



**DISTRICT COMMITTEE
OPEN MEETING MINUTES
MEETING #1872
September 26, 2023**

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

Members Absent: Francisco Surillo Methuen

Others Present: John N. Lavoie Superintendent-Director
Susan Zielinski Principal
Melissa Martel Director of Finance
Gerry DiStefano Treasurer
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 (absent), Ms. Marmol (present), Mr. Tarbox (present), Mr. Lamontagne (present).

2. MINUTES

a. Minutes from September 12, 2023

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the minutes of September 12, 2023

2ND: Ms. Marmol

VOTE: Unanimously Approved with Mr. Hatem abstaining
#18512

3. FINANCE REPORT

a. Cash Balance Report

Mr. DiStefano read the Cash Balance Report.

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

2ND: Mr. Hatem

VOTE: Unanimously Approved
#18513

b. Consolidated Cash Reconciliation Report

Informational

c. Revolving Fund Report

Informational

d. Budget Report

Informational

e. Budget Calendar

Ms. Martel updated the District Committee on the changes made to the process of the FY25 Budget Calendar. Most of the work associated with the budget calendar occurs in October and November. Planning to have an update on the budget on December 20th. The full budget presentation before the Committee will take place in January and a vote will take place on February 13, 2024.

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the Budget Calendar as presented

2ND: Ms. Marmol

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18514

f. Budget Transfers

Ms. Martel updated the District Committee on the Budget Transfers reviewing the reports included in their packets. Ms. Fitzgerald expressed her appreciation for the additional description listed at the top of the transfers. Ms. Disla questioned the two transfers for the early childcare director. Ms. Martel explained that it was due to the change made in the department number.

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the Budget Transfers as presented.

2ND: Mr. Hatem

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18515

4. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Donations

- 2 toolboxes, engine crane, floor jack and various hand tools, donated by Ms. Barbara Voss of Andover, MA.

b. Articles - None

c. Public Participation - None

5. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

a. October Calendar

b. Admissions Policy

Supt. Lavoie presented the changes to the Admissions Policy referencing the documents in their packets. His recommendation the District Committee is to vote on the changes highlighted in red, recognizing the non-resident change was a state regulation, Ms. Fitzgerald stated GLTS was a non-choice school. Supt. Lavoie responded this is different than non-choice. It has to be in there even though we do not typically accept them. Application submissions for grade 9 should be submitted by Feb. 1st and no later than June 1st for fall admission. Supt. Lavoie stated this was a major change from the past which creates a more equitable, fair process. Ms.

Marmol felt this further highlights the confusion relative to deadlines asking if applications submitted after Feb. 1st but before June 1st. Would this be held in the same regard? Supt. Lavoie explained applications received by Feb 1st would be handled first. Ms. Disla questioned when the acceptance letters would go out to which Supt. Lavoie responded in March/early April. Ms. Disla asked if no additional applications would be accepted after June 1st to which Supt. Lavoie responded yes.

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

2ND: Mr. Hatem

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18516

c. Elks Purchase Update

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on the purchasing of the Elks expressing the need for another building to handle a program similar to the current After Dark program to occur during the day. We are considering a couple of foundations to help with the funding which I believe would be a lengthy process to pursue. If the District Committee considers another avenue that requires us to go for a bond or other alternatives, we'd like to have conversations with our legislators, local leaders etc. Looking for feedback from Committee members to ascertain if they like the idea enough to pursue it further or if they'd prefer an in-depth presentation on it? Ms. Marmol questioned how the daytime program would work and how it would affect the academic workload of the school. Would it require after school make up? Would it be the same programs as After Dark? If adding additional programs which ones would they be? Supt. Lavoie indicated programs might be masonry, medical pathways, construction areas, pipefitters, etc. Mr. Hatem said he could see schools not wanting to give up their students for 3 hrs. a day. Supt. Lavoie said the schools would still receive funding under Chapter 70 but the students would receive an opportunity to develop skills. Ms. Fitzgerald asked how willing the Elks was to sell the property now? Supt. Lavoie responded they'd be willing to sell it for the right price if we helped them find another location. Ms. Fitzgerald questioned if the arrangement currently in place allows the city first refusal to purchase it? Supt. Lavoie stated the city is aware we're looking at this and the city is torn for educational, jobs and tax dollars. We won't know but we do not want to work towards something the Committee is not interested in. Ms. Disla asked if the Elks were acquired, could GLTS to expand allowing for more space instead? Supt. Lavoie responded yes, we could look at doing that. It would be a school that would still be an annex to GLTS, it wouldn't be a charter school and it would be under the governance of the District Committee. Ms. Marmol stated it would be more of a service to other schools and not add to our admissions indicating she'd was in favor of purchasing the building for this purpose but instead of deciding day or night programs, could it be used for both? Supt. Lavoie feels that would be a challenge that would be confusing and wouldn't work well. Ms. Marmol asked how many students? Supt. Lavoie estimated 300 students in morning and 300 in the afternoon. Mr. Hatem said this would not a full certificate, the students would only have the equivalent to ½ certificate stating this would be a large endeavor for a 2-yr. certificate. Supt. Lavoie indicated it would be costlier than After Dark but it's an alternative way to provide more access than adding a major addition to GLTS. Ms. Fitzgerald commended the Supt. for being proactive but we're up to 1800 students. When you came, we were at 1200, we've seen phenomenal growth. Although property is very close to us and worth looking into she feels there are too many questions – cost, does the city have first refusal, etc. Our first obligation is to care for our current students. Supt. Lavoie stressed he was simply bringing it up for discussion. Chairman Lamontagne stated we currently receive 1400 applicants but we can only accept 400. Feels the communities would be in favor of this as they wouldn't lose any money and their students would receive a 2 yr. certificate accepted by businesses. Feels it's a win/win situation.

d. Craftsman Laborers Program

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on the Craftsman Laborers Program.

We're looking at whether we should pursue this program-simply want committee members to know we're looking at it but we're not ready to commit-it's currently a feasibility study right now.

e. Little Reggies Childcare Update

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on the Little Reggies Childcare referencing the information in their packets regarding the opening of the child care center. Currently have 26 students enrolled. The space is great. Helps the culture of the school to have the children here.

f. Principal's Report

Principal Zielinski reviewed a slide presentation relative to the Back to School Night which was well attended, Summer Reading and GLTS Data-MCAS & Accountability. Chairman Lamontagne asked about the student rep to which Principal Zielinski responded their first report would be presented at the next District Committee meeting.

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. District Committee Priorities

b. Policy

Section B: BEDH-Public Participation at School Committee

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve Section B: BEDH-Public Participation at School Committee.

2ND: Mr. Hatem

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18517

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. TABLED MATTERS

Faculty Dress Code

Student Use of Cellular Device Policy

10. PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS/REPORT

a. Resignations

- Peter Murphy, Plumbing Instructor, Effective 9/6/23

b. Leaves of Absence - None

c. Retirements - None

d. Appointments

- Ian MacKinnon Plumbing Instructor, Effective 9/18/23
- Christine Gray, Health Assisting Instructor, Effective 9/25/23
- Patrick Holding, Plumbing Instructor, Effective 10/2/23

e. Job Postings – None

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to enter into Executive Session at 7:10PM

2ND: Mr. Hatem

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18518

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Marmol moved to adjourn at 7:32PM

2ND: Ms. Fitzgerald

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18522

Respectfully Submitted:



Cheryl Dennis
District Recorder

Minutes Reviewed:



John N. Lavoie
Superintendent-Director