



**DISTRICT COMMITTEE
OPEN MEETING MINUTES
MEETING #1892
December 17, 2024**

Members Present:

Thomas Hatem	Methuen	Chairperson
Julio Mejia	Lawrence	Vice Chair
William Tarbox	North Andover	Asst. Treasurer
Zoila Disla	Lawrence	
Annemarie Faris	Andover	

Members Absent:

Bradley Jones	Methuen
Edison Mercedes	Lawrence

Others Present:

John N. Lavoie	Superintendent-Director
Brenda Richardson	Assistant Superintendent
Gerry DiStefano	Treasurer
Melissa Martel	Director of Finance
Cheryl Dennis	District Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hatem called the meeting to order at 6:00PM

Roll Call by District Recorder: Ms. Faris (present), Ms. Disla (present). Mr. Jones (absent), Mr. Mejia (late arrival), Mr. Mercedes (absent), Mr. Tarbox (present), Mr. Hatem (present).

2. STUDENTS REPORT

- DC’s Student Representatives presented the Student’s Report some topics of which included: GLTS sports banquet, winter sports, new coaches were identified and welcomed, math investing club, winter blanket/coat drive, student council gift drive for St. Ann’s Home, GLTS nursing home cards, MSPCA donations, new GLTS Google calendar, GLTS recognition in a manufacturing article, 22 GLTS staff gained CPR/First Aid Certification, SkillsUSA leadership conference, winter break will take place from 12/23/24 through 1/1/25.

3. MINUTES

a. Minutes of November 19 and December 3, 2024

MOTION: Ms. Faris moved to approve the minutes of November 19 and December 3, 2024.

2ND: Mr. Tarbox

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18884

4. FINANCE REPORT

a. Cash Balance Report

Mr. DiStefano read the Cash Balance Report.

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

2ND: Mr. Tarbox

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18885

b. Consolidated Cash Reconciliation Report

c. Revolving Fund Report

d. Budget Report

Ms. Faris questioned the transportation costs relative to homeless students. Ramon Transportation transports students for the After Dark program at a cost of \$2400 to travel 1.3 miles. Ms. Martel indicated it costs \$100 a run on regular buses and stated some homeless students live in Waltham and Framingham. Supt. Lavoie spoke about various difficulties experienced with transportation.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Donations

b. Articles

- Technology, Creative Opportunities Draw Students to Manufacturing Program.

Building the pieces going up in the international space station. Supt. Lavoie said there has been a lot of success in this high demand program. Ms. Faris applauded everyone involved stressing the impact Mr. Ouellette's role played in attaining this national recognition. She believes some type of commendation should be afforded him. Supt. Lavoie agreed the team as a whole is wonderful.

c. Public Participation

6. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

a. Budget Priorities

Assistant Superintendent Richardson presented to the District Committee the Budget Priorities.

High level view of the priorities and goals of the School Improvement Plan. Tier 1 supports in GLTS classrooms / continue to enhance Tier 2 and Tier 3. Address student performance gaps, I-Ready testing. More professional development for each department, high quality instruction materials, reduce student to teacher ratio, the hiring of more instructional coaches and additional CTE teachers, upgrade technology and (DVEI) Diversity Equity and Inclusion. Mr. Mejia wanted to know the status of aviation instructors to which Supt. Lavoie responded we do have an instructor but until GLTS receives FAA approval, we'll run exploratory in the summer. Ms. Faris asked if I-Ready testing had occurred yet and how its success would be measured? Asst. Supt. Richardson stated it had started but was not completed. Supt Lavoie indicated its success would be through assessments. Asst. Supt. Richardson said while we attempt to give all students the I-Ready testing, we've used some of the results from last year to identify students in need of reading support. Testing now is not ideal but it is the best we can do - the cycle will be to test twice a year. We hope to see gains by the end of this year going into next year – things won't change overnight but we expect to see progressive growth. Supt. Lavoie indicated the data is being reviewed on a daily basis.

b. Admissions Report

Supt. Lavoie said we're still in the beginning stages but close to where we were last year. Asst. Supt.

Richardson added the number was roughly 1200.

c. New Chapter 74 Programs Feasibility Study

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on the New Chapter 74 Feasibility Study for the following programs:

- Animal Science
- Veterinarian Assistant
- Construction Craft Laborers

Supt. Lavoie indicated GLTS was looking at other possibilities in the job market with an aim to start programs that won't require more space at GLTS. MSPCA has been contacted for animal science. Construction Craft Labors which we do not offer now would be a direct partnership with the labor union with a limited number of students. Findings will be reported back to the District Committee.

