



DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MEETING #1754
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

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

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. MINUTES

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the minutes of August 20, 2019.

2ND: Mr. Rossi

VOTE:

#17817

3. FINANCE REPORT

a.) Cash Balance Report

Mr. DiStefano read the report into the record.

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the Cash Balance Report as presented.

2ND: Ms. Infante

VOTE: Unanimous

#17818

b.) Consolidated Cash Reconciliation Report

No Discussion

c.) Revolving Fund Report

No Discussion

d.) Budget Report

No Discussion

4. COMMUNICATIONS

a.) Donations

None

b.) Articles

None

c.) Public Participation

None

5. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

a.) Director of Admissions and Counseling Introduction

Supt. Lavoie reported that he is extremely happy to introduce Ms. Brenda Richardson, Director of Admissions and Counseling. She has twenty years in education as a School Counselor, eighteen years at GLTHS and two years at Lawrence High School. Ms. Richardson also has eight years of experience in human services as a caseworker with the Middlesex Sheriff's Office, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Boston College (1991), Master of Education in School Counseling from Rivier University (1998), extensive post-graduate coursework and professional development in school counseling and leadership/administration, Certification as Guidance Director, Principal/Assistant Principal, and Vocational Supervisor-Director, Certified as "Wellness Champion and 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training" through "Breathe for Change" - May 2019, Completed MAVA Leadership Academy I in 2011, Leadership and Committee Work at GLTHS including: Co-Coordinator of New Teacher Mentoring Program, Spearheaded Creation of Greater Lowell Parent Organization, leading guidance team to earn two "MARC Jr." Awards through the Massachusetts School Counselor's Association, liaison work with Catie's Closet and many other community partners and stakeholders. Born and raised in Dunstable, MA where she currently lives with her husband Kelly, daughters Molly and Jacqueline and dog Brody. Ms. Richardson expressed that she is happy to be here and is impressed with the staff and administration.

b.) State Contract for the Field

Supt Lavoie reported that we received the official final signed contract in the mail today. We had given a copy of the signed document for our attorney's to review. We were awarded \$1,250,000.00 and any bills we get in the future can go to the state for payment. After Phase II, there will be about \$400,000.00. If the Committee feels comfortable we will put an RFP for Phase II. Supt. Lavoie reported that the cost should be between \$400,000-\$500,000. This will be for new natural turf and irrigation. One member asked if there is a timeline in which we have to spend the money. Supt. Lavoie reported that we need to spend it by August 1, 2020. One member asked about the conservation land restrictions. Supt. Lavoie reported that the restrictions are on our wetlands so we can still lease our fields. One member wanted to congratulate Supt. Lavoie on this accomplishment. We know how hard it was to get this done.

c.) Field Update

Supt. Lavoie reported that all the turf is laid down for Phase II and should be completed in a week. The contractors still have some work left on the fence and hot top which should be done in a few weeks. We still need dugouts and we are looking into keeping the cost to about \$30,000 range. Supt. Lavoie reported that he would like to put an RFP out for Phase III if the Committee is comfortable with this.

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to put an RFP out for Phase III of the Field Project.

2ND: Ms. Infante

VOTE: Unanimous

#17819

d.) Update on Seacoast United

Supt. Lavoie met with our attorney so he can make a recommendation on the proposals that Seacoast United and Andover Soccer gave us. We may have to put out another RFP given the timeline. Our attorney will make that recommendation within the week.

e.) DESE Visit

After Dark Launch Event: September 16, 2019 from 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Supt. Lavoie reported that the Department of Education wants to come to GLTS on September 16, 2019 and watch us give a presentation to them and other vocational schools that have put in for a grant to start similar programs. There will be around ten other vocational schools that want to learn about our program and at that time, the students will be here. The Lt. Governor, Commissioner and Secretary of Education will be in attendance. The Committee is invited to attend and there will be hors d'oeuvre and refreshments served.

f.) Report on Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)

g.) Principal's Report

1.) Back to School Opening

Principal Freedman reported that we had a new teacher induction and it was phenomenal. We had so many compliments and positive feedback on the support and organization of GLTS. We had a great opening in which Supt. Lavoie welcomed us back. Ms. Zielinski and Ms. Freedman spoke as a team to show that the administration and the union are working together. They highlighted the iceberg model that they have been learning at MIT. Supt. Lavoie and Mr. Burke spoke about the leverage they would like to use to change the system. The leverage point being the evaluation system in which the union likes as well. We also had a "think, care and share" exercise that the staff had to write in their journal and share with a partner. Over the next few days, a lot of time was spent in their classes and shops. Ms. Freedman reported that we were picked to be a BARR school which we received a grant for. This is an organization that provides structure for us to give support to our students in which we always have, but in a more effective way. The people connected to this program, 9th grade teachers, guidance counselors and administration went through two day training. This is more a teacher driven program then administrative, but we are in this together. Principal Freedman reported that the union also met to talk about the evaluation system. We are still working through some of their questions but are in good shape. We had a fantastic freshman orientation. The Reggie Leaders came in on their own time and helped out the new students. This year has a positive feel. One member reported that on social media, it felt positive too. One member also reported that she loved the DJ that we had for the arrival of the freshman students. One member asked if Principal Freedman had feedback on one of the questions that was asked to staff: "What your hope is, wish or want from our school this year?" Principal Freedman reported that there was not one thing, but was told on more than one occasion it was reported, "to build trust, feel valued and have a better year working together".

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

7. OLD BUSINESS

a.) District Committee Priorities

No Discussion

b.) Policy

No Discussion

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. PERSONNEL CONSIDRATIONS/REPORT

a.) Resignations

- Ms. Catherine Erickson, Chemistry Instructor (new hire), 8/22/19

b.) Leaves of Absence

c.) Retirements

d.) Appointments

- Mr. Brian Howe, Machine Tool Technology Instructor, Local 1707, Start Date: 8/27/19
- Mr. David McAllister, Electrical Instructor, Local 1707, Start Date: 8/27/19
- Mr. Peter Flink, Chemistry Instructor, Local 1707, Start Date: 8/27/19

e.) *Job Postings*

- Evening Comp. TIA Instructor, Hourly Rate: \$65.00, IT Grant, New Position

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

2nd: Ms. Infante

VOTE: Unanimous

#17820

One member asked if it would be possible to give two alumni's a tour of the school. They reached out to her on Social Media.

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to go into Executive Session

2ND: Mr. Rossi

VOTE:

Roll Called by District Recorder

Mr. Bourassa Yes

Ms. Fitzgerald Yes

Ms. Grondine Absent

Ms. Infante Yes

Mr. Mannion Absent

Mr. Rossi Yes

Mr. Lamontagne Yes

#17821

ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

ENTER OPEN SESSION

10. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

a.) *Update on Business Technology*

11. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to adjourn at 7:00 p.m.

2nd: Ms. Infante

VOTE: Unanimous

#17824

Respectfully Submitted:



Susan Lally
District Recorder

Minutes Reviewed:



John N. Lavoie
Superintendent-Director