



**DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
OPEN MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING #1906  
December 16, 2025**

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

**Members Absent**

<b><u>Others Present</u></b>	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 (arrived late), Ms. Disla (present), Mr. Jones (present), Mr. Mejia (present), Mr. Mercedes (present), Mr. Tarbox (present), Mr. Hatem (present).*

**2. STUDENTS REPORT:**

Layla, Yeison and Ambar presented the Student’s Report some topics of which included: cheering, football, girls’ soccer, volleyball, spectator rules, talent show, specialized driver’s education class, after dark and adult workforce development, SKILLS USA, Reggie Voices, the Red Cross Club, GLTS mentoring, the Broad Institute field trip, the food drive winner, the holiday gift drive and the Elf movie event.

**3. MINUTES**

***a. Minutes of November 18, 2025***

**MOTION:** Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes of November 18, 2025.

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

Roll Call by District Recorder

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

Mr. Hatem                      Yes  
6 yes', 1 absent  
Motion Passes  
#19073

#### **4. FINANCE REPORT**

##### ***a. Cash Balance Report***

Mr. DiStefano announced that this would be presented at the meeting in January.

##### ***b. Consolidated Cash Reconciliation Report***

##### ***c. Revolving Fund Report***

##### ***d. Budget Report***

##### ***e. Budget Transfers***

Ms. Martel presented the Budget Transfers

**MOTION:** Mr. Jones moved to approve the Budget Transfers.

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

Roll Call by District Recorder

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

6 yes', 1 absent

Motion Passes

#19074

#### **5. COMMUNICATIONS**

##### ***a. Donations***

##### ***b. Articles***

- State Grant will Connect Greater Lawrence Technical School Students with Latest Climate Technology
- Mr. 2K in the books, Reggies' Varela now owns state's all-time rushing record.

##### ***c. Public Participation***

Linda Donatella from Methuen addressed the District Committee expressing her disappointment as a parent that parents and students were left out of the discussion regarding t-shirts. She feels that parents should be a large part of the discussion as well as the school council - it should not be decided by the District Committee alone. Parents should have been informed sooner than a week before the beginning of school as it was too close to the start of school and parents had already completed their school shopping. She is opposed to a uniform for academic public schools and questioned the metrics used to determine whether or not it would be a successful change. She also requested that the District Committee work with the police department to create a well thought out plan to deal with ICE.

#### **6. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR**

**a. Presentation from the Biotechnology Department**

Principal Jackson introduced Allyson Ligor, CTE Coordinator. Ms. Ligor in turn introduced Scott Cummings who teaches 10<sup>th</sup> grade and is in his fourth year at GLTS. Mr. Cummings was instrumental in the collaboration with Broad Institute. Mr. Cummings addressed the District Committee along with Vladimir Calvo-Najera who previously went through the biotech internship program. The GLTS Biotechnology Internship program highlighting career areas in biotechnology, the Broad Institute located in Cambridge with a junior internship for three weeks on site were reviewed via slides. Vladimir Calvo-Najera spoke highly about his experience at the Broad Institute stating he had the opportunity to present his work to actual scientists and had q & a sessions with them, worked in the lab and learned a lot about the types of employment opportunities students will be able to take advantage of. Supt. Lavoie thanked everyone for the presentation acknowledging the leadership of Mr. Cummings.

**b. Therapy Dog**

Supt. Lavoie requested the District Committee vote on accepting a dog after reviewing the documentation that containing estimated costs of \$12,000 to \$14,000. A therapy dog would be a beneficial tool for social workers while working with students. Ms. Faris asked it would be one dog and questioned who would be the caretaker. Supt. Lavoie responded it would be just one dog and a staff member experienced working with such a dog would take on the role of caretaker. Mr. Mejia questioned if GLTS would partner with Essex Tech to which Asst. Supt. Richardson responded Essex does have a veterinary tech program from which GLTS may seek medical care.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mejia moved to approve the acquisition of a Therapy Dog.

