

April 25, 2019

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

A meeting of the Lawrence Alliance for Education Board was held at 6:00 P.M. in the North Common Educational Complex Library, 233 Haverhill Street, with the following members present: Julia Silverio, Lawrence City Councilor and local business owner, Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, Associate Commission for statewide support DESE, Patricia Mariano, Lawrence School Committee member, and Chairman John Connolly, Executive Director of The 1647, Inc. Absent were: Honorable Dan Rivera, Mayor of Lawrence, Jessica Andors, Executive Director for Lawrence Community Works, and Dr. Noemi Custodia-Lora, VP of NECC Lawrence Campus.

Also present was Superintendent Cynthia Paris and Joan Milone, Recording Secretary for this meeting.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M. by the Chair, Mr. John Connolly; he then held the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Public Comment

Homayan Maale, 53 Chester Street – He addressed the board on his and community's support for Superintendent Paris work in the district this year. He asked for their support in the current custodial union negotiations.

#### Budget Overview Presentation

Superintendent Paris presented the proposed FY20 budget by highlighting the budget process by PowerPoint. Her points of discussion were:

- Budget Process and Review
- Funding Sources
- State Aid for Budget
- Net School-Spending (local and State aid)
- Budget Priorities
  - Student Achievement
  - Student Services
  - Educational Infrastructure

The Chair noted that prior to this meeting, the Budget Subcommittee held two lengthy meetings to review and discuss the budget. He opened up the discussion for questions of the Committee. Christine Bufagna, Acting CFO, and Dr. Mary Lou Bergeron, Assistant Superintendent were in attendance for any questions. The members in attendance noted their approval of the proposed budget.

The Chair noted he would like the comment from Mayor Rivera, who was the Chair of the Budget Subcommittee who would be joining the meeting shortly.

The Chair recessed the meeting at 6:20 P.M.

Mayor Rivera joined the meeting at 6:29 P.M.  
Chair Connolly called the meeting back in session at 6:29 P.M.

Mayor Rivera reported in building a budget, the need always exceeds the resources. The Superintendent, however, has proposed a budget to teach and meet the needs of students and families. The subcommittee meetings were robust and thoughtful exercises.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair and motion made by Patricia Mariano, seconded by Julia Silverio, it was unanimously

VOTED: To pole the Subcommittee for a favorable recommendation to pass the proposed FY20 budget and send the budget before the full LAE board.

The Vote: Abstain – Mayor Rivera  
Yes – Julia Silverio  
Yes – Ventura Rodriguez  
Yes – Patricia Mariano  
Yes – John Connolly

VOTE PASSES

Upon the recommendation of the Chair and motion made by Mayor Rivera, seconded by Patricia Mariano, it was unanimously

VOTED: To close the Public Hearing.

The Chair noted at the last regular LAE meeting in which he did not attend, a proposal was passed relative to the School Operating Plans and an amendment offered to formulate a procedure to review a school operating plan “under extreme circumstances”. After consulting with DESE, the LAE was granted an extension to formulate such procedure.

He also noted that full LAE board will hold a meeting on April 30, 2019 at 6:00 P.M. on the FY20 Proposed Budget on the recommendation of the Budget Subcommittee.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair, motion made by Mayor Rivera, seconded by Patricia Mariano, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 6:39 P.M.

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John Connolly, Chair