



Greater Lawrence Technical School

**DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
OPEN MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING #1796  
February 16, 2021**

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

**Members Absent:**

<b><u>Others Present:</u></b>	John N. Lavoie	Superintendent-Director
	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.

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. Ms. Fitzgerald, Mr. Rossi, Ms. Marmol, Ms. Moreta and Mr. Surillo will be attending virtually and Ms. Disla and Chairman Lamontagne will be attending in-person.

**2. MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the minutes of February 2 & 8, 2021

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

**VOTE:**

Roll Called by District Recorder:

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

#17630

### 3. FINANCE REPORT

#### a. Cash Balance

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the Cash Balance

**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	Absent
Mr. Surillo	Yes
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes

#17631

### 4. COMMUNICATIONS

#### a.) Donations

*None*

#### b.) Articles

*None*

#### c.) Public Participation

Ms. Hannah Hoffman, Mentor for STEAM and a Research Technician. Ms. Hoffman reported she first got involved with STEAM last summer and fell in love with the program. I started leading a few classes and mentoring students and it was wonderful to see how much support the students got from your teachers. I was disappointed that I heard that STEAM may be splitting up. I spoke with my colleagues and they are all in support of what is being done with STEAM. The approach is pretty incredible and is not being done anywhere else. I emailed the District Committee with a petition they all signed to keep STEAM afloat. I came into the meeting tonight thinking that the program was breaking up. Supt. Lavoie was kind enough to reach out to me and actually explained that STEAM was not being broken up and supported the program. The program has gotten over fifty mentors and I would love to see it be taken further. Thank you.

Ms. Joan Schein, GLTS Advisory Board Member reported that she is here on behalf of your amazing STEAM Program. You are leading the dialog for critical thinking. I urgently was going to ask you to continue your amazing STEAM program but I found out that you are. I live in California and I can only find summer programs for my children to expose them to this type of programing that you are teaching your students. The project-based program is incredible and when I tell other people about the program, they want to know where the school is located. What is amazing is that GLTS and the District Committee had the foresight to start this program. I think this is a model that should be adopted nationwide. Your students will stand out in a job interview because no other students will have this experience. I urge you to think about your students and their future and I am happy to hear that you are continuing with the program. I am willing to put my heart and soul into your program, because I truly believe in it. Whatever support you need; please utilize the help we can give you in the industry.

Ms. Norline Walker, 1979 graduate of GLTS and Advisory Board member since 2004. Ms. Walker reported that it is such a delight to see how it started out as Biotech and emerged into a STEAM Program. There is no Biotech without Engineering. I have been in the industry for 30 years. As a quality professional I work with teams every day in, Engineering, Facilities, Quality and QC, everything that makes up an entire Biotech Company. STEAM is a brilliant program. Mr. Lavoie reported that the program will stay intact. I look forward to a brighter future in STEAM program, for the students that attend the school. I would encourage that we expand the STEAM Program, so all the students. whether

they want to go onto to a trade or college they are prepared to do that. We in the industry are open to make that happen. I look forward someday to be part of this School Committee. Thank you.

