



Greater Lawrence Technical School

**DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
OPEN MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING #1794  
February 2, 2021**

<b><u>Members Present:</u></b>	Leo Lamontagne	Lawrence	Chairperson
	Marilyn Fitzgerald	Andover	Vice Chairperson
	Zoila Disla	Lawrence	
	Vivian Marmol	Lawrence	
	Anngybel Moreta	Methuen	
	Francisco Surillo	Methuen	

<b><u>Members Absent:</u></b>	Frank Rossi	North Andover	Assistant Treasurer
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<b><u>Others Present:</u></b>	John N. Lavoie	Superintendent-Director
	Maria Silva	Business Manager
	Gerry DiStefano	Treasurer
	Susan Lally	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.

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. All members will be virtual tonight and Mr. Rossi will not be in attendance.

**2. MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the minutes of January 12 & 26, 2021

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

**VOTE:**

Roll Called by District Recorder:

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

#17612

**3. FINANCE REPORT**

*a. Cash Balance*

**MOTION:** Mr. Surillo moved to approve the Cash Balance

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

Ms. Fitzgerald asked about the transfer of \$500,000. Mr. DiStefano reported that the transfer was done because of the timing of the Chapter 70 funds and wanted to make sure we had enough funds in the operating account.

**VOTE:**

Roll Called by District Recorder:

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

#17613

**4. COMMUNICATIONS**

*a.) Donations*

- Mr. Christian Toft Anderson, Andover, MA, 2008 GMC Acadia, valued at \$5100

*b.) Articles*

*c.) Public Participation*

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

*a.) Anti-Racism Program*

Supt. Lavoie reported that our CTE Coordinator, Panagiota Athinelis will speak about the program that we are starting at the school. Ms. Athinelis reported that we have engaged the services of the Disruptive Equity Education Project (DEEP) for a two-year commitment. Deep is a professional development and strategy organization that is focused on the intentional, developmental and complex work that is associated with changing mindsets around equity and dismantling systemic oppression and racism. Darnisa Amante-Jackson, CEO of DEEP and lecturer at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education, and her team will guide us through this challenging and important work. This is a collaborative, ongoing effort that will include the entire GLTS community at various stages. Dr. wants to schedule meetings with two members of our District Committee as part of her initial data gathering to get a better understanding of GLTS from their perspective. The meetings will occur at times that are mutually convenient for the District Committee Members and Dr. Amante-Jackson. We are requesting two volunteers from the District Committee to fulfill this request. Ms. Fitzgerald and Mr. Surillo have volunteered to be part of the team. Supt. Lavoie reported that given the state of the world today, we think it is a critical time to bring our community together to better understand and address the indifferences. Mr. Surillo reported that he would like to have some more information on the program and the organization. Ms. Athinelis Panagiota reported that she will put some materials together to give more background. Dr. Amante-Jackson is very well respected in this field and nationally recognized. It is not the easiest to get her services, we are very lucky to get her to work with us. You will be highly impressed.

*b.) Athletics*

Supt. Lavoie reported that we are looking for a vote from the District Committee to allow our students to participate in an interim winter sports program. Our Athletic Director, Michael Nelson will speak to you on what the MIAA has approved. We have contacted the DPH Director in Lawrence and he approved us to move forward with sports. Mr. Nelson reported that Nairi Melkonian. Athletic Trainer, a member of the MIAA Sports Medicine Committee and our Contact Tracer is also present to answer any questions. We are at a stage that we have an opportunity to have two seasons of sports. It is called a floating season, or fall 2.0. The MIAA restructured the three-season format and as we roll into February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The fall 2.0

