



**DISTRICT COMMITTEE
OPEN MEETING MINUTES
MEETING #1915
May 19, 2026**

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

Members Absent

<u>Others Present</u>	John N. Lavoie	Superintendent-Director
	Brenda Richardson	Assistant Superintendent
	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 (present), Mr. Mercedes (present), Mr. Tarbox (present), Mr. Hatem (present).*

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to add the following job posting, submitted on time but mistakenly omitted, to the agenda: Health and Public Safety Workforce Pathway Development Department leads (2).

2ND: Mr. Jones

VOTE: Unanimously Approved
#19173

2a. STUDENTS REPORT

The Students Report included: GLTS Sports Reporter, Mental Health Support for GLTS students and families, NEMASC Secretary 2026-2027, 21st Annual Peer Mediator Forum, Military Appreciation Month, NHS Induction Ceremony, State Seal of Biliteracy Celebration, April PD Day: Health and Wellness, Accepted Students Day, Reggie's Athletics Update, Reggie's Athlete Recognitions, Annual Flag replacement day, Senior Ambar Salomon Goodbye, Senior Yeison Mora is leaving to attend Northern Essex Community College for Criminal Justice.

2b. SKILLS USA STATE GOLD WINNERS RECOGNITION

Supt Lavoie introduced and thanked Brooke Leavitt, Co-Chair Advisor, for their hard work noting that more students and teachers had participated this year. Ms. Leavitt introduced the three gold winners from GLTS to the District Committee, all of whom will compete in the Nationals - huge accomplishment for them and their teachers. Ms. Leavitt also acknowledged the silver and bronze winners stating it was a great, successful weekend. Supt. Lavoie congratulated the winners stating he was very proud that they will represent GLTS at the national level.

3. MINUTES

a. Minutes of April 27, 2026

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to approve the minutes of April 27, 2026.

2ND: Ms. Faris

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#19174

4. FINANCE REPORT

a. Cash Balance Report

Supt. Lavoie read the cash balance report.

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

2ND: Mr. Tarbox

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#19175

b. Consolidated Cash Reconciliation Report

c. Revolving Fund Report

d. Budget Report

e. Revote FY2026 Budget

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on the memo from Ms. Martel.

Supt Lavoie stated a revote was necessary due to the movement of money from 2025 which could not be verified until the end of the year report was approved and accepted by the Dept of Education. \$56,799,141.00 is the revised budget total for this year. Mr. Mejia questioned when next school spending was due to which Supt. Lavoie responded by June 30th for July 1st. Mr. Mejia asked if there were a shortfall could it be transferred?

Supt. Lavoie stated there wouldn't be any shortfalls, the concern is having too much money in the budget.

We've been moving money from excess accounts to various shop accounts in an effort to spend down the budget by enabling us to purchase items needed for next year now.

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to approve the Revote FY2026 Budget as presented.

2ND: Ms. Faris

VOTE: 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

#19176

f. Budget Transfers

Supt. Lavoie presented the Budget Transfers noting the strategy of spending down the budget by reducing responsibilities in next year's budget. Noting the transfers amounted to a little over \$50,000 Mr. Mejia questioned if any of it was capital improvement related to which Supt. Lavoie responded no. Chair Hatem clarified that capital improvement money would always be voted on separately.

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved to approve the Budget Transfers as presented.

2ND: Mr. Tarbox

VOTE: 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

#19177

5. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Donations

b. Articles

- Greater Lawrence proves they belong with the best at Andover Boosters

c. *Public Participation*

6. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

a. *NASA Update*

Donald Ouellette, Advanced Manufacturing Teacher, updated the District Committee on NASA.