## 5. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

### a.) *Final Preparation for In-Person Learning*

Supt. Lavoie reported we have been continuing to work and prepare for in-person learning. We expect to have the high needs and exploratory students return on February 22, 2021. The bus routes have been completed and students have been given their pickup time and routes. Letters and information have been sent to parents with permission slips. Breakfast is being prepared and the shops have been inspected and exploratory teachers have been verified. We need one more high need teacher which will be verified tomorrow. We sent out a student survey and are still waiting for about 100 responses. We started making calls today. We have confirmed 235 students for exploratory in-person and 83 students will remain remote. For high needs students, we have 15 students attending in-person, 16 students will remain remote and we are waiting on 14 student responses. The PPE equipment is in place and KN95 masks were ordered and received. All students will receive their KN95 and cloth masks. All posters on the protocols and procedures are printed and will be put up in each of the shops. The teachers have been trained on all the technology as well as the cameras and the co-op students have been hired and have had training with their teachers. Ms. Disla asked if the monitoring badges are in place. Supt. Lavoie reported that the badges have been ordered and released from customs. The company reported that if they are not here by the end of the week, then the students will be able to put the app on their phones at no cost. Ms. Disla reported that one of the conditions of reopening was that we would have the badges in place. Supt. Lavoie reported that the app would take the place of the badges until they arrive. Ms. Marmol asked what if the student does not have a phone? Supt. Lavoie reported they can use an IPAD. If for some reason, they don't arrive by the end of the week, my recommendation would be to delay the opening until they come in and start on Thursday/Friday. Ms. Marmol asked if we are supplying masks for students. Supt. Lavoie reported they need their own mask to get on the bus, but upon arrival, we will provide them with KN95 and two cloth masks. We will supply them on an ongoing basis. Mr. Surillo asked when the monitors were ordered. Supt. Lavoie reported they were ordered the day after the District Committee approved it. I found out this weekend that they were being delayed. Mr. Surillo reported that he agrees delaying the opening for two days, if we don't have the badges. Ms. Fitzgerald reported that we could still get them before the end of the week. I would not want to automatically say we are delaying the opening two days, if they do get here in time. Mr. Surillo reported that his original motion was to have the students come back, if all safety protocols were in place. If they do not arrive, then we need to delay it. Supt. Lavoie reported that if it is not here early Friday, then we need to contact the parents and delay it by two days. Ms. Marmol asked when they do arrive, how much training will the teachers need? Supt. Lavoie reported that once they arrive, Ms. Melkonian, our contact tracer will walk them through remotely the first thing in the morning. It is about a 15-minute training. Ms. Disla asked how many permission slips are we waiting for? Supt. Lavoie reported that we are waiting on approximately 103 students to respond. We have staff members making phone calls to those that have not responded. The permission slips are to allow the students to get tested in the building.

**MOTION:** Mr. Surillo moved to approve to delay the opening of school if the monitors are not here by 10:00 am Friday, February 19, 2021 for two days.

**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	Yes
Mr. Surillo	Yes

Mr. Lamontagne            Yes  
#17632

*b.) DESE Admissions Changes*

Supt. Lavoie reported that we have been working with DESE while they review all schools that have a high waiting list. We are one of eight schools they are working with. They have been reviewing our communities' demographics to see if we align consistently with the demographics of our students we are accepting into the school. Three areas they look at to see if we are consistent in is low-income, special education and EL Students. We are consistent with our low-income and special education students that we take in, but we are a little low with our EL students. They want to work with us on strategies to get our EL population more in line with the demographics with our communities. We may have a change in our admissions policy and are very much in favor of fixing our discrepancy and being fair to all students. When we do make that change, it will be brought to the District Committee for approval. Mr. Surillo asked if DESE is trying to make us use a lottery? Supt. Lavoie reported that they are not suggesting a lottery. I will keep the District Committee updated when we meet with DESE and our updates to the policy.

*d.) Update on STEAM*

Supt. Lavoie reported that I wanted the District Committee to know that four years ago, the vision and the mission of the STEAM Program was the vision of myself after hearing about a STEAM school beginning in Andover. When it was not successful, I reached out to the members that started the program to look at their proposal to the state and then started to put our own mission and vision together. We are not looking to close STEAM, just looking on making some changes that will have an impact on the curriculum and the timeframe in which the students select their program between Biotech and Engineering. Ms. Fitzgerald reported how fast a rumor can be so dangerous and this all started with one person, assuming that the school was closing STEAM instead of enhancing it with the curriculum. It is important that the District Committee realize that the day to day operations is not ours to decide. I feel sad that the rumor started. Ms. Fitzgerald reported that Supt. Lavoie and myself went to a meeting in Andover when this other school was being proposed and the fact that we were able to capitalize on them not doing it. Supt. Lavoie is the founder of making this part of our school. I feel confident that any changes to the curriculum will benefit every student in the school and not just the students that are in STEAM. Mr. Rossi reported that he agrees with Ms. Fitzgerald, whatever Supt. Lavoie does will enhance the school completely.

*c.) Update on Athletics*

Supt. Lavoie reported that in our last meeting, the District Committee voted to allow sports to start the fall season 2 on February 22, 2021. Supt. Lavoie asked Ms. Lally to confirm the vote because there was some confusion with it. Ms. Disla reported that she voted no. The minutes were recorded as two absences, one no and four yes'. Supt. Lavoie reported that since the season will start on February 22, 2021, I was looking for a vote from the District Committee to allow conditioning training before the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Additionally, I received another request to honor our basketball seniors who didn't have a season to play one game to play on Thursday. Only the parents and the faculty will be able to attend. Ms. Disla asked how many students will be coming in for conditioning? Mr. Nelson reported that there will be six coaches and 45 students. Most likely they will be outside and in small cohorts. Mr. Surillo reported that we may not bring in the students on February 22, 2021, so why would we bring in students for sports. Supt. Lavoie reported that we are bringing the students in that week, and the advantage for doing some training is so they don't get hurt. If we could start slowly before February 22<sup>nd</sup>, it would be beneficial. Mr. Nelson reported that you can fit 15 people in the weight room, 10 in the wellness room and 25 in the big gym and 20 in the small gym, socially distancing. The basketball game is to honor our seniors and give them the opportunity to play on the new court, with new uniforms and their parents in attendance. The reason why we want to have the game this week is that a student athlete cannot play two sports in the same season.