has six-seven sports as well as the Spring season. The coaching staff, Administration, Nairi and myself are confident that we can offer the students a safe environment to play sports. They have not had an opportunity to play sports since February, 2020. They deserve it, whether it is a form of mental health or back to a sense of normality. The Reggie's deserve to play sports and am confident that we can do what the rest of the commonwealth is doing and provide them with a great experience for the remainder of the year. The sports for the floating season are Football, swim, B/G Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Golf, Cheering & Cross Country. Indoor track was already canceled at the league level. The season runs from February 22<sup>nd</sup> to April 25<sup>th</sup>. There are ways to run sports, with the snow, for instance golf, we can use a driving range until the spring. The Spring Season after that, April 26<sup>th</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup>, includes Softball, Wrestling, Spring Track, Tennis, Competitive Cheering and Boys Volleyball. With that said, the MIAA will still have to approve those sports. Then approval is need from Sports, Sports Medicine, COVID Committees, the Board of Directors and then to the Athletic Directors. Those are the sports that are offered and I would bring this back to the District Committee to seek approval for the spring sports. The guidelines that were provided by the EEA has an addendum, January 22, 2021. There are modifications that need to be followed. The coaches have started their own protocols. Nairi, myself and the Head Coach will sit down and finalize the protocols. We do need to seek approval from the Superintendent, the District Committee and the support from the local BOH, which Lawrence has approved. Supt. Lavoie reported that all the protocols and guidelines have been developed by the MIAA and the state so we would have to follow all those protocols. Mr. Nelson reported that this is time sensitive and the four major committees and the board of directors of the MIAA did approve the sports and the recommendations by those committees. Today I seek your approval to move forward. Ms. Fitzgerald asked if there are any of our CAC schools that will not be participating. Mr. Nelson reported that a lot of the schools have played sports during the fall season. It is split down the middle, some schools that have played and some that have not played. The schedule now stands that there would always be a home and home game. There will be 14 games, hoping for 10-12 games. Ms. Fitzgerald reported that since September, the schools that have had some hybrid and in-person learning, have been able to play sports. Our students have missed out on so much and this looks like you have done every bit of homework and all the committees it has to go through, I would recommend we let them play.

I would totally recommend that we let our kids play. I appreciate that support.

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve allow the students to participate in the interim winter sports programs.

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

**VOTE:**

Roll Called by District Recorder:

Ms. Disla	Absent
Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Marmol	No
Ms. Moreta	Yes
Mr. Rossi	Absent
Mr. Surillo	Yes
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes

#17614

*c.) General Advisory*

Supt. Lavoie reported that every year, we have a General Advisory meeting in January. There is one member from each of our technical programs that comes to a school committee meeting and does a report on each of the programs from the meeting they had in the fall giving recommendations on budget. This year we were unable to have that meeting because of the pandemic, it is usually a dinner. We have rescheduled this for March 2, 2021 at 5:30. An hour before our District Meeting, we will have this meeting. This meeting will be held virtual. The District Committee meeting will start at 6:30. Supt. Lavoie reported that they do a recommendation at the end of their meetings in the fall.

*d.) Return of After Dark Students*

Supt. Lavoie reported that we had a request to have our After Dark Students come in the building to do hands-on learning from 2:30-5:30 and will start on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Almono, Director of Grants, Community & Workforce Development who oversees this program has had a request from Lawrence High to start the program. More than 70% of their students are freshman and are new to the programs. We started two new programs, Automotive and Metal Fabrication. HVAC and Machine Tech have first year students as well. They have not had the opportunity for hands-on training like our students. There are approximately 53 students in four shops. They will follow all the protocols and procedures as our day program. Ms. Disla reported that she missed the sports and the minutes vote and that she still has concerns of bringing back the students for in-person learning. I understand that the students are coming in on February 22<sup>nd</sup> but feel that some things need to be done. Ms. Marmol asked what her vote for starting sports was. Ms. Lally reported that it was yes. Ms. Marmol requested that she changes her vote because she had a hard time hearing and was not fully aware that it was to start sports. I don't feel we should bring more students back until we see how the school handles our students coming back. I think it is premature to bring in the After Dark students. Mr. Surillo asked that everything be put in place prior to the February 22<sup>nd</sup> start date.

**MOTION:** Mr. Surillo moved to approve the After Dark Students to return on February 22, 2021  
**2<sup>ND</sup>:** Ms. Fitzgerald

**VOTE:**

Roll Called by District Recorder:

Ms. Disla	No
Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Marmol	No
Ms. Moreta	Yes
Mr. Rossi	Absent
Mr. Surillo	Yes
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes

#17615

Supt. Lavoie reported that we have made a lot of updates to the in-person plan. Ms. Infante put everything together and it will make it easier for you to understand. We have had training this week and the faculty have been practicing on their prep.

*e.) Outstanding Student Recognition*

Bridget Severino is our Exceptional Reggie this month. Supt. Lavoie reported that it is always an honor to read their biography. We are extremely proud of you and congratulations. Ms. Fitzgerald wanted to thank Mr. Cusack for bringing this to our attention.

*f.) Admissions Report*

Supt. Lavoie reported that as of today, we had 867 on the report and are now up to 1,000 applicants to the school. The numbers keep growing.

*g.) Credit Recovery Grant*

Supt. Lavoie reported that this grant was sponsored by DESE to help those licensed trade students who lost hours towards their license. The two programs are Plumbing and Electrical. We want to offer the opportunity to our seniors before they leave us to make up some of those hours. They will have to come into the building for hands-on training. This is two nights a week and Saturday. Mr. Surillo asked how many students are we bringing back starting February 22<sup>nd</sup>, total, including Exploratory, After-Dark and high needs. Supt. Lavoie reported that we would be bringing these students in later in the evening when school is closed. We are looking at about ten plumbing and less than ten for electrical. There are about 54 After Dark students and they are in a different area of the building. The students will not be near

each other. The high need students are in during the day as well as the exploratory students. The exploratory students will be in from 7:45-1:30. For two days, we will have 175 students exploring 18 different programs, so approx. 10-12 in a program. Later in the week, on Thursday and Fridays, we will have 175 different students in the same cohorts of 10-12 students. Some students will stay remote. We have about 350 students that will be coming in.

Ms. Fitzgerald reported that it is so difficult for students from Electrical and Plumbing to get their hours. They have been penalized. It takes years to get all these hours and the fact that it is after hours and on Saturdays, I would be tremendously in favor of this. Ms. Disla asked when will they start? Supt. Lavoie reported that we would like to start February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Disla reported that she thinks this sounds fine and agrees with Ms. Fitzgerald.

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the senior students to come in for in-person learning to receive hours towards their license.

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

**VOTE:**

Roll Called by District Recorder:

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

#17616

## **6. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEES**

### **7. OLD BUSINESS**

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

### **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **9. PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS/REPORT**

- a. *Resignations*
- b. *Leave of Absences*
- c. *Retirements*
- d. *Appointments*
- e. *Job Postings*
  - Credit Attainment Plumbing Instructor, up to 100-hour Plumbing training for seniors who need additional hours in the Plumbing CTE shop that they were not able to obtain during the COVID-19 remote learning period. To be taught in person/\$65/hr. for up to 100 hours of instruction, \$50/hr. of prep time for each class, up to 15 hours available, Approx. Dates are March 1 – June 1, 2021.

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

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

**VOTE:**

Roll Called by District Recorder:

Ms. Disla	Yes
Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Marmol	Yes

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

#17617

- Credit Attainment Electrical Instructor, up to 100-hour Electrical training for seniors who need additional hours in the Electrical CTE shop that they were not able to obtain during the COVID-19 remote learning period. To be taught in person/\$65/hr. for up to 100 hours of instruction, \$50/hr. of prep time for each class, up to 15 hours available, Approx. Dates are March 1 – June 1, 2021.

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

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

**VOTE:**

Roll Called by District Recorder:

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

#17618

Supt. Lavoie reported that when the Exploratory Program starts, the bus company needs to drop off the students earlier, because of their bus schedule. We need our instructors to start a half hour earlier than the contract calls for. We would hire the teachers as morning monitors at the contract rate. They would start a half hour earlier everyday to pick up the students from the bus and bring them to their shop areas. We would need 18 monitors. I am meeting with the union tomorrow to see if they would negotiate to change the teacher’s hours. If they are not comfortable, then we will have to post this job.

- Morning Monitors (Up to 20), Staff to monitor students being dropped off by busses before their exploratory classes begin. Coverage would be needed from 7:15 to 7:43 at each career area. Freshmen career area staff are preferred and will be given for covering their own program, Per CBA, 2/22/21 to TBD, Annual Position.

Ms. Disla asked Supt. Lavoie to explain why the bus company will have difficulty dropping our students off? Supt. Lavoie reported that we need them to drop off the students at 7:43 and due to the bus companies second route, they cannot accommodate this. They would have to drop them off at 7:15. The reason we have this timeframe, is to give the shop teachers a prep every day. Our contract states that they should be dropped off between 7-7:30. Ms. Fitzgerald asked if you are looking to change those 18 teachers start time, would they leave earlier and therefore, they would not need to get paid? Supt. Lavoie reported yes. Mr. Surillo asked why the bus company will not negotiate that? Supt. Lavoie cannot because they have a second route that they are committed to. Mr. Surillo asked if the bus company has the time to disinfect the bus in-between. As far as our agreement they are going to do this.

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

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

**VOTE:**

Roll Called by District Recorder:

Ms. Disla	No
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Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Marmol	No
Ms. Moreta	No
Mr. Rossi	Absent
Mr. Surillo	No
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes

#17619  
Motion dies

Ms. Fitzgerald reported that if we had a little more clarification on what the union would agree to, it can be brought back to our next meeting. I would like to know ahead of time if they were agreeable to that type of arrangement and to find out if there will be cleaning in-between bus routes.

**10. FUTURE ADGENDA ITEMS**

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

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

**VOTE:**

Roll Called by District Recorder:

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

#17620

**ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ENTER OPEN SESSION**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to adjourn at 7:20PM.

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

**VOTE:**

Roll Called by District Recorder:

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

#17623

Respectfully Submitted:



Susan Lally  
District Recorder

Minutes Reviewed:



John N. Lavoie  
Superintendent-Director