andors
 Yes – Ventura Rodriguez, Chair

Motion Passes.

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

Voted: Approval to authorize the Lawrence Public Schools Superintendent and the Chief operating Officer to review and approve the final submission of the Leahy School design development package to the MSBA on or before June 30, 2022.

The Vote: Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora
 Yes – Patricia Mariano
 Yes – Maria Moeller
 Yes - Yessica Andors
 Yes – Julia Silverio
 Yes – Ventura Rodriguez, Chair

Motion Passes.

Masiel Jordan, Chief Financial Officer. Presented an amendment to the extraordinary waiver request with an updated amount to the Commissioner for the purpose of funding a generator for the Arlington School Complex and paving for 3 schools: Hennessey, Breen, and the LHS.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair Ventura Rodriguez to approve the amendment to the extraordinary waiver, a motion was made by Patricia Mariano, and Seconded by [Noemi Custodia-Lora](#)

The Vote: Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora
 Yes – Patricia Mariano
 Yes – Maria Moeller
 Yes - Jessica Andors
 Yes – Julia Silverio

Yes – Ventura Rodriguez, Chair

Motion Passes.

Masiel Jordan, Chief Financial Officer. Presented a donation from Digital Federal Credit Union to the HLC. Donation will be utilized on supporting online students, students’ orientations, and teachers’ appreciation

Upon the recommendation of the Chair Ventura Rodriguez to accept the donation, a motion was made by Jessica Andors and Seconded by Patricia Mariano.

The Vote: Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora
 Yes – Patricia Mariano
 Yes – Maria Moeller
 Yes - Jessica Andors
 Yes – Julia Silverio
 Yes – Ventura Rodriguez, Chair

Motion Passes

The Chair opened the forum to the team regarding the Adult Learning Center status stating that the LPS budget was approved; however it did not contain funding to approve the ALC, posing the question why LPS couldn't pay for it; given that it is a critical program?

Superintendent explained that LPS is primarily funded by Chapter 70 funds and local contributions. Chapter 70 funding is only for grades Pk-12. The City gives LPS necessary funding to be able to run the programing and there is a grant that is matched all the way around by the state.

The Chair explained that this is an active issue, one where as individuals we can continue to have a dialogue to save the program.

Julia Silverio disclosed that she has a niece who works for the ALC.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair Ventura Rodriguez to approve the minutes of the regular LAE board meeting held on May 11, 2022; with a motion made by Noemi Custodia-Lora and seconded by Julia Silverio

VOTED: To approve the minutes of May 11, 2022

The Vote: Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora
 Yes – Patricia Mariano
 Yes – Maria Moeller
 Yes – Julia Silverio
 Astain - Jessica Andors
 Yes – Ventura Rodriguez, Chair

Motion Passes.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair Ventura Rodriguez to approve the minutes of the executive session held on May 11, 2022; with a motion made by Jessica Andors; and seconded by Julia Silverio

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the executive session held on May 11, 2022

The Vote: Astain - Jessica Adors
 Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora
 Yes – Patricia Mariano
 Yes – Maria Moeller
 Yes – Julia Silverio
 Yes – Ventura Rodriguez, Chair

Motion Passes.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair Ventura Rodriguez to approve the minutes of the regular LAE board meeting held on April 13, 2022; with a motion made by Jessica Andors; and Seconded by Noemi Custodia Lora

VOTED: To approve the minutes of April 13, 2022

The Vote: Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora
 Yes – Patricia Mariano
 Yes – Maria Moeller
 Astain – Julia Silverio
 Yes - Jessica Andors
 Yes – Ventura Rodriguez, Chair

Motion Passes.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair Ventura Rodriguez to approve the minutes of the regular LAE board meeting held on March 9, 2022; with a motion made by Jessica Andors and seconded by Noem Custodia Lora

VOTED: To approve the minutes of March 9, 2022

The Vote:

Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora
Yes – Patricia Mariano
Yes – Maria Moeller
Abstain – Julia Silverio
Yes - Jessica Andors
Yes – Ventura Rodriguez, Chair

Motion Passes.

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

VOTED: To enter the Executive Session at 7:27 P.M. for the purpose to review/discuss collective bargaining agreements

The Vote: Yes – Noemi Custodia Lora
Yes – Patricia Mariano
Yes – Maria Moeller
Yes - Jessica Andors
Yes – Julia Silverio
Yes – Ventura Rodriguez, Chair

Ventura Rodriguez, Chair