The masks will be on while training. All protocols will be in place. This is the same protocols that we had this summer. Ms. Fitzgerald wanted to thank Mr. Nelson for his patience that you have gone through in making all the changes. Can the MIAA look at this as you getting in our students for a head start? Do you have to seek special permission? Do our teachers who are coaches willing to come into the school to teach too? Mr. Nelson reported that you can actually coach out of season up until July 1<sup>st</sup>. As far as the coaches, they are excited about having the students in front of them again. Ms. Marmol asked if all the protocols are in place. Supt. Lavoie reported that yes

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to allow the students to come in before February 22, 2021 for conditioning.

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

Ms. Disla reported why wasn't the conditioning discussed at our last meeting? Mr. Nelson reported that the document that was in the packet discussed the conditioning. Supt. Lavoie reported that it was not in the packet.

**VOTE:**

Roll Called by District Recorder:

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

#17633

Ms. Fitzgerald reported that normally there are built in days to each season for conditioning and because this fall 2 is so shortened, we found a way to help our kids. This is an exception that probably will not happen again.

**MOTION:** Mr. Surillo moved to approve the basketball game for Thursday, February 18, 2021 to honor the seniors.

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

Mr. Nelson reported that basketball is one sport that cannot be made up. Our students did not have a season and most of the schools did. It would be a way for our seniors to have one last time to play on the new court and have their parents there. It is more a scrimmage/pickup game that cannot be made up. Ms. Fitzgerald asked if we received approval from the MIAA? Mr. Nelson reported that they could practice this week and play on Thursday but it would be impossible for ten conditioning days. We will not put our students in a dangerous situation.

**VOTE:**

Roll Called by District Recorder:

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

#17634

*d.) Advisory Board Recommendations*

Supt. Lavoie reported that he provided a copy of the Advisory Boards recommendation so you could have enough time to review them before the meeting on March 2, 2021. Ms. Fitzgerald reported that on some of the recommendations it involves an expenditure. How do we determine if it gets into the budget or not? Supt Lavoie reported that he will be meeting with the CTE Coordinators to review all of these

recommendations. Most will be put in our operational budget.

*e.) Community Report*

Supt. Lavoie reported this is our admissions report. We have 1047 applicants that applied to the school. We have 935 that have completed the application and the rest we are still waiting for information. The next report shows how many have applied in the last seven days which was 11 applicants and in the past 30 days, we had 190 applicants. For the class of 2025 we are ahead of last years totals. Most schools show their numbers are down due to the pandemic, but are numbers of applicants are up.

*f.) Co-op Report*

Supt. Lavoie reported that we have 98 students on co-op. That number continues to grow. One impact on the numbers is that some of the students do not have their driver’s license because we haven’t had drivers ed. Ms. Silva received a call today from a member of the North Andover driving school that will be reopening under a new leadership. We will be putting out an RFP so we can get a driving school onboard. Hopefully we will be able to start a new program in March.

*g.) Administration of Medications Approval*

Supt. Lavoie reported that this is a policy that the District Committee approves every year which allows the nurses to administer medicine. There are no changes in the policy but by law, the District Committee needs to vote on it if they are ready. The policy has been reviewed and signed by our school physician, Dr. Christine Rooney. Ms. Fitzgerald asked if there were no changes to the policy. Supt. Lavoie reported that is correct.

**MOTION:** Mr. Surillo moved to table the vote on the Administration of Medications until our next meeting.

**VOTE:** Ms. Disla

Roll Called by District Recorder:

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

#17635

**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*

**10. FUTURE ADGENDA ITEMS**

*a.) Administration of Medications Approval*

**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

#17636

**ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ENTER OPEN SESSION**

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to drop off the students in the cafeteria on February 22, 2021 instead of each individual shop.

**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

#17638

**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	Yes
Mr. Rossi	Absent
Mr. Surillo	Yes
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes

#17639

Respectfully Submitted:



Susan Lally  
District Recorder

Minutes Reviewed:



John N. Lavoie  
Superintendent-Director