

# GLTS

Greater Lawrence Technical School

**DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING #1745  
APRIL 2, 2019**

<b><u>Members Present:</u></b>	Leo Lamontagne Marilyn Fitzgerald Russell Bourassa Barbara Grondine Stephany Infante Frank Rossi	Lawrence Andover Methuen Methuen Lawrence North Andover	Chairperson Vice Chairperson
<b><u>Members Absent:</u></b>	Garry Mannion	Lawrence	Assistant Treasurer
<b><u>Others Present:</u></b>	John N. Lavoie Elizabeth Freedman Maria Silva Susan Lally	Superintendent-Director Principal Business Manager District Recorder	

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lamontagne called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with a pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence. He asked members to remember those who protect us around the world.

## 2. EXCEPTIONAL REGGIE

Supt. Lavoie presented a certificate to Angelisse Feliciano for her outstanding contributions to the GLTS community.

## 3. MINUTES

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the minutes of March 19, 2019.

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** Ms. Infante

**VOTE:** Unanimous

#17724

## 4. FINANCE REPORT

### *a.) Cash Balance Report*

Mr. DiStefano read the report into the record.

**MOTION:** Mr. Rossi moved to approve the Cash Balance Report as presented.

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** Ms. Fitzgerald

**VOTE:** Unanimous

#17725

### *b.) Consolidated Cash Reconciliation Report*

No Discussion

### *c.) Revolving Fund Report*

No Discussion

**d.) Budget Report**

No Discussion

**e.) Closing of Fund # 402**

Ms. Silva reported that account #402 is the old HVAC account that was for the renovation of HVAC's MSBA project that was closed out in 2017. There is about \$393,000 left that needs to be moved to a capital fund account. We haven't decided which capital fund it will be transferred to. Supt. Lavoie reported that we are looking at a few projects to spend the money on such as the field project or the renovation of the Cosmetology Department that would both qualify. One member asked when the account has to be closed out by. Ms. Silva reported that it does not need to be closed out or spent by any specific day, but we cannot use the money until the 402 account is closed out. One member asked how we received the original money in the HVAC account. Ms. Silva reported that it was a bond that we took out. One member asked if they will be notified when and where the money is being spent. Ms. Silva reported that the School Committee will have to vote on it.

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to close fund #402 as presented.

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** Mr. Rossi

**VOTE:** Unanimous

#17726

**f.) Budget Binder**

Ms. Silva reported that the Budget Binder was passed out tonight for the School Committee to review. Supt. Lavoie stated that this is the binder that is sent out to our communities. If you have any questions, please let Ms. Silva or Supt. Lavoie know before the vote.

**5. COMMUNICATIONS**

**a.) Donations**

- Ideal Concrete Block Company, Mr. Steve Davis of Westford, MA donated 5 pallets of concrete pavers and 1 pallet of wall stone.
- R.P. Marzilli & Co. Inc., Robert and Christine Marzilli of Medway donated 21 pallets of natural stone and concrete pavers.
- Certa Pro Painters, Mr. Michael Mahoney of North Andover donated construction hard hats
- Mainstay Landscape, Inc., Mr. Jay MacMullan of Westwood donated 2 pallets of concrete pavers

**b.) Articles**

- "Vocational Schools Seek to Reduce Wait Lists, Eagle-Tribune, March 20, 2019

**c.) Public Participation**

None

**6. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR**

**a.) Student's Report:**

Ms. Freedman read the students report. Graphics students Josh Robles, Victor Lopez, Skyla Cruz and Carly Jones are learning video skills in the "real world" by participating in training sessions and taping at North Andover CAM. Sometime in April, they will be taping a show for Ability Assistance featuring US Representative Seth Moulton. Sophomores in Graphics are currently decorating shoes as part of the VANS Custom Culture Challenge. They have participated in this challenge every year and their shoe designs from the past two years are on display in the hall outside of guidance. Two students qualified for SkillsUSA States competition, Joseph Debellis and Nankmary Delgado. The Interact Community Services are on April 4, Bread and Roses, April 13, Support for Merrimack Valley Prevention and Substance Abuse Project, April 30, Bread and Roses and May 4, Car Wash in support of Neighbors in Need. Esmarlyn and Darian will be meeting with local and state representatives at the Massachusetts State House in Boston for student government day. They will have the opportunity to discuss their thoughts on two proposed bills (one banning the sale of flavored tobacco products in retail outlets and one banning contact football for people 7th grade and under). Congratulations to all the STEAM students who participated in the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium yesterday at Boston University. Students competed against Boston Latin, Belmont High School, Mass Academy of Math and Science at WPI, Boston University Academy and others. Our students

did such a great job presenting their Bioreactor projects that several organizers mentioned how impressed they were with our students' presentation skills. Ms. Freedman reported that the students in the interact club are outstanding.

