



**DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
OPEN MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING #1895  
February 25, 2025**

<b><u>Members Present</u></b>	Thomas Hatem	Methuen	Chairperson
	William Tarbox	North Andover	Asst. Treasurer
	Annemarie Ms. Faris	Andover	
	Bradley Jones	Methuen	
<b><u>Members Absent</u></b>	Zoila Disla	Lawrence	
	Julio Mejia	Lawrence	Vice Chair
	Edison Mr. Mercedes	Lawrence	
<b><u>Others Present</u></b>	John N. Lavoie	Superintendent-Director	
	Susan Lally	District Recorder	

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Hatem called the meeting to order at 4:00PM

**MOTION:** Ms. Faris moved to add the Pledge of Alliance to the agenda as presented.

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18913

**MOTION:** Ms. Faris moved to add Negotiations to the agenda as presented.

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18914

***1.) MOU for Reimbursement for Foster Care Transportation Costs***

Supt. Lavoie reported that we are allowed to submit for reimbursement of our Foster Care Transportation costs from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The MOU states that we will follow all the requirements and regulations of the Department of Education. We are eligible for up to \$89,000 reimbursement but we have been approved for around \$16,000. Chair Hatem reiterated that Supt. Lavoie and Ms. Martel reviewed the MOU. Mr. Jones asked if this is the same for homeless students being bused as well. Supt. Lavoie reported yes.

**MOTION:** Mr. Jones moved to approve the MOU as presented

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

Mr. Tarbox asked if this is an annual thing? Supt. Lavoie reported that this is the first time since he has been here that they have put in for this and believes it can be done every year.

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18915

**2.) Capital Improvement Projects Approval**

Supt. Lavoie reported that the Capital Improvement Committee just had a meeting prior to this meeting. I would like one item approved at this time. We need to put a sidewalk and fence along the field leading up the hill. Currently there is no walkway which makes it dangerous for the students because they are walking in the street. The cost of this project is \$100,000. Chair Hatem reported that this was approved in the Capital Improvement meeting.

**MOTION:** Mr. Jones moved to approve the \$100,000 for the sidewalk and fence as presented.

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18916

**3.) Negotiations for other units**

Supt. Lavoie reported that he would like to start negotiating with the other units. I would like to meet with the Custodians, Administrators, Cafeteria and the Paraprofessional Units to start on the language, not the money. Mr. Hatem asked if we have any problems with the teacher's negotiations? Supt. Lavoie reported that the biggest issue is what they want for an increase. Supt. Lavoie reported that they would like 8-8-8% increase for the next three years. We built 3-3-3% into the budget. If we give them 4-4-4% it would be another \$250,000. Ms. Faris stated that she does not know any school in the area receiving 4-4-4%. Supt. Lavoie reported that we had budgeted for a 10% increase to our health insurance but just found out it is going to be more like a 15% increase which will affect the increases. Mr. Jones asked if this will be for a three-year contract. Supt. Lavoie reported yes.

**MOTION:** Mr. Jones moved to adjourn at 4:20PM

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18917

Respectfully Submitted



Susan Lally  
District Recorder

Minutes Reviewed



John N. Lavoie  
Superintendent-Director