

**May 8, 2023**

### **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: Edgar De Leon, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director at Noble and Greenough School; Juana Matias, Regional Administrator for the New England Regional Office, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Mayor Brian DePena, Maria Moeller, CEO/The Community Group; Patricia Mariano, Chair. Absent: Dr. Dolores Calaf, Early Childhood and K-12 Education, Consultant with Community Collaborative.

Also in person were Melissa Spash, Deputy Superintendent; Luis Marroquin, LAE Student Representative and Maria L. Campusano, Recording Secretary for this meeting.

Chair Mariano, called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. The Chair called student representative Luis Marroquin to recite the pledge of allegiance.

Chair Mariano welcomed two new members: Ms. Juana Matias, Regional Administrator for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) who expressed being honored to serve on the board and to continue looking forward to the success of the students. Mr. Edgar De Leon, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Noble and Greenough School, expressed being a former student of Lawrence Public Schools and that he is looking forward to serving on the board to ensure the students have the best school system they can have.

Public comment: Chair Mariano explained what the expectation of public participation is and how it is conducted, she called the following:

- Homayoun Maali, 53 Chester Street, Lawrence, MA. Thanked the Lawrence's teachers and their unions for all for their struggles and hard work during the pandemic; demanding that during the budget hearings, teachers, paraprofessionals, and cafeteria workers receive competitive wages. In addition, Mr. Homayoun noted the need for a superintendent who supports the teachers in working together to have the best public education.

#### **Superintendent's Report**

- Ms. Melissa Spash, Deputy Superintendent, provided an overview presentation of the SY 2024 Budget process giving an internal look at how it works and grows inside the LPS. Starting with the launch in January of the district's priorities, initiatives and targeted support. In January, schools meet with their Teacher Leadership Teams to collaborate around the creation of their school budget. In March, each school and district department meet with the School Planning team to review proposed budgets. A draft budget is presented to the LAE Board and public, then submitted for a vote to then bring it to the city council for approval. Ms. Spash introduced Mr. Seth Racine, Open Architecture, and William Frangimore who provided detailed information in regards to the Budget priorities, revenue update, multi-year planning, how the budget is spent, and next steps.

VOTED: To go into Executive Session and not to come back to a regular meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Vote: Upon the motion made by Chair Patricia Mariano to go into Executive session pursuant to G. L. c. 30A, section 21 (a), exemption #1; So move by Juana Matias;

Seconded by

The Vote      Yes - Edgar De Leon  
                    Yes - Juana Matias  
                    Yes - Maria Moeller  
                    Yes - Mayor Brian de Peña  
                    Yes - Chair Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

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Mr. Juan Rodriguez, Interim Superintendent  
Date: