



**DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
OPEN MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING #1876  
January 9, 2024**

**Members Present:**

Thomas Hatem	Methuen	Assistant Chairperson
Marilyn Fitzgerald	Andover	Treasurer
Zoila Disla	Lawrence	
Mr. Mejia	Lawrence	
Mr. Mercedes	Lawrence (via Zoom)	
Mr. Jones	Methuen	
William Tarbox	North Andover	

**Members Absent:**

<b><u>Others Present:</u></b>	John N. Lavoie	Superintendent-Director
	Susan Zielinski	Principal
	Melissa Martel	Director of Finance
	Gerry DiStefano	Treasurer
	Cheryl Dennis	District Recorder

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Hatem called the meeting to order at 6:40PM

**Roll Call by District Recorder:** Ms. Fitzgerald (present), Ms. Disla (present), Mr. Jones (present), Mr. Mejia (present), Mr. Mercedes (via Zoom), Mr. Tarbox (present), Mr. Hatem (present).

Vice Chair Hatem welcomed new committee members.

**2. MINUTES**

a. Minutes from December 12, 2023

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

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** Ms. Disla

Roll Call by District Recorder

Mr. Tarbox	Yes
Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Disla	Yes
Mr. Jones	Yes
Mr. Mejia	Yes
Mr. Mercedes	Yes
Mr. Hatem	Yes

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18561

### 3. STUDENT REPORT

Student Representative Maureen, presented the students' report reviewing activities of the skiing and gaming clubs, talent shows taking place on January 16th and 18th, bread and roses community service, various library activities, senior trip, class rings, senior prom and voting ballot for the 2024 yearbook.

#### 3a APPROVAL OF VICE CHAIR AS INTERIM CHAIR

**MOTION:** Ms. Disla moved to approve the Vice Chair as Interim Chair.

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** Mr. Jones

Roll Call by District Recorder

Mr. Mercedes Abstain

Mr. Tarbox Yes

Ms. Fitzgerald Yes

Ms. Disla Yes

Mr. Jones Yes

Mr. Mejia Yes

Mr. Hatem Yes

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18562

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to break to resolve technical difficulties.

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** Ms. Disla

Roll Call by District Recorder

Mr. Mejia Yes

Mr. Mercedes Abstain

Mr. Tarbox Yes

Ms. Fitzgerald Yes

Ms. Disla Yes

Mr. Jones Yes

Mr. Hatem Yes

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18563

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to return to open session from technical difficulties break.

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** Ms. Disla

Roll Call by District Recorder

Mr. Jones Yes

Mr. Mejia Yes

Mr. Mercedes Abstain

Mr. Tarbox Yes

Ms. Fitzgerald Yes

Ms. Disla Yes

Mr. Hatem Yes

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18564

**4. FINANCE REPORT**

*a. Cash Balance Report*

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

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** Ms. Disla

- Ms. Disla                Yes
- Mr. Jones              Yes
- Mr. Mejia               Yes
- Mr. Mercedes         Abstain
- Mr. Tarbox             Yes
- Ms. Fitzgerald        Yes
- Mr. Hatem              Yes

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18565

*b. Consolidated Cash Reconciliation Report*

*c. Revolving Fund Report*

*d. Budget Report for FY25*

Ms. Martel updated the District Committee on the Budget for FY25 which is projected to be between 44 and 46 million dollars via slides. The outlook is uncertain due to an impending deficient with budget cuts that will not directly impact school aid accounts. We’re waiting until January 24th when the state budget is presented. A full budget presentation will be presented to the District Committee on February 13, 2024. Referencing the advisory report, Ms. Fitzgerald questioned if the money needed to honor their requests for additional space for eight shops had been factored in and included in this review and analysis. Supt. Lavoie responded funding for many of the recommendations had been included but not all. An analysis of space for the upcoming year had not yet taken place but some of that would be resolved with the new building space that will be available. We have a capital improvement account that may also be utilized to resolve some of those requests.

