



**DISTRICT COMMITTEE
OPEN MEETING MINUTES
MEETING #1869
July 11, 2023**

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

Members Absent:

Others Present: John N. Lavoie Superintendent-Director
Susan Zielinski Principal
Cheryl Dennis District Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Public Participation:
Mr. Tom Middleton, English Instructor addressed the District Committee on behalf of the teachers. He stated he’s been a teacher for 25 years. He discussed what he saw as conflicting evidence of the effectiveness of the grading policy and he doesn’t feel it supports our moto.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Surillo moved to enter into an Executive Session at 6:04PM.

2ND: Mr. Hatem

Ms. Disla and Ms. Marmol questioned why the Committee was moving into executive session at this time. Chairman Lamontagne responded there were two issues, one attached to the Grading Policy and the other concerning possible litigation.

Vote: Roll Call by District Recorder

Ms. Disla No
Mr. Hatem Yes
Mr. Surillo Yes
Ms. Marmol Yes
Mr. Tarbox Yes

Ms. Fitzgerald Yes
Mr. Lamontagne Yes
#18576

Enter Executive Session
Enter Open Session

4. TABLED MATTERS

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to remove from Tabled Matters the Equity Grading Policy.

2ND: Mr. Hatem

Vote: Approved w/o Mr. Surillo in the room
#18578

a. Equity Grading Policy:

Superintendent Lavoie recommended the District Committee vote for the new Grading Equity Policy this year with a team put together to evaluate, oversee and recommend needed changes throughout the year to determine what is and isn't working with the addition of monthly reports to the District Committee from the Implementation Committee and Administration.

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the Superintendent's Recommendation to vote for the new Grading Equity Policy.

2ND: Mr. Hatem

Vote: Roll Call by District Recorder

Mr. Surillo Yes
Mr. Tarbox Yes
Ms. Fitzgerald Yes
Ms. Disla No
Mr. Hatem Yes
Ms. Marmol No
Mr. Lamontagne Yes

5 Yes', 2 No's

Motion Carries

#18579

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to remove Out of State Travel from Tabled Matters.

2ND: Mr. Hatem

VOTE: Unanimously Approved
#18580

b. Out of State Travel

Out of State Travel for Landscape Teacher and (2) students and (1) Female Chaperone (Added) to travel to National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 31-November 4, 2023 NEW COST: \$8,060.00.

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the Out of State Travel

2ND: Mr. Surillo

Vote: Unanimously Approved
#18581

5. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

a. Easement Proposal from Town of Andover

Superintendent Lavoie updated the District Committee on the easement proposal from the Town of Andover referencing a draft drawing by the Town of Andover which requires the District Committee to approve an

easement along the dirt road shown on a slide presentation. Mr. Surillo questioned where the letter of request from them was? Superintendent Lavoie indicated it would come before the Committee if the Committee agrees of the request. Ms. Disla stated she didn't agree that the town of Andover's request was for life but the terms are not the same for GLTS. Superintendent Lavoie said the argument is GLTS would have to go before the town. Mr. Surillo mentioned we have a temporary easement with them now. Superintendent Lavoie stated they want the whole road now to widen it on our property. Mr. Tarbox questioned if it were Phillips Academy boathouse to which Superintendent Lavoie responded, not anymore. Superintendent Lavoie continued that our attorney feels it's a reasonable request. Chairman Lamontagne stated the town is making out better. Ms. Fitzgerald mentioned this has been ongoing for 25+ years. In terms of giving the town the easement to improve the road, that is the access road for the emergency vehicles and she has no problem with it. We should go back into discussion with the Town for a more equitable agreement for GLTS. Superintendent Lavoie asked if the Committee would consider an easement for 99 years instead of perpetuity. Mr. Surillo stated the terms need to be equal.

MOTION: Mr. Surillo moved to table this matter.

2nd: Mr. Hatem

Vote: Unanimously Approved

#18582

b. Faculty Dress Code

Superintendent Lavoie updated the District Committee on the faculty dress code stating a presentation will be brought before the Committee at the next meeting.

c. Student Cellphone Policy

Superintendent Lavoie updated the District Committee on the student cellphone policy indicating it would also be presented at the next District Committee meeting. Chairman Lamontagne asked once compiled, it be sent to all members prior to the next meeting for their review.

MOTION: Mr. Surillo moved to table these matters.

2nd: Ms. Fitzgerald

Vote: Unanimously Approved

#18583

6. PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS/REPORT

a. Job Postings

(Informational)

Replacement position of 8 staff members.

Ms. Marmol expressed her concerns relative to entering executive session to discuss things she felt could be discussed in open session. She stated she was under the impression it was based on a personnel matter; however, she couldn't grasp why the Committee was unable to address the grading policy in open session. Chairman Lamontagne explained it was because someone would have been able to decipher its confidential contents. Ms. Marmol didn't agree any pertinent information had been presented, it was simply the grading. To summarize, she feels strongly it was a slap in the face to the teachers that were present to have the discussion in executive session and that the Committee hides behind executive session to make decisions. She felt particularly bothered by the fact that it wasn't the first time and feels it promotes a lack of transparency on our part. Superintendent Lavoie stated it would have been inappropriate to show what was on the screen in open session as well as speaking about it now in open session. Ms. Disla agreed 100% with Ms. Marmol. Ms. Marmol went on to say she originally questioned the topics being addressed prior to going into executive

session at which time Chairman Lamontagne indicated it was information that should not be presented in open session. Chairman Lamontagne responded there were two reasons. We could have done one and gone back and forth. Mr. Surillo said one had to do with the grading policy and one was a personnel matter. Ms. Marmol felt strongly that was too vague. Superintendent Lavoie stated you couldn't get clarity if the information had been redacted to present it in open session.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to adjourn at 7:40PM

2nd: Mr. Surillo

Vote: Unanimously Approved

#18584

Respectfully Submitted:



Cheryl Dennis
District Recorder

Minutes Reviewed:



Superintendent John N. Lavoie
Superintendent-Director