***b.) April Calendar***

No Discussion

***c.) Field Contract***

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to table the field contract discussion

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** Mr. Rossi

**VOTE:** Unanimous

#17727

***d.) Update on Field Phase II Project***

Supt. Lavoie reported that the contractor is back working on the field. They are meeting with the architecture to review some of the changes that are being proposed. The contractors will provide an updated quote with all the changes to Merrimack. As part of the lease, Merrimack College has agreed to pay the additional costs for that part of it. Once agreed upon we can finalize the contract. The completion date is scheduled between July 1 and July 15, 2019. One member asked about the campaign committee and if we are continuing with it since Sarah has left. Supt. Lavoie reported that Ms. Bennett is picking up that committee and we are trying to see what money is coming from the state. We received a call from Juan Vega, Assistant Secretary for Communities and Programs who wants to set up an awards ceremony. Supt. Lavoie reported that the Governor could attend. Once the money is awarded, then we would know how much money needs to be raised.

***e.) Superintendent's Calendar***

No Discussion

***f.) Automotive Floor Bid***

Supt. Lavoie asked the Committee to approve the bid for Automotive Floor Preparation and Resurfacing.

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the bid for Elite Garage, \$65,000.00

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** Ms. Infante

**VOTE:** Unanimous

#17728

***g.) Legislative Breakfast Date***

Supt. Lavoie reported that we are holding our Legislative Breakfast May 3, 2019. Invitations will be going out this week. We want to say thank you for the one million dollar funding that the legislation help us get and the supplemental budget that is still at the secretary of finance. They worked hard to help us with that and did a lot of work to help get HVAC approved for co-op. Supt. Lavoie reported that the Alliance for Vocational Technical Education (AVTE) group which is the group that advocates for vocational education asked if we could work with Mr. Moran to get a bill approved through the house and senate to help fund one million dollars to fund innovated programs like our Lawrence High Program. The first year you do not receive any funding but this year the Department of Education is allocating one million dollars through Perkins. This is only for one year and is not ongoing.

***h.) Update on Merrimack College Lease***

Supt. Lavoie that next week our attorney's and Merrimack College attorneys will be contact to finalize the lease.

***i.) Review of Harassment Policy***

Supt. Lavoie reported that due to the concerns of North Andover's current handling of harassment, we will be taking a look at our school policy under discrimination and harassment. Although it may not be specifically identified in our schools policies, we have a history of insuring that our victims have always continued with their regular schedule and have had the help and support they needed. Our first concern is the upmost consideration to our victims but the law also requires us to continue education for the perpetrators. One member stated that because of the North Andover incident, the laws are being looked at very closely by the State Board of Education who is being forced to come up with a solution. We may want to wait until they come up with that before we change our policy. One member stated that they did not want to wait for a long time to get something in place and hope they are looking

to include something that may take place off school grounds. One member reported that this incident in North Andover may encourage a victim to come forward, so we don't want to wait long to have a policy in place. Supt. Lavoie reported that if you would like to make any changes, please let him or Principal Freedman know. He has asked the Guidance Director and HR Director to look into this, since they are the harassment contacts. One member stated that even if we want to change our policy, we need our attorneys to review it.

**j.) PASS Program**

Supt. Lavoie reported that this is a program that he would like the Committee to vote on. The program will allow a student who has been suspended due to vaping an opportunity to make those days count. They will continue their education at the program up to five days. The program is run by the Beverly YMCA and the McPherson Youth Center. The student will participate in a group or individually to discuss health and wellness, substance abuse, anger management and healthy relationships. We feel like this is a positive alternative to suspending students. They will not fall behind and will keep up with their learning. We have a contract with Crest but they do not have this kind of program to address vaping. Supt. Lavoie reported that the cost is \$10,000 per year and this year will be \$3,000 until the end of the year. One member asked the hours of the program and how the students will get there. Ms. Freedman reported that the hours are from 9am to 2pm and that we will provide transportation. We are still working out the details because we do not want the student to come to the school if they are suspended. One member would like an update at the June meeting on how this is working out. One member asked about how many kids have been suspended for vaping. Ms. Freedman stated about thirty students. One member asked if the student can refuse to go. Ms. Freedman reported that we cannot insist that a student make up their time and will find out more details about that.

