

April 30, 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: Honorable Dan Rivera, Mayor of Lawrence, Julia Silverio, Lawrence City Councilor and local business owner, Jessica Andors, Executive Director for Lawrence Community Works, Dr. Ventura Rodriguez, Associate Commission for Strategic Initiatives at DESE, Patricia Mariano, Lawrence School Committee member, Dr. Noemi Custodia-Lora, VP of NECC Lawrence Campus, Chairman John Connolly, Executive Director of The 1647, Inc., and Elma “Gabby” Taveras, Student Representative for the board.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 P.M. by the Chair, Mr. John Connolly; he then held the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Homayan Maale, 53 Chester Street – He noted the LTU President Frank McLaughlin for his great work. He addressed the board on his and community’s support for Superintendent Paris work in the district this year. He asked for their support with the current custodial union negotiations.

Dr. Marianela Rivera, 2A Washington Street – She commented on the proposed FY20 budget, issues brought forth by constituents, the LAE Board and School Committee should have collaborated on the financials building the budget. She proposed monthly Joint Meetings between the LAE Board and School Committee in order to prevent future misunderstandings.

Michelle Lajara, 10 Diamond Street – She addressed the Board on the disbursement of funds to the high school. She noted and questioned the funding of nurses at the Central Catholic High School.

Chair Connolly recognized the LTU President, Frank McLaughlin.

FY’20 Proposed Budget

Chair Connolly noted that the Budget Subcommittee held two 3 hour meetings review this budget line-by-line, a Public Hearing was held on April 25, 2019 at which time the Budget Subcommittee voted a favorable recommendation for the FY20 Proposed Budget to come before the full LAE Board.

Upon the recommendation of the Chair and motion made by Patricia Mariano, seconded by Ventura Rodriguez, it was

VOTED: To adopt the FY20 Proposed Budget.

The Board Members provided their overview of the process, acknowledged the hard work of the school and Central Office staff implementing the submitted budget and their confidence that it will be a successful budget. Christine Bufagna, Acting CFO, answered questions from the Board.

Mayor Rivera noted that he believes this is a well put together budget, but he will be abstaining from the vote due to his involvement on the City's budget process.

The Vote: Abstain – Mayor Dan Rivera
 Yes – Julia Silverio
 Yes – Jessica Andors
 Yes – Ventura Rodriguez
 Yes – Patricia Mariano
 Yes – Noemi Custodia-Lora
 Yes – John Connolly

MOTION PASSES

The Chair thanked the Budget Subcommittee and Superintendent Paris for their hard work. Superintendent Paris thanked her Leadership Team and City staff who assisted her in the budget process.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:45 P.M.

John Connolly, Chair