



**DISTRICT COMMITTEE
OPEN MEETING MINUTES
MEETING #1910
February 24, 2026**

<u>Members Present</u>	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

<u>Others Present</u>	John N. Lavoie	Superintendent-Director
	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 (present), Mr. Mejia (arrived @ 6:06PM), Mr. Mercedes (present), Mr. Tarbox (present), Mr. Hatem (present).

2. MINUTES

a. Minutes of February 10, 2026

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes of February 10, 2026

2ND: Mr. Mercedes

Roll Call by District Recorder

Mr. Tarbox	Yes
Ms. Faris	Yes
Ms. Disla	Yes
Mr. Jones	Yes
Mr. Mejia	Not Present
Mr. Mercedes	Yes
Mr. Hatem	Yes

VOTE: Unanimously approved

#19107

3. FINANCE REPORT

a. Cash Balance Report

Mr. DiStefano read the Cash Balance Report.

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

2ND: Mr. Tarbox

Roll Call by District Recorder

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

VOTE: Unanimously approved
#19108

b. Consolidated Cash Reconciliation Report

c. Revolving Fund Report

d. Budget Report

e. Budget Update

Reviewing handouts provided to DC members, Supt. Lavoie requested they vote on the revenue fund, not on the final budget and spoke about the increase of the state aid for this year. Vote on the proposed revenue page which is driven by the Dept. of Education requirements. If members do not feel ready to do so, it would have to wait until March and the cities and towns would be dissatisfied. This is simply to inform them and provide them with a sense of their costs. Mr. Jones questioned how the estimate is determined to which Supt. Lavoie stated it included the minimum contribution and the Chap 74 - foundation and non-foundation added together equals the total for the year. Mr. Mejia questioned the E & D line under GLTS District. Supt Lavoie reported that it is our excess and deficiency from 2025, non- foundation that will be certified. Ms. Faris wanted to confirm the numbers were not subject to change to which Supt. Lavoie responded only if the state were to make changes. They may change July 1st based on the legislature in which case it would be brought back to the District Committee. Ms. Disla reminded the Chair that this should be in the line item and it needs to be detailed - voting just to share with the cities.

MOTION: Ms. Faris moved to approve the FY 2027 Budget Update as presented.

2ND: Mr. Tarbox

Roll Call by District Recorder

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

VOTE: Unanimously approved
#19109

4. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Donations

b. Articles

- Northern Essex to Add Greater Lawrence Tech to Early College Partnership, MAVA Publications. Supt. Lavoie stated that GLTS was accepted to do an early college planning with Northern Essex. We're working with them to submit something to the state to provide dual credit for students while completing high

school. Ms. Disla questioned if there would other shops be considered than the Health shops? Supt. Lavoie stated the health program will be a pilot program.

- GLTS Implements ICE Policy, Eagle Tribune.

c. Public Participation

5. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

a. Letter from Superintendent Lavoie

Supt. Lavoie requested he remain in his role as the superintendent and read a letter supporting his decision to withdraw his retirement in an effort to provide leadership continuity.

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to enter into Executive Session without the Superintendent at 6:28PM

2ND: 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

VOTE: Unanimously approved

#19110

Upon returning to Open Session, Mr. Mejia stated the District Committee had reviewed the request of Supt. Lavoie and he and the Chair will meet with the Superintendent to discuss this next week and we will reconvene for a final decision.

b. Admission's Report

Supt. Lavoie indicated the notifications were going out this week with the date and time of the lottery.

Mr. Mercedes mentioned he was contacted by a resident who can no longer afford to send her child to a private school. Given that the application deadline has expired, what can he advise her to do? Supt. Lavoie stated she won't be in the lottery having missed the deadline but I'll let her know what opportunities are available to her. Chair Hatem asked how many seats are available to which Supt. Lavoie responded 500.

c. Hangar Update

Supt. Lavoie provided an update to the District Committee regarding the purchase of our new hangar stating we're close to signing the purchase and sale agreement - 21E just needs to be completed.

d. Clean Energy Center Event

Superintendent Lavoie provided an update to the District Committee regarding the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) and their invitation to speak about its work, impact, and programming, at the State House's Clean Energy Caucus on Thursday, March 5th at 11:00 a.m. Greater Lawrence Technical School, as a grantee will be present to discuss their respective programs and share firsthand perspectives on MassCEC's impact within the clean energy ecosystem. Supt. Lavoie stated the Clean Energy Center has asked me to speak to the Energy Caucus at the State House relative to funding. I feel we're a strong candidate.