**5. COMMUNICATIONS**

*a. Donations*

*b. Articles*

- GLTS Recognizes Contributions of School Committee Chairman Lamontagne

To recognize and express our gratitude for the work provided by former District Committee member Mr. LaMontagne throughout his 36 years of service to GLTS, Supt. Lavoie asked Committee members for a recommendation for a motion to name the front driveway the Leo Lamontagne Drive.

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to name the front driveway of GLTS: Leo Lamontagne Drive.

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** Mr. Bradley

Roll Call by District Recorder

- Ms. Disla                Yes
- Mr. Jones              Yes
- Mr. Mejia               Yes
- Mr. Mercedes         Abstain
- Mr. Tarbox             Yes
- Ms. Fitzgerald        Yes
- Mr. Hatem              Yes

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18566

Ms. Disla remarked this item was not listed on the agenda for this evening.

c. Public Participation

**6. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR**

*a. Out of State Travel*

- Scott Cumming, Cheri Lewis and Grisselle Foreira will travel to ARMI (Advance Regenerative Manufacturing Institute, Manchester, NH on January 16 and January 18, 2024 for a field trip. No cost

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

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** Ms. Disla

Roll Call by District Recorder

Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Disla	Yes
Mr. Jones	Yes
Mr. Mejia	Yes
Mr. Mercedes	Abstain
Mr. Tarbox	Yes
Mr. Hatem	Yes

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18567

*b. Admission's Report*

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on the Admissions' Report stating that 1251 students have applied and the acceptance process would begin after the February vacation break. Mr. Mejia asked if that number included transfer students to which Supt. Lavoie responded no, it did not.

*c. Update on School Projects*

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on the School Projects reviewing five major projects via slides which will provide additional space. Bids for Building 1 will be going out in another week. He informed District Committee members he would send a link to the floor plan to each of them as it wasn't working properly this evening.

*d. Update on the Hangar for the Aviation Program*

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on the Hangar for the Aviation Program requesting a vote to sign a license agreement with the City of Lawrence for the use of the hangar at the Airport for the Aviation Program. We're unable to purchase the hanger until May but we'll continue to work with the City Council. Mr. Jones asked if the lower cafeteria were the serving area requiring food to be brought down from the kitchen to which Supt. Lavoie responded no, the service area will have its own kitchen.

Ms. Disla asked if the bids for building 1 would be presented to the District Committee. Supt. Lavoie said yes, they would.

*e. Purchasing of the Elks*

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on purchasing the Elks to expand the After Dark During the Day Program initially planning to ask the Committee to approve a \$4,000,000 bond. Reviewing slides outlining the Elks purchase process he informed District members GLTS needed to hire a bond attorney to develop the documentation, procedures and protocols. We'll need to obtain a bond of 4 million dollars for which we would go to our cities and towns. We can wait until the next meeting to give this more thought. Ms. Fitzgerald stated

she was opposed to vote on this tonight, but is not opposed to looking into expanding the campus suggesting our attorneys and board of directors meet first. Next, our attorney should meet with their board of directors to determine if this could actually take place before going any further. Ms. Disla agrees with Ms. Fitzgerald and asked where the bill process is now? Supt. Lavoie said a bill was being written by Rep. Frank Moran's team to send to our attorney for review. Supt. Lavoie has met with GLTS attorney several times. He indicated he's fine with Marilyn's suggestion and we'll see how that meeting goes. His suggestion to contact a bond attorney is to understand the time and challenges involved in the process. He's happy to review the project again to refresh everyone's memory, table the vote for this evening and he'll present additional information at the next meeting. Ms. Fitzgerald questioned if the CEO's of the 4 communities have any idea we're looking at this and the financial impact it would have. Supt. Lavoie said they had been invited to our breakfast. Our next step is to have one on one individual meetings which will be part of the process. Mr. Jones asked if the legislative bill was open to all schools across the state or just tailored to GLTS to which Supt. Lavoie responded, it was being tailored to GLTS. Mr. Jones asked if the existing building would be modified or torn down and rebuild? Supt. Lavoie said it would be modified.

