

Lawrence, Massachusetts  
March 28, 2018

An Informational 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. James Mora, Student Representative also was in attendance.

Also present was Dr. Mary Lou Bergeron, Acting Superintendent, Mary Toomey, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Anne Marie Stronach, Chief Operating Officer and Joan I. Milone, Recording Secretary.

Dr. Mary Lou Bergeron called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M., recited the Pledge of Allegiance and held a Moment of Silence.

- Public Participation

Homayoun Maalé – He thanked the leadership and the Lawrence Teachers' Union for the students' and district's success. He hopes that the new leadership will be focused on the children's' success as well.

Henry Schiebel – He spoke on his concern for the district's security and safety based on his experience visiting the SLE to pick up his grandson.

Lorena Salazar – She suggested that the School Committee Meeting's setup be more inviting for the community to attend and participate in public comment.

Sebastian Brown – He noted the students in attendance and anticipates their continued attendance. He would like to see the School Committee hold listening sessions for the community to provide information on the transition process.

Ana Ulzer – She works for Movement City and advocated for student involvement, creative arts and a more inviting meeting environment.

Elena Nunez – Student at Movement City - She advocated for the availability of more resources for students such as financial, mental health, LGBT awareness, sexual education, etc.

Ariana Ruiz – Advocated for more LGBT group sessions so everyone could discuss and speak their mind.

Felecia Lantigua – Suggested other resources be available for students who aren't comfortable in a classroom setting.

Jamill Martinez – As a parent, she asks for a more welcoming setup. She also stressed that school lunches have to be addressed and how can the parents support the process.

Carlos Cruz –He addressed the Committee of his discontent – he was a substitute in the district in 96-97 and applied and was passed over for a full-time position.

Elissa Salas – Thanked the people in the audience for attending. She informed the community that the Lawrence Alliance for Education Board is holding a meeting on April 4, 2018 at 6:00 PM and invited them to attend.

Ana Javier – Addressed the Members on the student arrest at the Parthum School and the lateness in the notifying of the parents. Asked what the LPS have put in place for the safety of the students.

Tom Meyers – He agreed for a more welcoming meeting space. He asked that the LAE Board to provide the criteria and timeframe when the School Committee will regain its control.

Celia Negron – Students are excluded too much and have opinions and should be made aware of meetings and opportunities where they can advocate for themselves.

Upon the motion made by Elissa Salas motioned seconded by Stacy Seward, it was

V-006-18 VOTED: To change the structure of the Public Participation so that the School Committee can address the participants' concerns at that meeting.

Mayor Rivera explained that the procedure is to listen to the concerns, but cannot answer at that time.

Mayor Rivera noted that there is a process for Public Participation. Stacy Seward added the possibility to schedule listening sessions to come up with community based solutions. Mayor Rivera suggested that the community reach out to the School Committee Members with their concerns. Donna Bertolino suggested another forum is for parents to attend Neighborhood Association meetings.

Upon the motion made by Patricia Mariano, seconded by Elissa Salas, it was unanimously

V-007-18 VOTED: To amend the motion to add the matters of concern brought up at Public Participation in interest of the community get addressed at the next meeting.

#### Superintendent/Receivers' Update –

- LPS Happenings
  - Videos shown of recent district activities included:
    - Aida – Abbott Lawrence Academy
    - St. Patrick's Day Parade – LPS Participation
    - LHS Walk Out Day – James Mora, Student Representative provided an overview of the event.
    - Leading the Nation Video – Award Winner (LPS Enrichment)
- Updates
  - Standards Based Grading and Report Card Overview: Dr. Bergeron introduced Dr. Mary Toomey who provided a PowerPoint presentation. Dr. Toomey has been working on the transition for approximately two years. The presentation was provided both in English and Spanish and included:
    - Standards
    - Common Core
    - Report Cards/Grading (Traditional / Standards Based)
    - Outcome – Increased student achievement when teachers and students have clear learning targets

Dr. Bergeron added along with grades K-8, the high school is working on a similar alignment of their standards and will continue this work over the next year. The changes in the grading will need clarification so parent forums will be held. The first one is scheduled for April 11 at the President's Council. Dr. Bergeron and Dr. Toomey answered questions of the School Committee such as PowerSchool conversion, performance based assessment and testing (retakes) to mastering.

Mayor Dan Rivera left meeting at 7:50 PM and returned at 8:05 PM.

The Wetherbee School is piloting the new report card for this year's third term and the new Superintendent will decide how to make the transition throughout the district.

- MSBA Update: Anne Marie Stronach provided an overview of the MSBA's Acceleration Repair and Core Projects, the LPS repairs/renovations already completed and the timelines on future renovations (NCEC roof in 2019) and rebuilds (OPS).

Mayor Rivera requested that she email the "white page" to the members. (The white page is a document which lists the MSBA approved projects, Core projects and current applications awaiting action from MSBA with the LPS district.

- Other

Dr. Bergeron asked the members which day would work for their attendance:

- Budget Workshop – Monday, April 2, 2017 4:00 – 6:00 PM
- Budget Workshop – Tuesday, April 3, 2017 4:00 – 6:00 PM

The majority of the members selected to attend on Monday, April 2.

Mayor Rivera asked the members to verbally provide their contact information for the parents/community.

Mayor Rivera requested the Teachers' Contract be added to next month's agenda.

Dr. Bergeron adjourned the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Dr. Mary Lou Bergeron, Acting Superintendent