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

Roll Call by District Recorder

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

6 yes', 1 no

Motion Passes

#19075

**c. Admissions Report/Update**

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on Admissions. Asst. Supt. Richardson stated that applications were up 200 from last year.

**d. School Projects Update**

Supt. Lavoie reviewed the major projects consisting of: the high-tech house – the foundation will be poured Thursday morning after which construction will begin, the cafeteria construction, the barn, the HVAC for the thermal system and the heating system for the IT move. Mr. Jones questioned if there would be handicap accessibly to the second floor of the barn to which Supt. Lavoie stated there would be a lift to the second floor.

**e. Out of State Travel**

- To approve the out of state travel for Colleen Belley, Math Instructor to travel to the Texas Instruments Conference, Arlington, Texas, February 12th - 16th, 2026. Total Estimated Costs: \$1,154.93. Conference fees and Airfare are covered by the Conference.

**MOTION:** Mr. Jones moved to approve the out of state travel as presented.

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

Roll Call by District Recorder

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

#19076

***f. School Bus Ownership***

Supt. Lavoie looked into the challenges of ownership the largest one being bus drivers - finding bus drivers, keeping drivers and substitutes. He also pointed out that bus drivers are paid for each route. In addition, buses require maintenance which can be expensive, the management of scheduling the buses and all costs are submitted to the Department of Education. As a result, any extra funding would not benefit the school. Supt. Lavoie feels it's too much of a headache without enough advantages leaving him to believe it makes no sense for GLTS to own buses.

***g. Superintendent Search Discussion***

Chair Hatem stated that Janice Ayala, Leo Lamontagne and Attorney Wayne Simmons were in attendance to provide their insight. Chair Hatem indicated he'd like to have a meeting in the new year. Mr. Lamontagne addressed the District Committee stating DC members would need to decide if they wanted to perform the search or hire a firm to do so suggesting MASC who the DC hired in the past. If MASC were chosen the Committee would meet with them and set up a subcommittee. The previous subcommittees consisted of someone from the admin union, someone from the teacher's union, someone from the council and someone from each community. Seven to nine individuals on the subcommittee works well. Mr. Lamontagne strongly suggested the Committee not have any District Committee members on it. Setting up a timeline at the beginning with a date for hiring the new superintendent has proven beneficial. Time should be allocated to advertise, interview, etc. Set up the parameters of what you want the application to look like. It takes months to complete and it's difficult to keep politics out of it. He personally looked for an individual with a vocational background. This is the biggest job of members of the District Committee.

Ms. Ayala, HR Director, distributed superintendent search packets to each District Committee member. She indicated she had reached out to two outside firms for information and reviewed the contents of the packet in general. Chair Hatem questioned if either of these firms were currently working with any local schools to which Ms. Ayala responded they just completed Wilmington and will be working with Lexington. Chair Hatem question if a RFP were required to which Ms. Martel responded if it were over \$10,000, three quotes would be needed. Ms. Faris questioned the reasoning behind Mr. Lamontagne's suggestion that District members not be on the subcommittee. Mr. Lamontagne explained it hadn't worked well in the past emphasizing that the whole District Committee would meet with the final four candidates.

Att. Simmons stated that there are not a lot of rules in the process – it's up to the District Committee to do its' due diligence. He recommended having an open, transparent process involving the community, the union and the alumni from the school. First, the District Committee members need to schedule a meeting relatively quickly and have a priority for that meeting. One option is MASC that does offer technological assistance in the process even if they're not hired. Secondly, picking the subcommittee. Third, identifying what's important for the District Committee – whether it's classroom experience, vocational experience, from Massachusetts, etc. Mr. Mejia questioned who was responsible for forming the search committee to which Att. Simmons responded the District Committee was. Supt. Lavoie distributed an outline form based on his own experience having gone through the process three times.

