

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OPEN MEETING MINUTES MEETING #1822 November 23, 2021

<u>Members Present</u> :	Francisco Surillo Vivian Marmol Zoila Disla Marilyn Fitzgerald Leo Lamontagne	Methuen Lawrence Lawrence Andover Lawrence	Chairperson Vice Chairperson Assistant Treasurer
<u>Members Absent:</u>	Anngybel Moreta Frank Rossi	Methuen North Andov	er
Others Present:	John N. Lavoie Susan Zielinski Gerry DiStefano Susan Lally	Superintende Principal Treasurer District Reco	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Surillo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

Roll Call by District Recorder: Mr. Rossi (absent), Ms. Fitzgerald (present), Ms. Disla (present), Ms. Moreta (absent), Mr. Lamontagne (present), Ms. Marmol (present), Mr. Surillo (present).

2. MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Lamontagne moved to approve the minutes of November 9, 2021 as presented. 2^{ND} : Ms. Fitzgerald

VOTE: Roll Called by District Recorder

Ms. Rossi	Absent
Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Disla	Yes
Ms. Moreta	Absent
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes
Ms. Marmol	Yes
Mr. Surillo	Yes
#17972	

3. FINANCE REPORT

a.) Cash Balance Report

Mr. DiStefano read the Cash Balance report of November 16, 2021 into the record.

MOTION: Mr. Lamontagne moved to approve the Cash Balance Report of November 16, 2021 as presented. 2^{ND:} Ms. Fitzgerald **VOTE:** Roll Called by District Recorder: Absent Ms. Rossi Ms. Fitzgerald Yes Ms. Disla Yes Ms. Moreta Absent Mr. Lamontagne Yes Ms. Marmol Yes Mr. Surillo Yes

#17973

b.) Consolidated Cash Reconciliation Report

No Discussion

c.) Revolving Fund Report

Ms. Fitzgerald asked to clarify what the Student Activity Agency Account, fund #210 is and additionally wanted clarification on the Reggies Locker Account, fund #214 that has no activity other than a deposit of \$5,000. Supt. Lavoie reported that the Student Activity Agency Account is the Student Activity Account and the Reggies Locker Account is the new food bank line item. The \$5,000 was a donation to our food bank. Supt. Lavoie will email the District Committee with clarification on the line item Student Activity Agency Account.

d.) *Budget Report* No Discussion

4. COMMUNICATIONS

a.) Donations None

b.) Articles

• Greater Lawrence Tech Students Partner with Nonprofit to Repair Vehicle for Area Veteran

Supt. Lavoie reported that GLTS students refurbished a car that has been donated to a veteran so he has transportation for work. The veteran was extremely thankful to our students and asked each one to point out what part of the car they worked on. The students were really excited to meet the veteran and to be recognized for their work.

c.) Public Participation

None

5. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

a.) Student Report

Principal Zielinski introduced our second District Committee Student Representative, Ms. Olivia Baggett from Methuen, grade 10 in HVAC. She loves music, writing and hiking. She is learning

Spanish and when asked what she likes about GLTS, she responded that she likes the fact you can have a lot of opportunities right out of school. She has made best friends and her teachers are amazing. Ms. Wright and Ms. Baggett will be sharing the duties. Ms. Wright reported on the interact, art, and kaleidoscope clubs. Student council and peer mediators have teamed up to host a friendly competition food drive. She reported on student activities which include working on a car that was donated to a veteran, 2 gift baskets to be raffled off to go towards prom tickets or yearbooks for students. Ms. Wright also reported on sports, girls' volleyball, football, cheering and the Lacrosse Clinic. The winter season starts on November 29th. SkillsUSA fall leadership and skills conference was held and 8 of our students received a metal or a leadership award.

b.) Update on the Budget Process

Supt. Lavoie reported that each department is putting their budget together and are submitting them to the CTE Coordinators. Principal Zielinski and myself will start meeting with the Coordinators to review each shop and academic programing budget to make sure they meet all the expectations of the Advisory Committee and are in line with the school's policy.

