



**DISTRICT COMMITTEE
OPEN MEETING MINUTES
MEETING #1875
December 12, 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

Members Absent: William Tarbox North Andover

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lamontagne called the meeting to order at 6:39PM
Roll Call by District Recorder: Ms. Fitzgerald (present), Ms. Disla (present), Mr. Hatem (present), Mr. Surillo, Ms. Marmol (present), Mr. Tarbox (absent), Mr. Lamontagne (present).

2. MINUTES

a. Minutes from November 8, 2023

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the minutes of November 8, 2023

2ND: Mr. Surillo

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18542

3. FINANCE REPORT

a. Cash Balance Report

MOTION: Mr. Surillo moved to approve the Cash Balance Report as presented.

2ND: Ms. Fitzgerald

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18543

b. Consolidated Cash Reconciliation Report

c. Revolving Fund Report

d. Budget Report

Ms. Fitzgerald questioned the cafeteria revolving account stating it was a large amount. Supt. Lavoie indicated this was due to the timing of the payment of bills. Ms. Fitzgerald questioned if any of that money was invested to which Ms. Martel responded, no, it's all in cash.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Donations

- Ms. Jen Stern, Salon Riza of North Andover donated hair color to our Cosmetology Department.
- Mr. Ron Shun, Empire Auto Parts, Taunton, MA donated two hoods and four fenders for the Automotive Collision Repair and Refinishing Department.

b. Articles

c. Public Participation

5. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

a. Legislative Breakfast Update

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on the Legislative Breakfast that was held on Friday, December 8, 2023. The main focus centered on GLTS purchasing property to expand our programing which will require the passage of a home rule bill. Many legislative members were in attendance.

b. Grading Policy Update 1st Qtr.

Supt. Lavoie invited Jennifer DeStefano and Joshua Ouellette to address and update the District Committee on the Grading Policy 1st Qtr.

Jennifer DeStefano and Joshua Ouellette reviewed slides relative to the timeline and professional learning plan of the equitable grading policy practices being employed this year. Ms. Marmol asked if teachers would be surveyed to ascertain the effectiveness of the policy to which Ms. DeStefano responded yes, they had one in place that would be going out. She went on to state that teachers originally voicing opposition to the policy, have already changed their minds. Ms. Marmol questioned if there were any changes with regards to the students, particularly in the area of their accountability. Mr. Ouellette responded there is a significant increase in the number of students advocating for themselves to participate in WIN Blocks. Mr. Surillo acknowledged the success of the policy and expressed his appreciation for the additional support through the enrichment blocks students were receiving.

c. Update on Aviation

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on the Aviation Program and ask the Committee to vote on allowing the start of the designs for the Hangar Space located at the Lawrence Municipal Airport.

GLTS is continuing to prepare for FAA approval of our application. The goal is to have a final FAA walk through and approval in early June to late May. To begin the design work to prepare for construction of building 1, Supt. Lavoie recommended the District Committee approve the hiring of a firm to design the space.

MOTION: Mr. Surillo moved to hire a firm to design the space.

2ND: Mr. Hatem

Ms. Marmol requested an outline depicting what is required to meet FAA approval and what has been accomplished to date. Supt. Lavoie said he would prepare a timeline outlining all the steps and timeline to complete the remaining steps and will have that available by the end of the month.

VOTE: Unanimously Approved
#18544

d. December/January Calendars

e. January District Committee Meeting Date

Supt. Lavoie asked the Committee to vote to change the January Meeting from January 2, 2024 to January 16, 2024. A discussion ensued whereby members agreed to move the date to January 9, 2024.

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to change the date of the January meeting from January 2 to January 9, 2024.

2ND: Ms. Marmol

VOTE: Unanimously Approved
#18545

6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. District Committee Priorities

b. Policy

- Section B: BGB-Policy Adoption

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve Section B: BGB-Policy Adoption

2ND: Mr. Surillo

VOTE: Unanimously Approved
#18546

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. TABLED MATTERS

a. Faculty Dress Code

MOTION: Mr. Surillo moved to remove the Faculty Dress Code from Tabled Matters.

2ND: Ms. Marmol

VOTE: Unanimously Approved
#18547

Mr. Hatem felt this was a contractual item to which Supt. Lavoie stated it was a School Committee Policy. District Committee members voiced their concern over the lack of language addressing flip flops/open toed shoes, the length of dresses, spaghetti straps or shirts that are too revealing and or low cut. Supt. Lavoie asked District Committee members if they wanted those items added to the language to which they responded in the affirmative.

MOTION: Mr. Surillo moved to add the additional language to the Faculty Dress Code

2ND: Ms. Marmol

VOTE: Unanimously Approved
#18548

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to return the Faculty Dress Code to Tabled Matters

2ND: Mr. Surillo

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18549

b. Federal and State Grant Manual

MOTION: Mr. Surillo moved to remove the Federal and State Grant Manual from Tabled Matters.

2ND: Ms. Marmol

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18550

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the Federal and State Grant Manual as presented.

2ND: Mr. Surillo

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18551

c. Van/Minibus Policy

MOTION: Ms. Marmol moved to remove the Van/Minibus Policy from Tabled Matters.

2ND: Mr. Surillo

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18552

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the Van/Minibus Policy

2ND: Ms. Marmol

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18553

MOTION: Ms. Marmol moved for a two-minute recess at 7:42.

2ND: Mr. Surillo

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18554

10. PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS/REPORT

a. Resignations

b. Leaves of Absence

c. Retirements

d. Appointments

e. Job Postings

- Diving Coach, New Position, per CBA
- Assistant Superintendent, New Position

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the Job Postings as presented.

2ND: Mr. Surillo

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18555

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Surillo to enter into Executive Session at 7:47PM

2ND: Mr. Hatem

VOTE: Roll Call by District Recorder

Ms. Disla	Yes
Mr. Hatem	Yes
Mr. Surillo	Yes
Ms. Marmol	Yes
Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Mr. Lamontagne	Yes

#18556

Enter Executive Session

Enter Open Session

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to direct Supt. Lavoie to continue negotiations in the legal matter.

2ND: Mr. Hatem

VOTE: Roll Call by District Recorder

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

#18559

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Fitzgerald moved to adjourn at 8:02PM

2ND: Mr. Surillo

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18560

Respectfully Submitted:



Cheryl Dennis
District Recorder

Minutes Reviewed:



John N. Lavoie
Superintendent-Director