



Greater Lawrence Technical School

**DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MEETING #1785
November 24, 2020**

<u>Members Present:</u>	Leo Lamontagne	Lawrence	Chairperson
	Frank Rossi	North Andover	Assistant Treasurer
	Zoila Disla	Lawrence	
	Anngybel Moreta	Methuen	
	Francisco Surillo	Methuen	
<u>Members Absent:</u>	Marilyn Fitzgerald	Andover	Vice Chairperson
<u>Others Present:</u>	John N. Lavoie	Superintendent-Director	
	Elizabeth Freedman	Principal	
	Maria Silva	Business Manager	
	Gerry DiStefano	Treasurer	
	Susan Lally	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.

Chairman Lamontagne reported that Governor Baker announced on March 12, 2020 that District Committee Meetings can be held virtually. It needs to be stated what members will be virtual and what members will be in person. Chairman Lamontagne reported that member, Mr. Rossi will be attending virtually. The members present in the room are Ms. Disla, Ms. Moreta, Mr. Surillo and Chairman Lamontagne. Ms. Fitzgerald is absent.

2. MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Surillo moved to approve the minutes of November 10, 2020.

2ND: Ms. Moreta

VOTE:

Roll Called by District Recorder:

- Ms. Disla Yes
- Ms. Fitzgerald Absent
- Ms. Moreta Yes
- Mr. Rossi Yes
- Mr. Surillo Yes
- Mr. Lamontagne Yes

#17561

3. FINANCE REPORT

a.) Cash Balance Report

Mr. DiStefano read the report into the record.

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

2ND: Ms. Moreta

VOTE:

Roll Called by District Recorder:

Ms. Disla Yes

Ms. Fitzgerald Absent

Ms. Moreta Yes

Mr. Rossi Yes

Mr. Surillo Yes

Mr. Lamontagne Yes

#17562

b.) Consolidated Cash Reconciliation Report

No Discussion

c.) Revolving Fund Report

No Discussion

4. COMMUNICATIONS

a.) Donations

Donation of Hair Color, Mr. Michael Reuter, Professional Hairdresser Inc., Manchester NH.

b.) Articles

MAVA, Discover the Greater Version of You.

c.) Public Participation

Ms. Lindsay Gangi participated. She reported that she represents Local 1707 and is a lead teacher for the Health Careers Department. She holds degrees in Nursing and Public Health. She is a resident of Lawrence and a mother of a student in the Plumbing Department. She and the faculty would like to express their gratitude and thanked Supt. Lavoie for all the work he has done to prepare the building for the return for in-person learning. The measures he took to prepare the building are second to none. At the next District Committee Meeting you will hear from an expert engineer who will give his opinion on the safety of the building. We are not disputing that everything has been done to prepare the building, unfortunately the building is not the factor of the transmission. The metrics in our sending communities are continuing to rise at an alarming rate. It is imperative that we have enough information as possible in order to make a decision on the safety of our students and staff. As a union, we would like to also have a public health official from our community analyze the metrics and speak to the safety of our students and staff returning to in-person. As educators, there is nothing that they want more than to be back to in-person learning. This way of teaching is not the best way to learn. We want to return to in-person learning, that will make our students, staff and parents feel safe. We would like to respectfully propose to the District Committee, that at the next meeting have the Assistant Director of Public Health from the town of Andover speak to present her expert opinion on the current metric trends for our sending communities as well as our ability to safely implement a return to in-person learning with continually rising infection rates. Thank You.

5. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

a.) In-Person Learning

Supt. Lavoie reported that at this time we will be meeting with the Administrative Team to revise a plan with regards to in-person learning with the last communications I made as a starting point. You will be getting the comprehensive package prior to our next meeting. The high needs students will be the first students that we are planning on brining in the building. Then we will follow-up with our 9th grade

exploratory students. Once the District Committee reviews that plan and is comfortable, then at the following meeting, we will look at the possibility of a hybrid plan. The plan will be worked on by our Administrative and COVID Teams as well as the Principal. The Assistant Directors of Public Health, Andover and Lawrence, are part of our COVID Team. I will reach out to them to see if they can attend our next District Committee meeting. At our next meeting, Professor Joseph Allen, Harvard, School of Public Health will be attending. He has worked with schools across the country as well as Massachusetts in developing plans for reopening. I have sent him a lot of information on our school so he can see if GLTS is safe for in-person learning, given the high numbers in the city of Lawrence. He will talk about his work. Mr. Surillo reported that he felt at our last meeting there was not enough data and he wanted to wait for the next meeting and the presentation before he votes on the reopening of the in-person learning.

b.) Information on the Organizational Chart

Supt. Lavoie reported that he sent the District Committee the new organizational chart and an explanation of the rationale of his changes. The change is that I am having the vocational community move under me. The CTE Director will be under me and the CTE Coordinators will be under the CTE Director. Given the situation of COVID and the challenge of vocational instruction, I feel that I wanted to work more closely with the vocational team which will allow me to have more insight and to use my experience and knowledge. Additionally, I have been working more closely with the Director of Admissions given the changes with our admissions policy. I have met with the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner and they are looking for more access to vocational education. The guidance and vocational departments will still answer directly to Principal Freedman. I am just looking to embed more knowledge and expertise and also help them deliver more leadership skills.

c.) Capital Improvement Items

Supt. Lavoie reported that he brought two items to the Capital Improvement Committee in which they passed. I am looking for full approval from the District Committee. The first project is phase 3 of the field project. We poured a foundation to put up a building to store our outside field equipment such as trackers, lawn mowers, materials to maintaining the fields and fencing. It is always left outside, and it shortens the life of very expensive equipment. The building I am looking to put up is a barn shaped building. It will give us a lot of flexibility in terms of storage like fertilizer and grass. The cost is anywhere from \$80,000 to \$120,000 to construct it. There will be two bathrooms. There are not bathrooms down in that area of the fields.

MOTION: Mr. Rossi moved to approve Phase 3 of the field project to put a building up for use of storage of outside equipment at a cost of \$80,000 to \$120,000.

2ND: Mr. Surillo

VOTE:

Roll Called by District Recorder:

Ms. Disla	Yes
Ms. Fitzgerald	Absent
Ms. Moreta	Yes
Mr. Rossi	Yes
Mr. Surillo	Yes
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes

#17563

Supt. Lavoie reported that he had several conversations with Beyond Soccer of Lawrence and they have been looking for a field in Lawrence. We would have to put out an RFP if we wanted to lease it to them. The contractor that has been doing our projects is starting a field project at Minuteman Tech. and has 10,000 yards of fill that he will give us for free. Right now, there is half a field and half a big hole. The company that has been doing our work, said they would truck it over here, but we would have to pay for the trucking and some of the excavation at a cost of \$65,000. The fill is worth about \$250,000 if we had

to pay for it. We would then have another soccer field for the kids of Lawrence. This would give them a home that they could depend on.

MOTION: Mr. Rossi moved to approve the Phase 3 Soccer Field to truck free fill and to excavate at a cost of \$65,000.

2ND: Mr. Surillo

VOTE:

Roll Called by District Recorder:

Ms. Disla	Yes
Ms. Fitzgerald	Absent
Ms. Moreta	Yes
Mr. Rossi	Yes
Mr. Surillo	Yes
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes

#17564

d.) Students Learning Out of State

Supt. Lavoie reported that there was an article in the paper that Lawrence approved their students to learn remotely out of state and out of the country for long term. We currently approve up to ten days to learn outside of the district. The District Committee has the authority to extend that. We have had students that have been in the Dominican and instead of taking them off the books, we would allow students to work outside the district, while the pandemic is going on. If we do bring students back to school, they would have to return.

MOTION: Mr. Surillo moved to approve students to learn out of state while the pandemic is going on.