c.) MTEL Grant

Supt. Lavoie reported that we received a \$40,000 grant through the work of Chairman Surillo who contacted our legislatives to support many teachers who are looking to take their MTEL test. He applied for a grant and the legislatives voted and awarded the school the money. Chairman Surillo reported that it is a highly needed course to help people in our area take the test to become an academic or vocational teacher. Chairman Surillo reported that he was contacted by our legislators.

d.) RFP for Field

Supt. Lavoie reported that we completed the RFP for Phase IV which will be utilized for a soccer field. We are looking for an organization to complete the field in which we would lease to. The goal is to help support youth programs in our communities. The RFP has gone to our attorneys for review. The RFP should be ready for the District Committee to review and vote on at a future meeting.

e.) ESSER Grants Update

Supt. Lavoie reported that we put an amendment in for ESSER II and completed the ESSER III grant three weeks ago. We received a document back with about 15 questions on our capital improvement projects. I have been working on this response providing detailed information on each project, the process, intent of the project and how it will provide more opportunities for our school. After this is submitted, it should be about a two-day turnaround time so we can move on our projects.

f.) Merrimack Valley Community Arts Event

Supt. Lavoie reported that the Andover Choral Society would like to hold an event at our school in the Spring. It is designed to provide an opportunity to address equity and racism in our districts and for the community to come together for this event on stage and have group discussions. It will be taped and we will have access to use it for our students. Ms. Fitzgerald asked if they are renting the space from us and if not, at a minimum it will require custodial care and hope that we would charge a fee for that. The idea is wonderful but we do need to treat it as

a facility rental with insurance. Chairman Surillo reported that it is more of a partnership and we should probably not charge them since it is educational for our students. Supt Lavoie reported that they will have to meet all our criteria's of renting the facility in order to perform at the school. He asked the District Committee to vote to not charge them because it would be a good gesture to become a partner of theirs. Ms. Disla wanted to clarify that they will be selling tickets to attend the event. Supt. Lavoie reported tickets will be sold which will support their program and effort across Merrimack Valley. Supt. Lavoie reported that they are willing to give a presentation at a District Committee Meeting. Ms. Marmol wanted more information on our partnership. How are we introducing our students to partake in this event? Chairman Surillo reported that it will be easier for them to come in and answer all the questions. This will be set up for after the holidays for the organization to present to the District Committee.

g.) Out of State Travel

Mr. John Hardacre, CTE Coordinator will travel to ABC & GCI Annual Planning Conference on December 2 & 3, 2021 to Brenton Woods, NH. The cost is \$462.00.

MOTION: Ms. Disla moved to approve the out of state travel as presented.

2^{ND:} Ms. Fitzgerald

VOTE: Roll Called by District Recorder:

Ms. Rossi	Absent
Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Disla	Yes
Ms. Moreta	Absent
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes
Ms. Marmol	Yes
Mr. Surillo	Yes
#17974	

h.) Principal's Report

• Q1 Report

Principal Zielinski reported on the Quarter 1 results. A report was presented to the District Committee that indicated the number of students with one or more failing grades at the end of Quarter 1 by grade level, with a four-year comparison. Principal Zielinski reported that we have a total of 162 students. Our Q1 failures are significantly lower coming out of a pandemic and returning to in-person learning. As an Administrative Team, we are identifying the students who are truly at risk. We are sending out reminder letters to students about homework hub, and that there is support help on Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays. We are trying to take a proactive approach at the end of Q1 in hopes of reducing failing grades.

• MCAS Retest

Principal Zielinski reported that we tested 51 students in math and 16 students in ELA. ELA had perfect attendance. We also tested 24 seniors. This is not a requirement, but the seniors took it to qualify for scholarship purposes.