On May 6th, Bill Gibson from NASA visited GLTS to perform an audit on the parts we did this year. We're going to ship NASA 25 more pieces that will go on to Houston. After his visit, he contacted us and asked if we would participate in an internship this summer making more space flight hardware – out of 268 schools they have chosen just us – four individuals – two in Huntsville, Alabama and two here at GLTS. They offered and hired Max, sophomore at GLTS, a paid summer position, to work for the program. Our future with NASA looks very good. Sixteen students are currently out on co-op in the last month in a half. At the conclusion of the presentation, District Committee members were presented with gifts that were produced in the shop. Supt. Lavoie acknowledged that this represented a small example of the wonderful success of this program which is very impressive. Ms. Faris acknowledged this was the second time Mr. Ouellette presented before the District Committee with great news – I look forward to more.

b. *SAFE Office Update*

Chet Jackson, Christa Gillis and Bill Vogel provided an update of the SAFE Office to the District Committee Principal Jackson, Asst. Principal and Bill Vogel – presenting data driven information at the SAFE Office via slides. Asst. Principal Gillis stated the office was made up of 15 individuals and reviewed their specific, particular responsibilities. Mr. Vogel addressed the specifics of what the office handles: behavioral discipline SY 25-26 incident count – reviewing the top 10 infractions primarily reported by teachers and the consequences in place as well as the determined goal to meet: skipping class, unauthorized areas, cell phone violation, disruptive/inappropriate behavior, insubordination, violation of basic school rules, tardiness, substance use and abuse, tobacco use/possession. A lot of interventions and consequences are in place to ensure a safe and productive learning environment. Asst. Principal stated there was a large uptick in mental health issues. We have an Adjustment Counselor, Jaime Westaway who has been a great addition to our department and safe team. Reviewed the mental health resources available to support students. Kate Keyes deals with the freshmen. Ms. Faris commended all for the presentation stating she especially liked Mr. Vogel's presentation that spoke to questions regarding comments she hears throughout the year – namely that the safe office is not supportive and teachers have thrown up their hands because there's little accountability for the students - all of which is in contrast to this presentation. I want to believe what Mr. Vogel has said – if it works like that and it's the way it is, it's perfect. I don't believe everyone I hear from can be wrong – hold the kids and teachers responsible.

There are 15 people in that office, that's a lot of people to provide assistance. What concerns me is the frequency with which I hear these things. Only one of the top 10 incidents suffers the consequence of suspension. Principal Jackson acknowledged District Committee members receive feedback from a variety of individuals. Our entire school has to work together. Ms. Faris stated I'm looking for consistency, confidence and empowerment. I want all teachers to have a voice and feel supported. Principal Jackson appreciated the feedback. Mr. Mercedes questioned what is done to follow-up with a student caught smoking or engaged in an illegal activity? We want the student to be monitored for repeating the same offense. Mr. Vogel noted the programs in place such as PASS student caught vaping results in immediate removal, meet with parents and send them home with a letter. We alert the Principal who has the authority to suspend a student for more than 10 days, the parents are involved in a meeting and we'll determine the outcome for the student and the variables in place. When they reenter the school, they'll meet with us and we'll put them on a contract which may include: checking them each day, administering a drug test, limiting their number of passes. We do have a stiffer penalty for repeat offenders that could result in an expulsion though that rarely occurs. Mr. Mercedes asked if they ever invite motivational or expert speakers to speak about drugs? Mr. Vogel responded issues are handled on an individual basis. During assemblies we speak to it ourselves. If you have someone particular in mind, let us know particularly if you have a former student in mind. Noting there are 180 school days, Principal Jackson emphasized the goal to educate them. We do use outside referrals and community partners - we want our students in their seats. Mr. Mercedes having professional people from outside to speak to students, they need to know how privileged they are to attend this school. Students may need to hear a message from a different source – different avenues to promote their maturity. With regards to educating students about drugs, Asst. Principal Gillis stated upon their return to school we do our best to educate them before, during and after they've been suspended. Mr. Mercedes questioned how many teachers actually reports a student smelling of marijuana? Do you receive calls from teachers to check on specific students? Asst. Principal Gillis responded yes. The teacher calls us and we investigate it. We take this seriously and investigate. Supt. Lavoie thanked the team and District Committee members for their concerns. When you consider the world and the role social media plays today, managing and supporting students has never been more challenging. Teachers who need help need to know we're here to support them – we're prepared to handle that challenge. Chair Hatem acknowledged how hard their job is and expressed appreciation for everything they do. Treat these students as you would treat your sons and daughters.