Elks Update: Gemline Co., also interested in purchasing the Elks, have asked us if we want to go into a partnership with them. We met with them and they're interested in the parking lot but not the building. The challenge continues to be finding a piece of property for the Elks.

d. Grant Proposal

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on the Grant Proposal for EPA Clean School Bus Program stating we're pursuing a grant proposal in partnership with our bus company but they're going to be the lead on the grant. The Federal government is offering to pay for up to 50 electric buses. The application is now in process and we hope to complete in January.

e. Negotiation's Update

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on the Negotiations stating proposals were exchanged at the first meeting held last evening. He feels it went well and is pleased with their proposal which is workable. Money has not been discussed as yet. Ms. Faris stated absenteeism is her main concern. Supt. Lavoie said absenteeism was discussed. Mr. Mejia brought up appointing District Committee members to the committee to represent the District Committee. Chair Hatem said we haven't been on it for a number of years. District Committee members were brought in to assist with the administrative team during the previous negotiations. Supt. Lavoie said District Committee members had not been on the negotiating committee in the last 15 years. Mr. Mejia felt strongly there should be some sort of representative from the District Committee. Supt Lavoie stated the addition of a District Committee member would necessitate bringing on an attorney and things become more expensive and more challenging. The negotiating committee makes no final decision, the District Committee decides. Mr. Mejia feels there may be members that want to be part of that process and perhaps we should look into it more and have further discussions on it.

f. January Advisory Board and DC Meeting

Supt. Lavoie requested moving the January Advisory Board and the District Committee Meeting from January 14th to January 21st due to the Superintendent attending a conference.

MOTION: Mr. Tarbox moved to change the District Committee meeting from January 14th to January 21st.

2ND: Ms. Faris

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18886

g. Travel Meal Allotment Rates

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on the new proposed meal rates for Travel:

	Current (2010)	Proposed
• Breakfast	\$12.00	\$ 22.00
• Lunch	\$18.00	\$ 28.00
• Dinner	<u>\$35.00</u>	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Daily Total	\$65.00	\$100.00

MOTION: Mr. Tarbox

2ND: Ms. Faris

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18887

h. Updated School Calendar

Asst. Supt. Richardson indicated the original calendar submitted had been sent back stating the seniors were being released too early. As a result, the calendar needed to be adjusted to ensure compliance with DESE requirements. Mr. Mejia mentioned he was receiving questions as to why students were required to return on January 2nd –other districts are out until the end of the week. Supt Lavoie stated we start our week on Wednesday - it’s to the advantage of our students.

MOTION: Mr. Tarbox moved to accept the Updated School Calendar as presented.

2ND: Ms. Faris

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18888

7. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE

8. OLD BUSINESS

a. District Committee Priorities

- Uniform Update

Supt Lavoie indicated we have a uniform committee and the school council both of whom have met. We’re also looking at a possible survey for students. The discussion thus far has been about a t-shirt with blue jeans from two separate groups. Ms. Faris still wants to enforce what’s in the handbook. Mr. Mejia spoke to the enforcement of a dress code, making individuals be accountable. Supt. Lavoie said he was fine with having uniforms which would be easier to enforce. Liberal standard to accept t-shirts and pants which Ms. Faris and Mr. Mejia are ok with - gives him parameters to work with – the process is ongoing.

Legislative Breakfast update: Supt. Lavoie indicated the beginning of February was being considered.

b. Policy

- New Policy: JKAA, Physical Restraint Behavior and Support Policy and Procedures

Mr. Mejia assumed this was an update from the Association of School Committees. Chair Hatem indicated it’s from the SAR codes and it’s something we have to do.

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to approve the New Policy as presented.

2ND: Ms. Faris

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18889

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. TABLED MATTERS

11. PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS/REPORT

- a. Resignations
 - Anyury Carrasco, Special Education Bilingual Liaison, Effective December 20, 2024.
 - Thomas Paulsen, Horticulture Instructor, Effective December 20, 2024
- b. Leaves of Absence
- c. Retirements
- d. Appointments
 - Thomas Sullivan, Plumbing Instructor, Effective December 9, 2024
- e. Job Postings:
 - Special Education Psychologist, Local 1707, Effective January, 2025, New Position (See attachment)

Mr. Mejia questioned how many school psychologists now to which Supt. Lavoie responded one.

MOTION: Mr. Tarbox moved to approve the position as presented.

2ND: Ms. Faris

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18890

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to enter into Executive Session at 7:32PM.

2ND: Ms. Faris

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18891

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to adjourn at 8:25PM.

2ND: Mr. Tarbox

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#18894

Respectfully Submitted:



Cheryl Dennis
District Recorder

Minutes Reviewed:



John N. Lavoie
Superintendent-Director