***h. Spray Booth RFP***

Supt. Lavoie discussed a new infra-red spray booth for autobody which must be done by the end of the school year. GLTS received \$750,000 from the Skills Capital Grant which will fund the project. An RFP went out twice. A vote to accept the bid tonight is required to get started on the project. Mr. Mejia noted the RFP was due yesterday. Supt. Lavoie said the one and only bid received came in yesterday. Mr. Jones questioned if they can do regular cars too to which Supt. Lavoie responded yes. Ms. Disla voiced her concern that this is coming up at the last minute and doesn't feel it's being handled appropriately. Supt. Lavoie indicated GLTS would have to wait; and if not done in the specified timeframe, would lose \$350,000. Ms. Faris questioned if this project had been in the works and previously voted on. Supt. Lavoie said it's an upgrade in that shop recommended by the advisory committee and we've been trying to get this for 3 1/2 years. It was not before the District Committee before. Chair Hatem stated the air to dry electric cars is needed. Stating she wasn't against it, Ms. Disla explained that her push back is the same – something requiring approval being presented at the last minute which occurs too frequently – agenda items should be presented in a manner that allows District Committee members enough time to review things before taking a vote on them.

**MOTION:** Mr. Jones moved to accept the bid for the Spray Booth RFP as presented.

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

Roll Call by District Recorder

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

#19077

**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*

*c. Retirements*

*d. Appointments*

*e. Job Postings*

- Administrative Dean: New Position for SAFE Office (Currently Freshman Academy Team Leader), MAPSA Contract. (See attached Job Description).

Supt. Lavoie explained that a freshman team leader is doing work as a dean. Due to the continued growth of the school, he believes this position should be bumped up to a full dean which will enable this individual to have

more authority. Mr. Jones questioned the expected salary or would it be negotiated? Supt. Lavoie said it would fall in where her experience lies. Clearly stating she was not in favor of this, Ms. Faris voiced her opinion that no need exists for another administrator - issuing consequences falls on that individual without the bump in title and salary. Mr. Mejia pointed out three concerns: one, we had a commitment not to add more administrators; second, we're talking about giving it to a particular individual and third, we just voted on the contract. Does this need to be renegotiated or is it in the contract? Is there a third dean position in the MAPSA contract? I see this as a job description that needs to be amended. We're midway through the school year and we're preparing for a superintendent search. I'd leave this to the next superintendent. Supt. Lavoie said it will fall under the existing language of the contract which does not specify the number of deans. Mr. Mejia question the individual's existing salary and what it would be if approved. Ms. Martel indicated it was currently \$112,880 that would increase to \$156,904 if the change in title occurred.

**MOTION:** NO MOTION WAS MADE

- Parent Liaison/Translator: 10 Month Position, Provide Written and Verbal Spanish Translations for all School Departments, Based on Experience and the Paraprofessional Contract, plus 30% for the additional duties. (See attached Job Description).

Several individuals are currently translating at different times. Supt. Lavoie stated this individual has performed a lot of translations and worked with parents on a regular basis as a parent liaison they simply haven't been recognized as fulfilling this role. Ms. Faris noted a good translator is in high demand.

**MOTION:** Ms. Faris moved to approve the Parent/Liaison Translator position as presented.

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

Roll Call by District Recorder

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

#19078

## 12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

### 13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**MOTION:** Mr. Mercedes moved to enter into Executive Session at 7:44PM.

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#19079

**MOTION:** Mr. Mejia moved to approve the Custodial MOA contract amendment.

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

Roll Call by District Recorder

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

#19082

**MOTION:** Mr. Jones moved to pay the substitute teachers to cover the math classes.

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

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

#19083

#### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Mr. Mejia moved to adjourn at 8:20PM.

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

**VOTE:** Unanimously Approved

#19084

Respectfully Submitted



Cheryl Dennis  
District Recorder

Minutes Reviewed



Supt. John N. Lavoie  
Superintendent-Director