



April 10, 2024

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

Absent: Arlene Garcia, Parent Liaison, Lawrence Family Development Charter School (Virtually) and Mayor Brian DePeña

Also in person were Interim Superintendent Juan Rodriguez, Yedrianny Alvarez, LAE Student Representative, and Maria L. Campusano, Recording Secretary for this meeting.

Chair Mariano, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. The Chair called the audience to recite the pledge of allegiance.

Public Participation

Chair Mariano explained the norms of public participation. She then called on Mr. Homayoun Maali.

Mr. Homayoun Maali, 53 Chester Street, Lawrence, MA, stated that he supports the LPS teachers and their union; quoted Nelson Mandela and expressed, change is only possible when teachers are supported; demanded the best salaries for teachers and paraprofessionals. He thanked the Lawrence teachers for their support and sacrifice.

Mr. James Miele (via email) jamesmiele46@yahoo.com requested a meeting with the board members in regards to his sick time buyout.

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the March 13th meeting

Vote: Upon the recommendation of the Chair Patricia Mariano to approve the minutes of March 13, 2024 minutes; A motion was made by Juana Matias; Seconded by Maria Moeller

The Vote

Yes - Dr. Dolores Calaf
Abstained- Edgar de Leon
Yes - Juana Matias
Yes - Maria Moeller
Yes - Chair Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

VOTED: To approve the increase of the CREST Collaborative to the capital fund limit



Vote: Upon the recommendation of the Chair Patricia Mariano to approve the CREST Collaborative request to increase the Capital Fund limit from the \$650,000 limit to a \$2,000,000 limit; A motion was made by Juana Matias; Seconded by Edgard de Leon

The Vote

- Yes - Dr. Dolores Calaf
- Yes- Edgar de Leon
- Yes - Juana Matias
- Yes - Maria Moeller
- Yes - Chair Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

Chair's Report:

Superintendent Search Update

Ms. Sylvia Flower, Alma Advisory Group Leader, asked the board members to read the mission of the LAE Superintendent Search Subcommittee which was read by Dr. Dolores Calaf.

Ms. Sylvia Flower, Alma Advisory Group Leader, reminded the audience that according to the timeline for the Superintendent's Search the group is about to complete the 2nd round interviews and soon they will be moving to the final stage to submit the finalist candidate to extend an offer in early May. Incoming is the debrief of round 2 interviews and determine finalists and prepare for final round in-person interviews the week of April 29. Followed with the application update, the selection process, round two interview committee members, the composition of the interview panels for finalist rounds, the group will determine who the finalists are by April 30-May 1

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Juan Rodriguez updated the board on current areas of strengths of the district to be built upon in the coming months and during the transition months of May June July as the district transitions to new leadership

- High quality facilities Oliver and Lahey school projects will hold more than 300 additional seats to each one of the existing buildings for newly enrolled students. most of our buildings are covered by Central AC
- Sense of belonging and community at the Elementary and the Middle School levels citing the recent report of the Family Experience questionnaire where 92% of LPS families reported that their children enjoyed participating in school; 92% of LPS families reported that they believe the schools are flexible and provide options for school events and meetings for families; and 80% of



families are reporting that their child has a trusted adult in the school that they can go to when they have any type of issue on academic or social emotional

- Teaching and Learning, schools are using high quality curriculum materials such as Amplified core knowledge language arts or wonders and they are implementing these curriculum in the English language arts area
- Professional Development. Professional development as a result of the Strategic literacy plan we have almost 300 Early Childhood in elementary teachers who have received the science of reading training and professional development and coaching the science model for the science of reading
- Attendance is trending in the right direction. The district attendance has reached 91% and all of our schools are striving to reach our 95% or higher attendance goals. Students and families are expressing the desire to take advantage of additional learning; 3,600 students are going to participate in acceleration Academy
- High school level LPS students have options for what they want to learn. These options include programs for Accelerated learners at the main campus, career and technical for our students such as the after dark program in our partnership with Greater Lawrence Technical School we have Innovation pathways such as the engineering, early college options advanced placement options, Seal of biliteracy.

Superintendent's Update

- The Superintendent shared pictures of a pep rally that took place at elementary and middle schools to get students pumped up for MCAS.
- The Leahy School site celebrated the last piece of steel with elected officials, DESE, MSBA, students, and staff.
- April Acceleration Academy was focused on science and math. 1,359 students participated
- Summer Reading Lists - The list will be posted on the LPS website and at the Lawrence Public Library.
- Guilmette School recently held a pep rally to prepare students for MCAS. The students had fun while preparing.
- A districtwide music concert was celebrated on March 14. K-12 students from nine music programs performed.
- Homeland Security at LHS partnered to create a Cadet Program
- Spring Sports in Action began at the HS level for volleyball, baseball, softball, tennis, and outdoor track.
- Student Voice, Student Media! has been featured at various schools and is run by the students and for the students. All episodes are available on the One Stop Hub for Students and Families

Portrait of a Graduate. Mr. Victor Caraballo, Head of HS along side his team, Kevin Dean and Mr. Duran presented a powerpoint presentation showing a holistic approach to the work that has been done and what is the relationship between teaching and learning and how they have been ingrained with the work



that has been done over time. Mr. Dean and Mr. Duran presented on The Portrait of a Graduate in the competencies of communication, critical thinking, collaboration, life skills, planning, persistence, belonging and connections.

Facilities Use Policy. Ms. Odanis Hernandez, Chief Operating Officer, informed the Board that she has begun the process of updating the District's Facilities Use Policy as it is 13 years old, expressing that it is necessary due to the renewed interest in facility use following Covi and also because of the new facilities that will be coming very soon. Ms. Hernandez shared that the Board could help with their input on the draft policy so that it can be finalized.

VOTED: To go into executive session for the purpose of collective bargaining with union personnel

Vote: Upon the recommendation of the Chair Patricia Mariano to go into executive session at 8:27 p.m. for the purpose of discussing of collective bargaining with union personnel and no to return to a regular session; A motion was made by Juana Matias; Seconded by Edgar de Leon

The Vote

- Yes - Dr. Dolores Calaf
- Yes - Edgar de Leon
- Yes - Juana Matias
- Yes - Maria Moeller
- Yes - Chair Patricia Mariano

Motion Passes

Ms. Patricia Mariano, Chair
Date