



May 31, 2024

Dear Chair Mariano, members of the Lawrence Alliance for Education, and members of the Lawrence Public School community:

The bylaws of the Lawrence Alliance for Education (LAE) state that the selection of a superintendent requires a 2/3 vote of the LAE and ratification by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. On May 17, 2024, the LAE voted to name Ralph Carrero as the next superintendent of Lawrence Public Schools (LPS) by a vote of 5-2.

I appreciated hearing from many members of the LPS community as I considered the ratification decision. I value this feedback. Prior to making this decision, I reviewed all the information available to me. I also considered the steps we took to increase local participation leading up to this point. On [March 28, 2023](#), then-Commissioner Riley announced that as a further step toward local control, the membership of the LAE would be changed based on recommendations from the elected state delegation and that the newly constituted LAE would recruit and recommend to the Commissioner a candidate for appointment to the position of superintendent.

I appreciate the time and effort the LAE has dedicated to this process. Accordingly, consistent with the LAE's bylaws, and respectful of the determination of the LAE, I ratify the LAE's vote to name Mr. Carrero as the next superintendent of LPS, pending contract negotiations.

Finally, I renew our commitment to discussing with city officials potential pathways for exiting receivership. These discussions will include strategies and options for ensuring that programs and policies implemented as part of the district turnaround are fully preserved after receivership concludes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Russell Johnston".

Russell D. Johnston
Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Cc: Lauren Woo, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education