• Professional Development

Principal Zielinski reported that this was the second month that we focused on Data & Assessment which aligns to goal 4 of our SIP. Ms. Nancy Love, Senior Trainer at Research for Better Teaching helped get these sessions going. We offered five differentiated sessions: Student Feedback, Developing Criteria for Success, Regrouping, Reteaching and Criteria for

Success.

Ms. Marmol wanted to clarify that the strategies in place for failing students also include parent involvement. Principal Zielinski reported that partnering with families is important. We have in place for our teachers to make sure there is a two-way communication with the parent/guardian. There is also a written communication sent from our guidance department with their name and phone number for parents/guardians to reach out to. For those students who are at risk for failing three or more classes, a call to the family and a meeting is set up. Our guidance and discipline offices have been busy having families come in to work on things proactively. Ms. Fitzgerald reported that should it be a concern that the seniors have the highest percentage of failing grades? Principal Zielinski reported that we do have strategies in place and having conversations with the seniors earlier will help resolve the issues. We are providing additional support for our seniors as well. Ms. Disla wanted to clarify why the seniors are higher? Principal Zielinski reported that she does not have anything specific, however, they could have had more of a struggle coming back to in-person learning. Many of them of them were sophomores the last time they were in school with a different academic schedule. Chairperson Surillo commended Principal Zielinski for looking into this a lot earlier. Principal Zielinski thanked the teachers for working hard getting the students back to in-person learning.

6. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE

Yes

Yes

7. OLD BUSINESS

a.) District Committee Priorities
b.) Policy
ADA & ADA-E

MOTION: Ms. Lamontagne moved to approve the combining of policy ADA & ADA-E as
presented. $2^{ND:}$ Ms. FitzgeraldVOTE: Roll Called by District Recorder:Ms. RossiAbsentMs. FitzgeraldYesMs. DislaYesMs. MoretaAbsentMr. LamontagneYes

Ms. Marmol Mr. Surillo #17975

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. TABLED MATTERS

a.) Contact Tracing Badges-Opening Plan and Current Protocols and Guidelines
MOTION: Ms. Marmol moved to discuss the Contact Tracing Badges/Opening Plan and Current Protocols and Guidelines.
2^{ND:} Ms. Disla
VOTE: Roll Called by District Recorder:

Ms. Rossi	Absent
Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Disla	Yes
Ms. Moreta	Absent
Mr. Lamontagne	No
Ms. Marmol	Yes
Mr. Surillo	Yes
#17976	

Supt. Lavoie reported that he would like to recommend that we remove the contact tracing badges from the Opening Plan. The rationale is that the students are no longer social distancing and it would be very difficult to manage 1600 students and 300 staff members. We do have about 65-70% students vaccinated and 98% of staff vaccinated. The District Committee was provided the outline of our protocols and procedures that we are using for contact tracing. Ms. Fitzgerald reported that she agrees with Supt. Lavoie that the contact tracing devices are impossible to use due to the elimination of social distancing.

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to remove the contact tracing badges from the Opening Plan. $2^{ND:}$ Mr. Lamontagne

Ms. Marmol reported that since we voted to put the use of the contact tracing badges in the Opening Plan, it was important to vote to remove them from the plan and to receive more information as we did today. How is this protocol working? Supt. Lavoie reported that it has been working well. We have had 27 students and 10 staff members with the virus. This is from just under 2,000 people in the building. The protocols and procedures will be reinforced, due to the approaching holidays. We are planning strategies to keep the students apart, especially in the cafeteria. We will keep working on it. Ms. Marmol asked what the vaccination rate is? Supt. Lavoie reported that it does continue to go up, with about 67% of our students vaccinated. Ms. Marmol asked if we had a plan in place if the number of cases begin to rise? Supt. Lavoie reported that we will be following the CDC guidelines and policies. Pool testing has been discussed.