*f. Roof Project (Added 1/9/24)*

Supt. Lavoie requested the District Committee submit a letter of interest to MSBA to fund a new roof. Noting it was added to the agenda today because MSBA roof projects are opening on January 19, 2024; and to apply, a vote of the District Committee recommending we go thru the process is required. The final process can take up to 2 to 3 years. We currently have fifteen to sixteen leaks in the roof and we're anticipating a cost of 14 to 16 million dollars.

**MOTION:** Mr. Jones moved to submit a letter of interest to MSBA to replace the roof.

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** Mr. Tarbox

Roll Call by District Recorder

Mr. Mejia	Yes
Mr. Mercedes	Abstain
Mr. Tarbox	Yes
Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Disla	Yes
Mr. Jones	Yes
Mr. Hatem	Yes

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18568

*g. Principal's Report*

Principal Zielinski presented the Principal's Report. With regards to GLTS website redesign, Ms. Disla was interested in and asked if it were possible to see the admissions process on the website to which Principal Zielinski stated it would provide some clarity to the application process. Mr. Mejia asked what department manages the website to which Principal Zielinski stated we're hosting our own website but our technology department will have a primary individual responsible for maintaining updates. She mentioned it's important to receive prior approval before posting to the website. Mr. Mejia asked if the website could be viewed in multiple languages to which Principle responded yes and various types of universal designs are being used as well. She did point out imbedded PDF's cannot be translated, but we're recreating them so they'll be translatable. Referencing the Early College program, Interim Chairman Hatem questioned if that pertained to a specific college. Principal Zielinski stated the Dept. of Education offers an early education program where you chose to partner with one or multiple colleges. Supt. Lavoie and I are in discussions to select our primary

partner. Interim Chairman Hatem asked how many credits can be accumulated to which Principal Zielinski said you'd want to start small and build upon it but there is no limit in terms of courses.

## 7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

### 8. OLD BUSINESS

#### a. District Committee Priorities

Ms. Fitzgerald inquired if facility rentals could be specifically identified and categorized individually listed under our revolving accounts which Supt. Lavoie responded could be accomplished.

#### b. Policy

### 9. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Fitzgerald requested efforts be made to ensure we can be heard at all meetings. Supt. Lavoie said it would be a new space.

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved that future District Committee meetings take place in a new meeting room.

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** Mr. Jones

Roll Call by District Recorder

Mr. Tarbox	Yes
Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Disla	Yes
Mr. Jones	Yes
Mr. Mejia	Yes
Mr. Mercedes	Abstain
Mr. Hatem	Yes

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18569

Ms. Disla voiced her opinion the conversation that took place at the Advisory Board meeting relative to eight shops in need of additional space was too brief and provided very little information. She stated only one individual spoke about what had been accomplished for the year and only two out of twenty presented. She'd like to see that as part of the meeting and asked if any of those space situations had been addressed or were they new? Supt. Lavoie said that could be added to our annual calendar and we'll do a review approximately every three months for the shops.

**MOTION:** Ms. Disla moved to approve the Advisory Board meetings present accomplishments for each shop since the last recommendation prior to beginning something new.

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** Mr. Mejia

Roll Call by District Recorder

Mr. Mercedes	Abstain
Mr. Tarbox	Yes
Ms. Fitzgerald	Yes
Ms. Disla	Yes
Mr. Jones	Yes
Mr. Mejia	Yes
Mr. Hatem	Yes

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved  
#18570

**10. TABLED MATTERS**

a. *Faculty Dress Code*

Supt. Lavoie indicated he would present something to the District Committee at their next meeting.

**11. PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS/REPORT**

a. *Resignations*

b. *Leaves of Absence*

c. *Retirements*

d. *Appointments*

e. *Job Postings*

**12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Ms. Fitzgerald moved to adjourn at 8:20PM

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** Ms. Disla

Roll Call by District Recorder

Ms. Fitzgerald        Yes

Ms. Disla             Yes

Mr. Jones            Yes

Mr. Mejia            Yes

Mr. Mercedes        Abstain

Mr. Tarbox           Yes

Mr. Hatem            Yes

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18571

Respectfully Submitted:



Cheryl Dennis  
District Recorder

Minutes Reviewed:



John N. Lavoie  
Superintendent-Director