2ND: Mr. Rossi

Discussion: Mr. Surillo asked how many students have we had that want to work out of state? Supt. Lavoie reported that this year, we had three or four cases that students requested to work out of state. We had a student leave for a few months and had to withdraw. They were reinstated when they returned. I would rather provide them the education for those months, then have them fall behind. We had not had many cases but have had requests to stay out longer. Mr. Surillo asked what happens if we are in a hybrid model. Supt. Lavoie reported that they can request to stay out remotely. We may have that case with other students, when we survey our parents. The information that I am giving to the District Committee will go to the parents before the meeting so that anyone that wants to attend the meeting can have input or speak to the District Committee. I want to make everything transparent on what we are bringing to the District Committee so that everyone knows what they will be voting on.

Roll Called by District Recorder:

Ms. Disla	Yes
Ms. Fitzgerald	Absent
Ms. Moreta	Yes
Mr. Rossi	Yes
Mr. Surillo	Yes
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes

#17565

e.) December Calendar

Chairman Lamontagne reported that we will need a vote to have only one meeting in December. Normally we have a get together for past Committee Members and Administration along with a gathering after at my home. These events will not be happening. I have asked the Administration to send a letter out. The meetings are December 8th and 22nd.

MOTION: Mr. Rossi moved to adjust the December calendar to one meeting on December 8, 2020

2ND: Mr. Surillo

VOTE:

Roll Called by District Recorder:

Ms. Disla	Yes
Ms. Fitzgerald	Absent
Ms. Moreta	Yes
Mr. Rossi	Yes
Mr. Surillo	Yes
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes

#17566

f.) Co-op Report

Supt. Lavoie reported that we have 81 students on Co-op. Every week we continue to grow. Hopefully students will finish up their Driver's Ed and we will have more students driving and on Co-op. Some of the difficulties are for students that don't drive. Currently, we don't have Driver's Ed provided at our school which makes it more difficult. Ms. Silva reported that the RFP will be able to be accessed on November 30th. Supt. Lavoie reported that we did hear from the RMV and they will be helping the students to set them up and help with the funds. We have had about ten students reach out to us.

g.) Information on the Administration Return to the Building

Supt. Lavoie reported the Administrators MOU allows me to reassess whether to bring them back on a monthly basis. I asked them to return after the Thanksgiving recess. I did say that if there are issues that need to be taken care of, to provide me with a plan and how much time they need to resolve it and to give them some flexibility to meet their home demands as well as their school responsibilities.

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a.) District Committee Priorities*
- b.) Policy*

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS /REPORT

- a.) Resignations*
- b.) Leaves of Absence*
- c.) Retirements*
- d.) Appointments*
- e.) Job Postings*

- MCAS Tutors, Up to 1 staff member for Feb. Bio MCAS Tutoring, Up to 1 staff member for Jan., ELA MCAS Tutoring, Up to 1 staff member for Jan., Math MCAS Tutoring, Per CBA, Effective: 12/1/20-2/15/21, Annual Position, Title 1 Stipend.

MOTION: Mr. Surillo moved to approve the job descriptions as presented.

2ND: Mr. Rossi

Discussion: Mr. Rossi asked about the Title 1 position. Supt. Lavoie reported that we are using the Title 1 funds for tutoring.

VOTE:

Roll Called by District Recorder:

Ms. Disla	Yes
Ms. Fitzgerald	Absent
Ms. Moreta	Yes
Mr. Rossi	Yes
Mr. Surillo	Yes

Mr. Lamontagne Yes
#17567

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Lamontagne reported that at our next meeting on December 8th we may have several people participating. I would like a note sent to both unions, to get in touch with Ms. Lally ahead of time to have some type of idea how many would like to participate to help the meeting flow better. It is not a cutoff date, and anyone will be able to participate that night.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Rossi moved to adjourn at 6:40p.m.

2ND: Ms. Moreta

VOTE:

Roll Called by District Recorder:

Ms. Disla	Yes
Ms. Fitzgerald	Absent
Ms. Moreta	Yes
Mr. Rossi	Yes
Mr. Surillo	Yes
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes

#17568

Respectfully Submitted:



Susan Lally
District Recorder

Minutes Reviewed:



John N. Lavoie
Superintendent-