VOTE: Roll Called by District Recorder:

Ms. Rossi	Absent
Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Disla	Yes
Ms. Moreta	Absent
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes
Ms. Marmol	Yes
Mr. Surillo	Yes
#17977	

b.) Retention Rate

MOTION: Ms. Marmol moved to discuss the Retention Rate2^{ND:} Mr. LamontagneVOTE: Roll Called by District Recorder:Ms. RossiAbsentMs. FitzgeraldYesMs. DislaYes

Ms. Moreta Absent Mr. Lamontagne No Ms. Marmol Yes Mr. Surillo Yes #17978

Supt. Lavoie reported on the retention rate at GLTS. A copy of the report which provided information over the past five years was provided to the District Committee. Examples of reasons why staff members left GLTS was read to the District Committee. Highlighted strategies were also provided to the District Committee on how to maintain a strong retention rate. Ms. Marmol reported that she wanted to clarify why STEAM seems to have a higher number. Supt. Lavoie reported that STEAM had a lot of challenges because it was an innovation school. There was a lot of adjusting and pressure being different then the rest of the school. The first few years, we had struggled getting students into the program, so they did not feel safe within their jobs. The hiring practices may have been a little stronger because we were new at hiring for an innovation school. We were trying to find the right fit which resulted in letting staff go or staff not feeling that their job was secure. It took a long time to iron things out. We have made a lot of changes and continue to make changes. Ms. Marmol reported that when we look at job postings, we need to look at the minimum requirements to make sure we higher qualified candidates. Supt. Lavoie reported that if you look at our typical hiring practices, we have done very well hiring outstanding staff. If you look at our MCAS results, 11 years ago we were in the 3rd percentile of student performance and today we are in the 40th percentile. We had a lot of retirees and we have done a good job hiring highly competent, motivated and high performing instructors who are clearly dedicated. The students feel that the staff cares about them and that they matter. Ms. Marmol reported that she would like an update periodically on feedback on the strategies, such as supporting minority staff and update on teacher surveys? Supt. Lavoie reported that we have four staff members that are in a Diversity Program through DESE that addresses diversity and strategies on hiring and supporting our existing diverse staff. We have been in the program over the past few years, but this year focuses on strategies on hiring and recruiting diverse staff. Chairman Surillo reported that we need to include the MTEL prep exam to your strategies because there is a high percentage of teachers of color are having struggles passing. Ms. Marmol asked why specifically hard for teachers of color? Principal Zielinski reported that it could be a cultural bias and the test questions. Ms. Disla wanted to clarify that the \$40,000 grant would be put towards helping these people? Supt. Lavoie reported that yes and as well as recruiting. Ms. Disla reported that she would like to be updated on the progress of the Diversity Program. Supt. Lavoie reported yes and that he will provide the manual once it is put together and updated. Ms. Disla reported that she would like to hear more comments from past years. Supt. Lavoie reported that he will check with the HR Director to see if we have years past. Ms. Fitzgerald suggested that if we can have this information, can we have it provided in print.

10. PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS/REPORT

- a.) Resignations
- b.) Leaves of Absence
- c.) Retirements
- i.) Appointments

- Ms. Anyury (Judy) Carrasco, Special Education Bilingual Family Liaison, Effective November 29, 2021
- Ms. Elizabeth Truong, Nurse, Effective December 6, 2021
- Ms. Nicole Savino, Health Assisting Instructor, Effective December 12, 2021

j.) Job Postings

• Lifeguard (Physical Education, Swim Classes): This position is responsible for guarding the pool, ensuring the safety of all students, enforcing pool rules and implementing the school EAP as needed, Applicants must provide the following certifications: Lifeguard certification, CPR certification, First Aid certification and AED certification, \$20/hr., 1-month position, 20hrs., replacement position.

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

2^{ND:} Ms. Marmol

Ms. Fitzgerald reported that the position should be more than \$20.00/hr. because it is a professional position. I believe it should be \$25.00 at a minimum. Ms. Disla asked what we paid the person before this? Supt. Lavoie reported that we did not have this last year, because of COVID. This position is the second person to watch the class and Wellness Instructors. The last time we had this position we paid \$17.00-\$18.00 per hour. That is why we increased it to \$20.00. This person will work with the teachers eight periods a day for the month of January. It has to be filled by an outside person that has these certifications because our staff with those qualifications will be in the pool teaching.

