

Lawrence, Massachusetts
February 28, 2018

An Informative Meeting of the Lawrence School Committee was held this evening at 6:30 P.M. in the Library at the North Common Educational Complex, 233 Haverhill Street, with the following members present: Patricia Mariano, Donna Bertolino, Stacy Seward, Adderly Gonzalez, Marianella Rivera, Vice Chair; Elissa Salas and Mayor Dan Rivera.

Also present was Dr. Mary Lou Bergeron, Assistant Superintendent for Administration, Reporting, & Compliance, Anne Marie Stronach, Chief Operating Officer and Odanis Hernandez filling in for Joan I. Milone, Recording Secretary.

Dr. Mary Lou Bergeron called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M., recited the Pledge of Allegiance and held a Moment of Silence.

Upon the motion made by Adderly Gonzalez, seconded by Stacy Seward, it was unanimously

V-004-18 VOTED: To move Public Participation to be the first item in the agenda.

- Public Participation

Homayoun Maalé – He addressed the School Committee on the accomplishments in the LPS district. The district has displayed success through the staff and leadership. He asked the School Committee to support the teachers' contract.

Kamal Bozkurt – He congratulated the new School Committee Members. He requests that Public Participation be placed first on the agenda. He also hopes that the Members will receive control of the committee again. He hopes the elected members may be able to select the new superintendent.

Michael Bresnahan – He noted that Superintendent Riley should have been in attendance this evening. He is currently a Math Paraprofessional at the Guilmette School and believes that testing is out of control. The students are test fatigued and tests are a burden on the administration.

Maria DeLaCruz – She believes that a parent and a student should be on the board who is selecting the new superintendent.

Marianela Rivera – She noted that the School Committee meetings are not well publicized for the community and parents so they can attend. She welcomed the attendees to speak and present their concerns.

Nicole Villar – She has immediate concerns with the homework help program she attended at the library where a student needed help with math homework and the adults participating could not assist him.

Ashley Martinez – As a parent, she believes each student is being generalized into the same category. She addressed her concern involving her child and the Relaxation Room. Why is the school district allowing others to make decisions for the school system? Are the children safe?

Celia Negron – There is an issue with testing that is being ignored. Students learn in different ways, not just by testing.

Celeste Cruz – Representing Elevated Thought in the Lawrence Youth Council and asks that the youth be involved in the transition.

Quin Gonell – A former resident of Lawrence who taught in the district asked the Public Participation be moved to the front of the agenda; asked the Committee to do their research; and schools need to reach out to the community.

Jacqueline Marte – The students feel they are not respected. It was DR's Independence Day on 2/26 and students feel it should be acknowledged.

Joshua Alba – He spoke on the Latina integration and believes the Receivership is an extension to rationalized disfranchisement. He asked the attendees to show their signs. It's time to take our schools back!

Sebastian Brown – He agrees that there has been progress under Receivership, but there has not been any investment in the community's empowerment and voice. We are here for a transition plan with bench marks and request to be involved.

Jenniffer Jimenez – She addressed her concern with the school lunches: what is being offered them; students count on the food based on their need. Students are left outside of school too early when there are school delays – asks for a plan to keep students safe at this time.

Superintendent/Receivers' Update –

- LPS Happenings
 - Videos shown of recent district activities included:
 1. Acceleration Academy – February 2018
 2. District “Rise Up” Concert
 3. Celebration of LHS Basketball scores 1000 points
 4. STEM Lab – Brilliant Career Play - an interactive designer lab for students to utilize technology for careers of the future
- Updates
 - Receivership Update: Dr. Mary Lou Bergeron provided a PowerPoint presentation. The district is now in the fourth year of Receivership; the first three years developed partnerships and this year will focus on vigorous standards and critical thinking. She explained that the plan will continue to allow open architecture at each school, strive for performance proficiency, and continue arts and enrichment programs. Dr. Bergeron provided an update on the SPED 5-year Strategic Roadmap whose priority is Inclusion for All for all students in which she updated in detail. DPW/LPS Facility Improvements – the slide listed the repairs/renovations for the district.

Mayor Rivera provided additional information on the facility renovations/repairs.

- Preliminary Budget Hearing: Dr. Bergeron provided a PowerPoint presentation explaining the steps for the Budget Process including the State timelines which drives the LPS FY19 budget preparation timeline for submission for approval. The SY'19 budget will be a level service budget using the following as guidelines: School Based Autonomy, Staffing, and Non-Salary budgets. The FY'19 Budget Presentation to the School Committee is scheduled for April 26, 2018.

Mayor Rivera added some information pertaining to the City's process for this budget.

Marianela Rivera requested a budget training for the School Committee Members. Dr. Bergeron will inquire with the MASC.

- Other

Dr. Bergeron mentioned to additional upcoming events:

- District Art Exhibit @ Lawrence Heritage State Park, April 5, 2018 – 6-8 PM
- Dancing With the Stars Teachers' Edition @ PAC, March 31, 2018 – 7 PM

Mayor Rivera opened it for any questions. Marianela Rivera asked for a special meeting to discuss the Transition Plan; Dr. Bergeron will inquire with the Superintendent.

Upon the motion made by Donna Bertolino, seconded by Patricia Mariano, it was unanimously

V-005-17 VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 7:56 P.M.

Mr. Jeffrey C. Riley, Superintendent/Receiver