



**DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
OPEN MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING #1896  
March 25, 2025**

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent**

**Others Present**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Hatem called the meeting to order at 6:00PM Roll *Call by District Record: Ms. Faris (present), Ms. Disla (present), Mr. Jones (absent), Mr. Mejia (present), Mr. Mercedes (present), Mr. Tarbox (present), Mr. Hatem (present).*

**2. EXCEPTIONAL REGGIE**

Supt. Lavoie recognized and introduced Bryan Marroquin, a Senior in Advanced Manufacturing Program at GLTS. Though visually impaired, Bryan has made great strides and is exceling in his co-op position with Straumann.

**3. STUDENTS REPORT**

Student Representatives Layla, Yeion, and Mia presented the Students Report reviewing slides relative to: Black History Month, CTE Month, Student of the CTE Month, Dominican Independence, SkillsUSA District Test held on March 13 at GLTS, SkillsUSA Teamwork’s Competition, SkillsUSA Senior, Recognition and Achievement, MA Association of Student Councils, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Shop Selection, Sports Banquet held on March 20, Winter Sports Highlights, National Track, Spring Sports, GLTS Scholarship Application, MassHire Summer Jobs, Kindness Cards, and the 2025 Talent Show held on March 21.

**MOTION:** Ms. Faris moved to alter the agenda to enter Executive Session at an earlier time than noted on the Agenda.

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18918

#### **4. MINUTES**

a. Minutes of February 11 and 25, 2025

**MOTION:** Mr. Mercedes moved to approve the minutes of February 11 and 25, 2025.

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18919

#### **5. FINANCE REPORT**

a. Cash Balance Report

Mr. DiStefano presented the Cash Balance Report.

**MOTION:** Ms. Faris moved to accept the Cash Balance Report as reported.

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18920

b. Consolidated Cash Reconciliation Report

c. Revolving Fund Report

d. Budget Report

e. Revote on FY25 Budget

Ms. Martel referenced a memo and supporting documentation contained in DC member's packets. A vote on the shortfall was necessary and must be added to FY 25 budget.

**MOTION:** Ms. Faris moved to accept the Revote on FY25 Budget.

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18921

#### **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

a. Donations

- Mr. Joshua Decosta, Empire Auto Parts, Taunton donated seven fenders for the Autobody continuing education night-school.

b. Articles

- Greater Lawrence Technical School Host Legislator's Breakfast to Strengthen Ties with State and Municipal Officials.
- Greater Lawrence Technical School Advanced Manufacturing Students Visited by NASA Hunch. Supt Lavoie spoke to the NASA Hunch project.
- Greater Lawrence Technical School Senior Overcomes Challenges to Secure Co-Op at Straumann. (Article under "Exceptional Reggie")

c. Public Participation

## **7. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR**

### **a. Facilities Update**

Mr. Hamel, Director of Facilities and Operations provided an update on School Projects and extended an invitation to District Committee members to meet with him at the school. It was noted that one million dollars was saved by the school by not hiring someone outside the building to some of the work. Project updates included the new aviation building, the aviation hangar, barn number two with the plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and HVAC all being completed by the students; and the new cafeteria. Ms. Faris question why the new cafeteria was not ready yet to which Mr. Hamel responded a lot of work had been done but the school would need to be shut down to complete it. Supt. Lavoie added that the project started nine months to a year before November. Issues were encountered throughout the process, all of which caused delays - the health inspector wanted new drawings, the estimates on a new gas line revealed the need to look at a different plan due to costs, the town required us to put in a gas and oil separator that needed to be reengineered and redone, as well as issues with engineers staying on schedule.

Chair Hatem mentioned that the front parking lot was a nightmare at 2:30PM and poses a problem for fire trucks and ambulances. Mr. Hamel responded we're looking into that. Supt. Lavoie recognized Mr. Hamel's accomplishments in his position the last two years. Supt. Lavoie mentioned the possibility of moving the traffic to the back of the school – decision was made to wait until the spring or later in the fall.