VOTE: Roll Called by District Recorder:

Ms. Rossi	Absent
Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Disla	Yes
Ms. Moreta	Absent
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes
Ms. Marmol	Yes
Mr. Surillo	Yes
#17070	

- #17979
 - Environmental Science New Program Development: 1 teacher up to 40 hours to develop Environmental Science content curricula and establish Industry partnerships for the development and submission of a Chapter 74 New Program application, Local 1707, SY21-22, new position (see attachment).

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

2^{ND:} Ms. Fitzgerald

VOTE: Roll Called by District Recorder:

Ms. Rossi	Absent
Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Disla	Yes
Ms. Moreta	Absent
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes
Ms. Marmol	Yes
Mr. Surillo	Yes
#17980	

• **Substitute School Nurse:** Daily Substitute School Nurse to fill in for a Nurse's absence, per contract, Immediate (SY21-22), Replacement position.

(Increase pay to \$273.00 per day)

Supt. Lavoie reported that we are having difficulty finding a nurse and was determined after research that \$273-375 is typical rate to pay a substitute nurse. We do have a new nurse starting soon and hope to be in good shape after the Christmas break.

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

2^{ND:} Ms. Fitzgerald

Ms. Disla wanted to clarify how many nurses we have now. Supt. Lavoie reported we have one nurse and a new nurse starting after the holidays. We are looking to hire another new nurse for a total of 3 nurses. Mr. Lamontagne asked what the daily rate is for a nurse? Supt. Lavoie reported depending on their salary, around \$375.00/day. We feel we could get substitutes at \$273.00/day. We would like to get around two or three nurses on the list. Our Director of Guidance did some research, and felt this number may work.

VOTE: Roll Called by District Recorder:

Ms. Rossi	Absent
Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Disla	Yes
Ms. Moreta	Absent
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes
Ms. Marmol	Yes
Mr. Surillo	Yes
#17981	

• **Culinary Arts:** hourly position per teacher's contract, SY2021-22, Annual Position (See attachment).

Supt. Lavoie reported that this position is after school and will be responsible for overseeing the business of ordering the food and managing the financials.

MOTION: Mr. Lamontagne moved to approve the job posting as presented with up to five hours added.

2^{ND:} Ms. Fitzgerald

Ms. Fitzgerald reported that there is no limit on the hours and would like to see that. Wouldn't this be the responsibility of the Department Head? Supt. Lavoie reported that we used to have a position that the lead teacher was responsible for this, but that teacher did not teach. We eliminated that position and made it a stipend position after school. We feel that hourly would come out less than paying a stipend. Supt. Lavoie reported that he would adjust the posting to be no more than five hours per week.

VOTE: Roll Called by District Recorder:

	2
Ms. Rossi	Absent
Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Disla	No
Ms. Moreta	Absent
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes
Ms. Marmol	Yes
Mr. Surillo	Yes
4 Yes', 1 No	
Motion Carries	
#17982	

• SkillsUSA Career Coaches, (1) per shop, Per teacher's contract, SY2021, Annual Position. (Student's compete with students from other technical schools in the state to demonstrate their mastery of the leadership and employability standards. Success at the local level leads to national competition creating the opportunity for scholarships.

Supt. Lavoie reported that we would like to get more students to participate in skills. In order to provide a strong experience, we need a coach for every shop. We would hire an additional nine more instructors to cover every shop. The salary is \$600 for the year.