c. Student Data Privacy Update

Brenda Richardson and Panagiota Athinelis provided an update to Student Data Privacy as a follow-up to a trip they recently took to a national conference. Slides presented outlined: defining data privacy, the legal mandate and key takeaways from A4L: active auditing, the human factor and transparency strategic partnership with The Education Cooperative Student Data Privacy Alliance district tech strategic priorities reviewed the IT team discussed: the need to streamline technology, the "shadow app" risk and EdTech software protocol. We submitted a proposal and were selected to share this with other vocational schools within the state in September. Supt. Lavoie stated the ongoing work is critical to the safety of the students and it will lower our cost in software.

MOTION: Mr. Mejia made a motion to move the Out of State Travel up on the Agenda to address it now.

2ND: Mr. Mercedes

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#19178

d. Out of State Travel

Coaches, Tony Sarkis, Dante Correa, Kate Quinlan and David Beard will travel with ten students (5 boys, 5 girls) to the Outdoor Track National, Marcus T. Johnson, Track Complex in Greensboro, NC., June 18-June 22, 2026. Estimated Cost: \$14,330.00.

Mr. Nelson reported that keeping students involved in sports helps them to mature, learn rules and responsibility. We have eleven students who have qualified for nationals in NC. We're asking for your

support.

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

2ND: Mr. Tarbox

VOTE: 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

19178

e. Student Handbook Updates

Asst. Supt. Richardson indicated a vote was not taking place this evening as additional changes will be made. Ms. Faris questioned if the grading policy were missing or is it the same? Asst. Supt. Lavoie stated our team is working on it and changes may be coming. Ms. Faris questioned if changes would be presented to the District Committee prior to their addition to the student handbook to which Chair Hatem responded yes.

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to table the matter of the Student Handbook.

2ND: Mr. Mercedes

VOTE: 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

#19179

f. Admissions Report

Supt. Lavoie updated the District Committee on the timeline for acceptance of Students.

Asst. Supt. Richardson stated there are 494 confirmed students accepted and completed the online registration. Admissions sent out the fifth round today. Updating the list on the website on the lottery page a minimum of twice a month but is actually almost in real time.

g. Vocational School Lottery Legislative Letter

Supt. Lavoie stated he'd sent a letter to the legislature on behalf of the District Committee and himself outlining why the lottery was not the best solution to handle the need for additional seats. There is a Bill in the House of Representatives and the Senate that would limit the lottery which we hope is approved. He requested District Committee members to encourage their constituents to reach out to the legislature to support the Bill. Mr. Mejia this was sent out already to which Supt. Lavoie responded yes.

h. Graduation Update

June 4, 2026. Rain date: June5, 2026. Chair Hatem reviewed the details of the ceremony and rain date. Chair Hatem questioned if there would be a guest speaker this year to which Supt. Lavoie responded no. District Committee members were encouraged to arrive at 5:00.

i. Supt. Evaluation

Supt. Lavoie indicated that all District Committees members received a copy of a typical form. He will email

examples for each of those standards to all members by Tuesday.

j. School's Comfort Dog Update

Brenda Richardson provided an update to the District Committee regarding our School's Comfort Dog, Rio. Asst. Supt. Richardson informed the DC that a litter of Australian Labradoodles had been born on March 30th and GLTS was matched with our puppy last week. Our puppy will be picked up by a trainer May 25. A very detailed, specific process is involved. After a week with the trainer the dog will go home with an individual from GLTS. We expect the dog will physically bon on the grounds of GLTS in the fall.

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

- Jessica Namvar, Math Instructor, Effective June 22, 2026
- Austin Poirier, HVAC Instructor, Effective June 30, 2026

b. Retirements

- Susan Almono, Director of Grants and Workforce Development, Effective August 21, 2026

c. Appointments

d. Job Postings

- Athletic Liaison, \$30,000 stipend, year-round (\$10,000 being funded through the current Equipment Manager Stipend, New Position, (See Attached).

