



**DISTRICT COMMITTEE
OPEN MEETING MINUTES
MEETING #1849
October 11, 2022**

Members Present: Leo Lamontagne Lawrence Chairperson
Thomas Hatem Methuen Vice Chairperson
Marilyn Fitzgerald Andover Assistant Treasurer
Vivian Marmol Lawrence
Francisco Surillo Methuen

Members Absent: Zoila Disla Lawrence
Frank Rossi North Andover

Others Present: John N. Lavoie Superintendent-Director
Melissa Martel Director of Finance
Gerry DiStefano Treasurer
Susan Lally District Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lamontagne called the meeting to order at 6:00PM
Roll Call by District Recorder: Mr. Rossi (absent), Ms. Fitzgerald (present), Ms. Disla (absent), Mr. Hatem (absent), Mr. Surillo (present), Ms. Marmol (present), Mr. Lamontagne (present).

2. MINUTES

a. Minutes from September 27, 2022

MOTION: Mr. Surillo moved to approve the September 27, 2022 minutes as presented.

2ND: Mr. Hatem

Vote: Unanimous

#18324

MOTION: Mr. Surillo moved to table the Cash Balance Report.

2ND: Mr. Hatem

Vote: Unanimous

#18325

3. FINANCE REPORT

b. Consolidated Cash Reconciliation Report

No Discussion

c. Revolving Fund Report

No Discussion

c. Budget Report

No Discussion

4. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Student's Report

Ms. Maureen Wright, Student Representative presented the student report. She reported on the Interact and many other clubs. The Boys Soccer Team visited Gillette to watch a Revs Soccer game, meet players and go onto the field. She reported on the Golf, Varsity Girls Soccer and Varsity Boys Soccer Schedules and games. The PSAT's will be hosted during the school day on Wednesday, October 12th. There will be a vaccine clinic, Friday, October 21st from 9am-12pm at our Greater Lawrence Family Health Center. The class of 2023 had a fundraiser on Saturday, October 1st from 5-9pm at the Loop in which 15% of event sales went to the class of 2023. On Thursday, October 13th from 6-8pm we will have traditional Hispanic games, raffles and food for family game night at the GLTS cafeteria. Homecoming dance was on Friday October 7, 2022, Disco Inferno was the theme. Ms. Wright reported on Spirit week that ends on Friday, October 14th with a pep rally.

Ms. Fitzgerald wanted clarification if the clinic will be given out flu shots and if it is for families as well. Ms. Wright reported that it is for the flu and COVID vaccines and for interested staff members, students and families. Ms. Marmol reported that our projects and events are not highlighted in any social media. Are we able to do a better job? Chairman Lamontagne reported that this should not be discussed under student's report. It will be put on the agenda for future agenda items.

b. Donations

None

c. Articles

None

d. Public Participation

None

5. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

a. Admission's Policy Update

Ms. Brenda Richardson, Director of Admissions and Counseling presented the Admissions Policy with the changes. She reported that it was very important to gather all the information we had especially through the equitable access grant before presenting it to the District Committee. The grant was funded by DESE to look at equitable access to CTE and we are continuing that work this year through the fund 112 grant. We created three teams consisting of academic and CTE teachers, administrators, counselors and community members. We focused on three areas, admissions policy, the exploratory process and evaluation and Co-Op participation. Ms. Richardson thanked Mr. Josh Ouellet, Instructional Coach, who oversaw the three committees and helped us gather the information together. Some of the changes were just language changes. She reported on the updates to the policy. Mr. Surillo wanted clarification on what was changed under "Homeschool Students". Ms. Richardson clarified that "The level of work must be appropriate for the grade level being sought. A letter from the local superintendent attesting to this grade level may be requested" was added. Ms. Richardson continued to report on the updates of the Admission Policy. Ms. Fitzgerald wanted clarification on exploratory. Her concern was even though the students picked their top 12 shops, you are only letting them explore 9 shops. Do the students get to rank their highest interest? Ms. Richardson, reported that we ask the students to submit their 12 shops and rank them in the order of interest. Each student will be guaranteed to get into their top five. Mr. Surillo asked for clarification under Collaboration and Employability. Ms. Richardson reported that it means how they are working with their peers and teachers in the program. Employability skills are coming to shop prepared, wearing safety equipment. Mr. Hatem wanted clarification on severe conduct? Ms. Richardson reported that this was determined through the change in the DESE regulations. It only includes conduct that falls under M.G.L. c.71, 37H, 27H-1/2, 37 H-3/4. Ms. Marmol reported that she wanted clarification on the "priority deadline" regulation and those applying after the deadline. Ms. Richardson reported that the Equity Team and the Admissions Committee discussed this issue and does not recommend instituting a "firm deadline"