### **b. Co-Op Update**

Mr. Robert Maiella, Cooperative Education Coordinator provided an update to the District Committee on Co-Op. Mr. Maiella has been with GLTS for 18 years, running this program for the last six years. An update is sent out monthly which DC members have access to. The numbers change constantly but he predicts 210 students out the end of March. He feels the program is running strong. By year end last year, we had over 300 in Co-Op. We have three students out with Robotics/Environmental science programs. We will have our first two students out beginning next month working at the Greater Lawrence Sanitation District. The Dental Assisting Program maintained 100% achievement as well as the Medical Assisting Program. The Health Programs are in demand. Though recognizing the program has grown, Ms. Faris questioned if most employers indicate the work done at GLTS prepares students for the job. Mr. Maiella noted that sometimes the job doesn't work out but for the most part, the students enjoy the program which helps them out financially as well – some earn \$23 hourly. Mr. Mercedes stated his interested as a business owner in speaking directly with Mr. Maiella about his ideas. Mr. Mercedes requested that the actual number of students out on Co-Op vs. how many are enrolled in the program be added to the report. Mr. Maiella will add that to the report. Mentioning the DC approved a PT assistant for Mr. Maiella, Chair Hatem asked how that was working out Mr. Maiella responded the PT assistant was working out well but additional support would benefit the program – perhaps someone FT.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mercedes moved to go into executive session at 6:55PM

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18922

**ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ENTER OPEN SESSION**

### **f. FY26 Budget Approval –**

**MOTION:** Mr. Tarbox moved to approve the original FY26 Budget

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

**VOTE:**

#18924

## **CONTINUATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR**

### c. Action Plan for AI SY26

Ms. Richardson, Assistant Superintendent, provided the District Committee with an update on the action plan for AI (Artificial Intelligence) SY26. Asst. Supt. Richardson stated a team of ten administrators and teachers attended the Ed Tech Teacher AI and Education Summit on March 11th that focused on how AI is transforming education. Key themes: learning, ethics and tools for educators. AI can enhance teaching. Not many schools have policies and guidelines for AI in place. Chair Hatem questioned if any school has it up and running now? Asst. Supt. Richardson indicated there are a couple that have more of a policy or guidelines.

### d. 2025-2026 School Calendar

**MOTION:** Mr. Mejia moved to approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar.

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18925

### e. Out of State Travel Approval

- 11th grade students & teacher to travel to 1800 Southwood Drive, Nashua NH for a Viega Certification for press fittings, No Cost.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mejia moved to approve.

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18926

- Lauren Jones, Angela Lawler-Brennan, Johanna Fawcett, and Tina Nutter to attend NEASC Educator Showcase, April 3, 2025. Cost \$600 for group of four to attend.

**MOTION:** Ms. Faris moved to approve.

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18927

### f. School Choice

Supt. Lavoie asked the District Committee to vote on School Choice which has routinely been rejected in prior years.

**MOTION:** Mr. Tarbox moved not to accept students from other districts.

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18928

### g. SkillsUSA Update

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on SkillsUSA.

Mr. Tarbox highlighted Marisol Almanzar wrestling achievements. She is in the 162-weight class and wrestles with students in the 185-weight class. She's only wrestled for two years and she's been terrific. Two colleges are looking at her for academics and athletics.

### h. Uniform Update

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on School Uniforms. Supt. Lavoie indicated we've reached out to a company about bringing uniforms in but prior to completing that, confirmation from the DC that's this is what is wanted is required.

**MOTION:** Ms. Faris moved to suspend the implementation of a uniform policy at this time and pursue a stronger enforcement of the dress code policy as stated in the student handbook.

Ms. Faris said she didn't know what we were voting on that day. I didn't think changing a shirt and wearing kakis would make the difference. Chair Hatem mentioned he felt the same way but wanted to avoid having parents spend money. Mr. Mercedes feels a uniform would be best emphasizing we voted and we need to move forward, a motion shouldn't be coming up now. Chair Hatem said that swatches were to be brought in at this point from Supt. Lavoie