e. After Dark Admissions Policy

Superintendent Lavoie provided an update to the District Committee regarding the After Dark Admission's Policy stating it aligns with our day policy with the exception of timelines which are a little later for the lottery

as it starts later but the process is the same. Ms. Disla questioned if it was the same list of admission applications and what it is? Supt. Lavoie does not have those particular numbers as yet. This year we'll only be drawing for 10th grade students. We've had more students than seats in the past and we used a numbering system. But we have to use the same system as the lottery as to the number of seats per city. Referencing page 2, Mr. Jones questioned if homeless students are admitted without the lottery. Supt. Lavoie responded no, they're also part of the lottery. Mr. Mejia stated he was voting no, as his position on the lottery is not going to work and he's been against it since day one. He emphasized his opposition on the lottery itself, not the After Dark.

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved to approve the After Dark Admissions Policy as presented.

2ND: Ms. Faris

Roll Call by District Recorder

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

VOTE:

4 yes', 2no's

Motion Passes

#19111

f. Overnight Travel

Coaches Juan Nieves, Matt Bucco, Derek Michienzi, Carlos Duran plus 6-7 Athletes will travel to MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA to participate in the MIAA 2026 MIAA All-State Wrestling Tournament and Girls All-State Wrestling Tournament, Estimated Total Cost: \$1,700.

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to approve the overnight travel for both coaches as presented.

2ND: Mr. Mercedes

Roll Call by District Recorder

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

VOTE:

5 yes', 2 no's

Motion Passes

#19112

g. *Legislative & Community Leaders Recognition & Projects Update Breakfast*

Supt. Lavoie stated a Legislative breakfast is scheduled for April 10, 2026, and we want to add something new - all legislative and community leaders to be recognized with a plaque. Susan Lally will send an email to all DC members.

h. *Advisory Board Recommendations Update*

Supt. Lavoie stated that all departments will go out for quotes and obtain costs for their recommendations which will assist us in creating a strategic plan as to when we can meet their requests. This demonstrates that we're

not ignoring their requests. Ms. Disla requested that this be an item and to keep updating them. Chair Hatem asked if the quotes are up to a particular amount? Supt. Lavoie indicated anything over \$100,000 must go out for a bid. Anything over \$10,000 must receive quotes.

6. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. *District Committee Priorities*
- b. *Policy*

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. TABLED MATTERS

Mr. Mercedes questioned if the legislative breakfast had to be on a Friday? Supt. Lavoie responded yes, needs to be a Friday. Mr. Mercedes indicated he was not available on Fridays.

10. PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS/REPORT

a. *Resignations*

b. *Retirements*

- Ms. Joanne Culhane, Finance Specialist, Effective March 27, 2026
- Ms. Heather McCall, Culinary Arts Instructor, Effective, December 4, 2026

c. *Appointments*

- Stephanie Ayala, Multilingual Paraprofessional (ML), Effective January 5, 2026
- Christopher Cerullo, HVAC Instructor, Effective, February 2, 2026
- Scott Greene, Mathematics Instructor, Effective February 2, 2026

e. *Job Postings*

Custodian, 2nd shift, Custodian Contract, New Position.

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved to approve the Custodian 2nd shift position.

2ND: Mr. Tarbox

Roll Call by District Recorder

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

VOTE: Unanimously approved

#19113

Aviation Instructor, (2nd Instructor), Teacher’s Contract, New Position

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to approve the Aviation Instructor position.

2ND: Ms. Faris

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
VOTE: Unanimously approved
#19114

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to enter into Executive Session at 8:07PM.

2ND: 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

VOTE: Unanimously approved
#19115

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to hire the Mass Association of School Committee (MASC) for a superintendent search.

2ND: Mr. Mercedes

Roll Call by District Recorder

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

VOTE: Unanimously approved
#19116

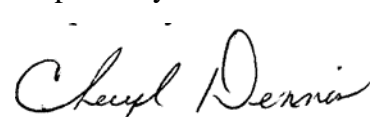
14. ADJOURNMENT

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

2ND: Mr. Mercedes

VOTE: Unanimously Approved
#19118

Respectfully Submitted



Cheryl Dennis
District Recorder

Minutes Reviewed



John N. Lavoie
Superintendent-Director