**MOTION:** Mr. Rossi moved to approve the PASS Program

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** Ms. Fitzgerald

**VOTE:** Unanimous

#17729

**k.) JSHS Teacher Award/STEAM**

Supt. Lavoie reported that STEAM teacher Ms. Marla Chae was awarded the 2019 Southern New England JSHS Teacher award. She received a five hundred dollar reward for her active mentoring and encouragement to student participation in STEM research.

**l.) Ground Work Lawrence Community Service**

Supt. Lavoie reported that the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students from Horticulture will be helping Ground Work Lawrence plant trees around the City of Lawrence for Community Service.

**m.) Principal's Report**

Principal Freedman reported that everything ran smoothly during the ELA MCAS testing. This was the first computer based test and the students did great and worked really hard. Supt Lavoie received an email from the Commissioner's office that there were concerns from Superintendent's and Principals brought to their attention surrounding the open response question and its racial bias. Ms. Freedman reported that they don't want to count it and she and Supt. Lavoie have concerns of the possible impact that it will have not counting the open response to our students and the school. The narrative prompt has been our student's strongest. Ms. Freedman reported that they are putting a letter together to send to the Commissioner of the concerns they have. One member reported that she read that the MCAS and standardize testing is going away. Ms. Freedman reported that she went to a conference that the keynote speaker reported that the standardize testing is not the best measure but is unsure if it is going away. Supt. Lavoie reported that once the letter is written that it will be provided to them.

**7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**a.) MAVA 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Outstanding Vocational Technical Student Awards Banquet:**

Supt. Lavoie reported that the awards banquet is on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at Mechanics Hall, Worcester, MA, Seating 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Dinner at 6:00 p. m. The student receiving the award is Leah Markham. If any member would like to go, please let him know. One member would like to go, but does not want to take a seat of any family, or staff that is attending.

*b.) Signing of Warrants*

Supt. Lavoie asked the Committee to approve the signing of a warrant under emergency circumstances.

**Motion:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve under emergency circumstances, a payroll or accounts payable warrant may be processed after one or more school committee members have signed it. However, all members will be informed of the action and can review the warrant at the next District School Committee Meeting.

2<sup>ND</sup>: Mr. Rossi

**VOTE:** Unanimous

#17730

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

*a.) District Committee Priorities*

*b.) Policy*

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**10. PERSONNEL CONSIDRATIONS/REPORT**

*a. Resignations*

*b. Leaves of Absence*

*c.) Retirements*

*d.) Appointments*

*e.) Job Postings*

- Special Education Specialist, provide clerical support for the Student Support Services Department, Anticipated start date May 13, 2019, replacement position.
- Guidance Counselor (LTS), August 20, 2019 – mid January, 2020, replacement position
- (5) Painters, (2) Carpenters, (1) Mason, Summer 2019 positions, as needed

Supt. Lavoie reported that all the moves and changes taking place this summer will be presented at the next District School Committee Meeting.

- Track Coach Assistant 4, new position
- Special Education Paraprofessional (LTS), to provide support for students with special needs in academic and career area. This position is available immediately and for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the job postings as presented

2<sup>ND</sup>: Ms. Infante

**VOTE:** Unanimous

#17731

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to go into Executive Session

2<sup>ND</sup>: Ms. Infante

**VOTE:**

Roll Called by District Recorder

Mr. Bourassa	Yes
Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Grondine	Yes
Ms. Infante	Yes
Mr. Mannion	Absent
Mr. Rossi	Yes
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes

#17732

**ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ENTER OPEN SESSION**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to adjourn at 7:30pm.

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Ms. Infante

**VOTE:** Uniramous

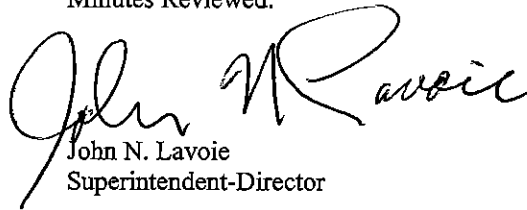
#17737

Respectfully Submitted:



Susan Lally  
District Recorder

Minutes Reviewed:



John N. Lavoie  
Superintendent-Director