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

2^{ND:} Ms. Fitzgerald

VOTE: Roll Called by District Recorder:

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Ms. Rossi	Absent
Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Disla	Yes
Ms. Moreta	Absent
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes
Ms. Marmol	Yes
Mr. Surillo	Yes
#17983	

(Dress Code)-added to the agenda:

Chairman Surillo reported that he would like an update pertaining to GLTS' dress code. Supt. Lavoie reported that an email was sent from a concerned person, not a parent stating that we were not following our dress code policies. Our intention was not to not follow our policy on dress code, however, we did have problems with obtaining uniforms and ID badges. We wanted to get the students acclimated to returning to school. Supt. Lavoie returned the email and copied the District Committee. Principal Zielinski and myself met along with the Administrative Team and agreed that as of December 1st all students would need to follow our dress code policies. Principal Zielinski put out a communication to the students, staff and parents today.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Surillo would like the dress code to be part of our next meeting for discussion. Ms. Marmol wanted to clarify when the handbook was last updated. Principal Zielinski reported that it is part of the student handbook and is updated and approved every year first from our student council. Our student council is made up of parents, community members, students and staff. It is then approved every year by the District Committee.

MOTION: Mr. Lamontagne moved to go into Executive Session at 8:10. $2^{ND:}$ Ms. MarmolVOTE: Roll Called by District Recorder:Ms. RossiAbsentMs. FitzgeraldYesMs. DislaYesMs. MoretaAbsentMr. LamontagneYesMs. MarmolYes

Mr. Surillo Yes #17984

ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

ENTER OPEN SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Lamontagne moved to vote down the Teacher's MOU and offer only a 2% increase. 2^{ND:} Ms. Fitzgerald **VOTE:** Roll Called by District Recorder: Ms. Rossi Absent Ms. Fitzgerald Yes Ms. Disla Yes Ms. Moreta Absent Mr. Lamontagne Yes Ms. Marmol Yes Mr. Surillo No 4 Yes', 1 No **Motion Carries** #17987

Supt. Lavoie reported that he received resignation from a Chemistry Teacher. He requested the District Committee to consider posting for a Chemistry Teacher because it would take two more weeks to post and the students would be longer without a teacher.

MOTION: Mr. Lamontagne moved to approve posting for a Chemistry Teacher as presented. $2^{ND:}$ Ms. Fitzgerald

Ms. Disla reported that the posting was not added to the additional job postings handed out today as well as with the resignation. She reported that she will not be voting on this and preparation of information needs to be better. Supt. Lavoie reported that the resignation came after the packets went out. He reported that he has been working many hours on numerous things, including working on the ESSER Grant. However, it is critical to post for this position now because it provides students with a teacher sooner rather than later. The most important thing is to get a teacher in front of our students to provide the quality education they are entitled to. Ms. Disla reported that she doesn't understand why items are added at the last minute and that she feels we are not ready. We always have items brought before us at the last minute. Supt. Lavoie reported that information is obtained from many people and is not put together by myself. I am not always on top of who resigned and job postings. Ms. Zielinski reported that she typically reviews the job postings in advance, but did not have a chance until tonight. She took responsibility for missing this. Chairman Surillo reported that he was asked before Executive Session to add this and since he felt it was a priority for students, it was added. He took full responsibility. Ms. Marmol wanted to clarify that adding agenda items is something that does not violate the rules. Chairman Surillo reported that agenda items can be added. **VOTE:** Roll Called by District Recorder:

Ms. Rossi Absent Ms. Fitzgerald Yes

Ms. Disla	Abstain
Ms. Moreta	Absent
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes
Ms. Marmol	Yes
Mr. Surillo	Yes
#17988	

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Lamontagne moved to adjourn at 9:27 p.m. 2^{ND:} Ms. Fitzgerald **VOTE:** Roll Called by District Recorder: Ms. Rossi Absent Ms. Fitzgerald Yes Ms. Disla Yes Ms. Moreta Absent Mr. Lamontagne Yes Ms. Marmol Yes Mr. Surillo Yes #17989

Respectfully Submitted:

hondally

Susan Lally District Recorder

Minutes Reviewed:

John M Pavoie

John N. Lavoie Superintendent-Director