as it creates a barrier to access and equity issue, particularly for English Learners. Ms. Marmol wanted clarification under the Review and Appeals section of the policy. Is the reason why a student was denied or put on a waitlist going to be provided and addressed in the letter to allow parents the knowledge to appeal? Ms. Richardson prepared some additional notes on this topic. This will be discussed in Executive Session. There are potential concerns when we provide that information. Supt. Lavoie reported that it is on the agenda for Executive Session. In terms of not having a hard deadline, not all our students have the kind of support from home. It has to do with all students having equal opportunity to apply to our school. Ms. Marmol reported that she is concerned with the equity of the students that applied on time. How is that fair for those students? Supt. Lavoie reported that we do not have a hard deadline, we have open enrollment. Mr. Surillo wanted to clarify when a student should apply? Ms. Richardson reported that the online application should be open by the end of October.

MOTION: Mr. Surillo moved to the agenda item of the Cash Balance report.

2ND: Mr. Hatem

Vote: Unanimous

#18326

3. FINANCE REPORT (Continued)

a. Cash Balance

Mr. DiStefano read the Cash Balance report into the record.

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

2ND: Mr. Surillo

Vote: Unanimous

#18327

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to adjust the agenda to move into Executive Session.

2ND: Mr. Hatem

Vote: Unanimous

#18328

MOTION: Ms. Marmol moved to go into Executive Session at 6:40PM

2ND: Mr. Surillo

Vote: Roll Call by District Recorder

Ms. Marmol Yes

Mr. Rossi Absent

Ms. Fitzgerald Yes

Ms. Disla Absent

Mr. Hatem Yes

Mr. Surillo Yes

#18329

ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

ENTER OPEN SESSION

5. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR (Continued)

b. Co-Op Report

No Discussion

c. October Calendar

No Discussion

d. MCAS Strategies

MOTION: Mr. Surillo moved to table the MCAS Strategies.

2ND: Ms. Fitzgerald

Vote: Unanimous

#18332

e. Busing Update

Discussed in Executive Session

f. October Professional Development Focus

MOTION: Mr. Surillo moved to table the October Professional Development Focus

2ND: Ms. Fitzgerald

Vote: Unanimous

#18333

g. Maura Healey's Visit

Supt. Lavoie reported that Ms. Maura Healey, Attorney General came out to Greater Lawrence on October 3rd to learn more about Vocational Education. We had a nice visit with many District Committee members and delegates. Mr. Surillo reported that it was the best tour we had. Ms. Healey had the chance to meet teachers and see students in their shops. Thank you to Supt. Lavoie and Principal Zielinski.

h. NASA's Visit

Supt. Lavoie reported that today, Dr. Florence Gold, NASA Johnson Space Center HUNCH (High School Students United with NASA to Create Hardware) met with more than 50 Greater Lawrence Tech students in Advanced Manufacturing and Machine Tool Technology. The students are creating a latch for a storage locker on the Space Station. Students added their names to the panel that will be attached to the storage locker on the international Space Station. Dr. Gold told students that the project is far more important than it sounds because lockers hold equipment, tests and chemicals that must be kept under tight control in zero gravity. She spoke about work ethic and the opportunities in the manufacturing Industry. Mr. Hatem reported that she was impressed with the number of young ladies in the trade. Supt. Lavoie reported that our PR Firm was there taking pictures. Ms. Marmol reported that she would like us to be better at highlighting the amazing projects and things going on in the school.

6. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. District Committee Priorities

No discussion

b. Policy

Section B: BDE, Subcommittees of the School Committee

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the policy as submitted

2ND: Mr. Surillo

Vote: Unanimous

#18334

8. NEW BUSINESS

No discussion

9. TABLED MATTERS

10. PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS/REPORT

a. Resignations

b. Leaves of Absence

None

c. Retirements

- **Electrical Instructor, Effective 1/2/23**

d. Appointments

None

e. Job Postings

- **Electrical Instructor**

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

2ND: Mr. Surillo

Vote: Unanimous

#18335

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

- Ongoing Projects

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on the ongoing projects. The Cosmetology Shop’s target date for students to move in is next week. The Reggie Cafés target date is to open in two weeks. The Exterior door has not arrived yet for the Four Winds Restaurant. The daycare center’s plastering was started today. The HVAC system is not in yet. We are about 6-8 weeks out. Landscape is removing trees for the playground. The Automotive Project is going a little slow. I will be meeting with the architect and builder to discuss the delay. This has no impact on the shop. Mr. Charest and Mr. Arsenault remain on overseeing all the projects.

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the Admissions Policy as presented.

2ND: Mr. Hatem

Vote: Unanimous

#18336

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to adjourn at 8:15PM.

2ND: Mr. Surillo


VOTE: Unanimous

#18337

Respectfully Submitted:

Minutes Reviewed:


 Susan Lally
 District Recorder


 John N. Lavoie
 Superintendent-Director