



**DISTRICT COMMITTEE
OPEN MEETING MINUTES
MEETING #1905
November 18, 2025**

<u>Members Present</u>	Thomas Hatem	Methuen	Chairperson
	Julio Mejia	Lawrence	Vice Chair
	William Tarbox	North Andover	Asst. Treasurer
	Zoila Disla	Lawrence	
	Annemarie Faris	Andover	
	Edison Mercedes	Lawrence	

<u>Members Absent</u>	Bradley Jones	Methuen
------------------------------	---------------	---------

<u>Others Present</u>	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. STUDENTS REPORT:

Amber Salomon presented the Students Report reviewing the following: Interact Club, Snap Food Drive, Snap Food Assistance, Kindness Cards, Gratitude Cards, Therapy Dog Visit, Nicey 5K, Mannequin Contest, Pumpkin Pathology, Homecoming, Sports, New Extension Activities in the Library during WIN and PSAT Scores.

3. MINUTES

a. Minutes of October 14, 2025

MOTION: Mr. Mercedes moved to approve the minutes of October 14, 2025.

2ND: Mr. Mejia

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#19057

4. FINANCE REPORT

a. Cash Balance Report

Mr. DiStefano presented the Cash Balance Report.

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

2ND: Mr. Tarbox

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#19058

b. Consolidated Cash Reconciliation Report

c. Revolving Fund Report

d. Budget Report

e. Budget Transfers

Ms. Martel presented the Budget Transfers

MOTION: Ms. Faris moved to approve the Budget Transfers.

2ND: Mr. Mejia

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#19059

f. Revote on FY26 Budget with Rollover Amount

Ms. Martel updated the District Committee on the revote of the FY26 Budget. Short of net school spending by \$1,716,899.00 which was below the 5% threshold allowed by the state. We have to revote this year's budget and add that money to it. Our new FY2026 budget will be \$56,652,804.00.

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to accept the FY26 Budget with Rollover Amount as presented.

2ND: Ms. Faris

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#19060

5. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Donations

b. Articles

- Statewide Vocational Educators Group Honors State Representative Frank A. Moran of Lawrence, MAVA.
- Reggies Storm to State Quarterfinals, Eagle Tribune.
- Reggies Ousted in Quarters: Nipmuc Ends Season in Elite 8, Eagle Tribune.

c. Public Participation

6. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

a. Four Million Dollar Bond Update

Supt. Lavoie reported that our communities were asked to allow GLTS to reallocate funds originally intended to purchase the Elks to the expansion of our medical and health programs and all communities voted yes – strong support. In addition, we recently submitted our grant proposal for the \$5,000,000. Skills Capital which will also fund the addition to the back of the school.

b. Competency Determination Presentation

Principal Jackson introduced the team presenting on the Massachusetts Graduation Competency Determination which represents a significant shift. A draft of the new policy was reviewed via slides addressing the DESE three components, core subject requirements and specific courses that align with the requirements. Ms. Hebert, Director of Admissions Counseling & Health addressed students with unique needs and reviewed the appeals process. Key takeaways: multiple pathways to success, individualized support, clear requirements, fair appeals process. This is all in alignment with DESE. Ms. Faris questioned if only two years of high school language arts were necessary to which Principal Jackson responded yes, but we still have our GLTS requirements in place. GLTS actually requires more than DESE. Students are required to achieve a passing grade for the classes determined by the handbook and the committee and complete either an end of course assessment or a Capstone Project to achieve the Competency Determination. A passing grade is currently 60.

MOTION: Ms. Faris moved to approve the Competency Determination as presented.

2ND: Mr. Mejia

Roll Call by District Recorder

Mr. Mejia	Yes
Mr. Mercedes	Yes
Mr. Tarbox	Yes
Ms. Faris	Yes
Ms. Disla	Yes
Mr. Jones	Absent
Mr. Hatem	Yes

#19061

c. T-Shirt Update

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on the T-Shirts requesting a motion to allow shops to maintain the colors they currently have for their t-shirts as opposed to black.

MOTION: Ms. Faris so moved.

2ND: Mr. Tarbox

Roll Call by District Recorder

Ms. Disla	No
Mr. Jones	Absent
Mr. Mejia	Yes
Mr. Mercedes	No
Mr. Tarbox	Yes
Ms. Faris	Yes
Mr. Hatem	Yes

4, yes', 2 no's

Motion Passes

#19062

d. Open House Follow-up

Supt. Lavoie provided a follow-up to GLTS Open House that was on November 2, 2025 stating it was well attended. The admissions policy was explained at the time - parents were disappointed with the lottery. Mr. Mejia suggested a letter be sent to the state stating GLTS' opposition to the system along with input from the parents. Supt. Lavoie indicated he'd be willing to do this at some point in the future.

e. MassCEC Event at GLTS

GLTS is holding a MassCEC Workforce Grantee Award Event in the library on Friday, November 21, 2025. Greater Lawrence will be awarded \$475,000, and other awardees will be in attendance.

Mass Clean Energy Center selected GLTS to hold the awards this year. The Secretary of Education will be in attendance.

f. Out of State Travel

Plumbing Instructor, Jason Hull along with 30 students will travel to Watts Manufacturing Plant for a field trip/tour, located in Franklin NH on December 2nd & 3rd, 2025. No cost to school.