**MOTION:** Ms. Faris moved to rescind the vote previously taken on a uniform policy.

**2<sup>ND</sup>:** no second

Motion does not move forward

#18929

Chair Hatem understood that uniforms would be required for classes, not shops. Mr. Mejia reported that some instructors mentioned to allow students within shop to use their clothes in academic class. Asst. Supt. Richardson we'd have to allow students with shop and class during the same day, to wear the shop clothes in academic class. Supt. Lavoie asked if members would consider shop uniforms to consist of a t-shirt with chinos? Mr. Mercedes said a uniform should be for 4 years. Ms. Faris reported it's ok as long as they have GLTS somewhere? It doesn't matter if they're in shop or academic? What's the consequence if it's not following? Supt. Lavoie stated they're supposed to call home. Ms. Disla stated we know the policy is not being enforced now. We voted for uniforms – we're not there yet and I see it as easier to manage as opposed to the policy we're not enforcing now. Supt. Lavoie said the premise is if we have a uniform the kids will conform to it more, which is not true. A uniform will cause disarray and problems. Ms. Faris indicated she was not in favor of a uniform but was in favor of enforcing what is written. Supt. Lavoie indicated it would be more difficult to enforce uniforms - the students would rebel and every day would be a challenge. Supt. Lavoie will bring in some swatches for April 1.

i. Admissions Report

Supt. Lavoie reported that we've sent out the first round of acceptances. Asst. Supt. Richardson reported that we have 447 that have accepted 104 withdrew after acceptance, 660 on the waiting list.

j. Special Education Review

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on the Special Education Review stating GLTS' was found to be complying in all areas – no recommendations.

k. Lawrence General Partnership

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on the Partnership with Lawrence General.

Supt. Lavoie said the former mayor of Lawrence had emailed to request a meeting. Three weeks to hire a new president at Lawrence General Hospital. We'll see if the space they're vacating is advantageous to us.

l. Taste of Methuen

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on The Taste of Methuen Event, May 21, 2025 at the Lawrence Elk. Doors open at 6:00PM. Supt. Lavoie reported that GLTS is participating this year to showcase our students as it's run by the Methuen exchange club.

## **8. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

## **9. OLD BUSINESS**

a. District Committee Priorities

b. Policy

To replace GLTS' old Policy, GCCC-E-Family and Medical Leave, with New Policy, GBGF, Family and Medical Leave.

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

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18930

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**11. TABLED MATTERS**

**12. PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS/REPORT**

a. Resignations

- Bridget Grenham, Child Care Assistant, Effective 3/13/25

b. Leaves of Absence

c. Retirements

- Walter Murphy, Autobody Instructor, Effective 6/30/25
- Rina Cerulli, Math Instructor, Effective 6/30/25
- David Cyr, Math Instructor, Effective 6/30/25

d. Appointments

- Regan Spinazola, Cosmetology Instructor, Effective 2/10/25
- Ena Pena, Workforce Development Programs Manager, Effective 2/25/25
- Lisa Lobao, School Psychologist, Effective 3/3/25
- Christopher Lounsbury, Horticulture Instructor, Effective 3/10/25
- Gloryliz Rodriguez, Special Education Paraprofessional, Effective 3/10/25
- Matthew Oliva, Visual Design and Production Coordinator, Effective 3/13/25

e. Job Postings

- Special Education Team Chairperson, Teachers Contract, SY25-26, New Position. (See Attached).

**MOTION:** Mr. Mejia moved to approve the Special Education Team Chairperson.

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18931

- Special Education Reading Specialist, Teachers Contract, SY25-26, New Position. (See Attached).

Ms. Faris questioned how many now. Supt. Lavoie we have two this will give us four.

Ms. Faris why are we hiring in March?

Supt. Lavoie some are for work force development program, three are replacements, one is new hire for bilingual,

**MOTION:** Mr. Mejia moved to approve the Special Education Reading Specialist.

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18932

- Reading Specialist, Salary, August, 2025, New Position, (See Attached)
- Environmental Science Instructor, SY 2025-26, New Position
- Biotechnology Instructor, SY 2025-26, New Position

**MOTION:** Ms. Faris

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18933

### **13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Faris wants an update on the website.

### **15. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Mr. Mercedes moved to adjourn at 8:41PM.

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#18934

Respectfully Submitted



Cheryl Dennis  
District Recorder

Minutes Reviewed



John N. Lavoie  
Superintendent-Director