Supt. Lavoie took a moment to recognize the Plumbing Department for their outstanding job. He will ask Mr. Hull to do a presentation for the District Committee. Ms. Faris expressed her approval and would like to have an administrator or instructor representing each career area attend District Committee meetings going forward. Supt. Lavoie stated we'll start doing that.

Mr. Mejia asked when the next advisory meeting would be taking place to which Supt. Lavoie responded it would be in January.

MOTION: Ms. Faris moved to approve the Out of State Travel as presented.

2ND: Mr. Mejia

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#19063

g. Budget Calendar Update

Supt. Lavoie stated we'll meet with the supervisors after Thanksgiving. The process is going well and we'll provide an update sometime in February.

h. Admissions Report

Admissions are documented as 764 in DC member reports; however, since this report we have 1000 which is higher at this time than we've ever been.

i. Health Insurance Update

Supt. Lavoie stated the increase for this item in next year's budget will be roughly 20% – a cost of approximately one million dollars.

7. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE

8. OLD BUSINESS

a. District Committee Priorities

b. Policy

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. TABLED MATTERS

11. PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS/REPORT

a. Resignations

- Grisselle Ferreira, ML Paraprofessional, 11/7/25
- Maritza Simauchi, Math Instructor, 10/29/25
- Ricky Santana, HVAC Instructor, 10/16/25

b. Leaves of Absence

c. Retirements

d. Appointments

- Edmund Monette, Student Liaison/School Security, 10/14/25.
- Nicole Mahoney, Mathematics Instructor, 10/14/25
- Kevin Christensen, Special Education Paraprofessional, 10/14/25

e. Job Postings

- American Red Cross Club Advisors, Per Local 1707 Contract, SY2025-2026, Two Advisors to share the position and stipend, New Position, (New Club) (See Attached).

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to approve the American Red Cross Club Advisors.

2ND: Mr. Tarbox

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#19064

- Reggie Voice Towards Progress Advisor, Per Local 1707 Contract, SY2025- 2026, One Advisor, New Position (New Club) (See Attached).

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to approve Reggie Voice Towards Progress Advisor.

2ND: Ms. Faris

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#19065

- Enrollment Specialist, Per Para/Clerical Contract or Outside \$41.00/hr., Funding Source: 423 Grant, 3-6pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 3-7pm on Tuesday and Thursday during the 3 months prior to the adult training start date. (See Attached)

Mejia is tis for after dark? Supt for adult programs.

MOTION: Mr. Mercedes moved to approve the Enrollment Specialist.

2ND: Mr. Mejia

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#19066

New Administrator Mentor, up to 40 hours, stipend \$2,800, Responsibilities to provide one-on-one guidance in areas such as education evaluation, scheduling, program advisory coordination and overall leadership practices. This will also include observation debriefs, document review and coaching sessions outside of the normal workday to ensure a successful transition and capacity-building within the administrative team.

Supt. Lavoie stated when hiring brand new administrators they're in need of someone to guide them through their responsibilities during their first year - we want to hire mentors for them. We're looking for one to coach the new CTE administrator who has never been an administrator. Ms. Faris questioned who is mentoring them and how were they hired without experience? Ms. Faris voiced her opinion that seasoned employees are required in some areas - this is a big no for me. Mr. Mejia questioned if we are intentionally hiring people that do not have the experience? Supt. Lavoie responded it's not unusual not to obtain a seasoned person. Supt. Lavoie believes all GLTS administrators have their licenses. Mr. Mejia noted they have their administrator's license but they have to be mentored to be an administrator. Supt. Lavoie stated they can learn a lot from a mentor to help them get through their first year. In the last five years, Mr. Mejia assumes that some administrators have come in without the experience and questioned what has been done in the past? Supt. Lavoie said we believe having a mentor, as the teachers do, would be very beneficial. Mr. Mejia said he was undecided on this. Ms. Faris feels that the money would be better spent on the students stating that if someone doesn't have the skills, they have no business being in that position and we have no business hiring them. Whoever hired them should take them under their wing. Supt. Lavoie mentioned he had a mentor for four years when he became the superintendent sixteen years ago. Mr. Mercedes questioned how long they'd be hired for to which Supt. Lavoie responded for one year and we do have one person in mind within the building - the mentoring will take place after hours. Emphasizing it's a \$2800 stipend, Chair Hatem voiced his approval of this to assist our administrator and would love to see it in place for all administrators hired. It's money well

spent to bring someone up to speed quicker. Mr. Mercedes requested that the DC receive a report on who received the help and how it benefited them. Mr. Hatem requested Supt. Lavoie provide a job description if approved this evening. Supt. Lavoie indicated he would do so.

MOTION: Mr. Tarbox moved to approve the New Administrator Mentor provided a report listing who benefited from the mentor and how as well as a job description of the position.

2ND: Mr. Mercedes

Roll Call by District Recorder

Mr. Jones Absent

Mr. Mejia Abstained

Mr. Mercedes Yes

Mr. Tarbox Yes

Ms. Faris No

Ms. Disla No

Mr. Hatem Yes

3 yes's, 2 no's, 1 abstained

Motion does not pass

#19067

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Mercedes moved to enter into Executive Session at 7:31PM.

2ND: Mr. Tarbox

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#19068

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to accept Superintendent Lavoie's letter of resignation/retirement.

2ND: Mr. Mercedes

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#19071

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to adjourn at 8:03PM.

2ND: Mr. Mercedes

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#19072

Respectfully Submitted



Cheryl Dennis
District Recorder

Minutes Reviewed



John N. Lavoie
Superintendent-Director