Mr. Mejia questioned the purpose of this position? Referencing the job description, Supt. Lavoie said activities and programs are continuing to grow. Mr. Mejia recalled a previous discussion related to the extension of this department and subsequent hiring of a full-time equipment. Supt. Lavoie indicated this person would take on other responsibilities and referenced what they were. Supt. Lavoie further explained that there is an employee currently in this position - this will be a stipend and this person will have to apply for it again. Ms. Faris questioned if is it a necessary position to which Supt. Lavoie responded it is necessary, it enables the athletic director to manger his job. Mr. Mercedes questioned if it will be added to someone's salary or will this be the salary? Supt. Lavoie said it is a new position, it's not being added. Mr. Jones questioned if the equipment manager position was being eliminated to which Supt. Lavoie responded that title is going away but the equipment manager position will become part of this position. Mr. Jones asked if the equipment manager's salary was close to this salary? Supt. Lavoie indicated the equipment manager's salary was \$10,000 a year.

MOTION: Ms. Faris moved to approve the Athletic Liaison position as presented.

2ND: Mr. Tarbox

VOTE: 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

#19180

- Stipend to Engage in Curriculum Alignment Work with NECC (4 Positions), \$50.00/hr., May, 2026-August, 2026, Grant Funded, New Position, (See Attached).

Mr. Jones questioned if the positions would be eliminated when the grant ends? Supt. Lavoie responded that it was a one-time thing.

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved to approve the Stipend to Engage in Curriculum Alignment Work with NECC (4 positions) as presented.

2ND: Mr. Tarbox

VOTE: 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

#19181

- Stipend to Develop Early College Readiness X-Block Curriculum (2 Positions), \$50.00/hr.-May, 2026-August, 2026, Grant Funded, New Position, (See Attached).

Mr. Mejia asked what the X-Block curriculum was? Supt. Lavoie responded it's one of the periods on the academic week where students taking a specific course for support receive an extra class so they won't be taken out of another class.

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to approve the Stipend to Develop Early College Readiness X-Block Curriculum (2 Positions) as presented.

2ND: Mr. Mercedes

VOTE: 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

#19182

- Health and Public Safety Workforce Pathway Development Co-Op Coordinator to support the expansion of workforce-aligned programming in Health and Public Safety Pathways, Stipend \$2,550 Grant Funded, May-August, 2026, New Position, (See Attached).

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to approve the Health and Public Safety Workforce Pathway Development Co-Op Coordinator as presented.

2ND: Mr. Mercedes

VOTE: 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

#19182

- Health and Public Safety Workforce Pathway Development Administrators (3) to oversee planning and development of Health and Public Safety Programs, ensuring alignment with Chapter 74 requirements and district priorities. Stipend \$1,800 Grand Funded, inclusive of travel expenses, May-August, 2026, New Position, (See Attached).

MOTION: Mr. Mercedes moved to approve the Health and Public Safety Workforce Pathway Development Administrators (3) as presented.

2ND: Ms. Faris

VOTE: 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

#19183

- BRYT Program Clinician Responsible for supporting students experiencing significant mental health, emotional, behavioral, or health-related challenges that have impacted school attendance and functioning, Per Teachers' Contract, SY 26- 27, Guidance Budget, New Position, (See Attached).

Mr. Mejia questioned if this will be in addition to the Safe Office to which Asst. Supt. Richardson responded no, it is separate.

MOTION: Mr. Mercedes moved to approve BRYT Program Clinician position as presented.

2ND: Mr. Jones

VOTE: 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

#19184

- Advanced Manufacturing Instructor Summer School: (1) instructor to teach summer school in Advance Manufacturing, up to 40 hrs. per week, Teachers Contract, July-August, 2026, New Position.

Chair Hatem asked if this is one of our instructors? Supt. Lavoie responded yes. Mr. Jones asked if this is for students on the work for NASA to which Supt. Lavoie responded yes. Other students will have the opportunity for extended training as well.

MOTION: Mr. Mercedes moved to approve the Advanced Manufacturing Instructor Summer School as presented.

2ND: Mr. Jones

VOTE: 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

#19185

- Health and Public Safety Workforce Pathway Development Department leads (2) to support high-impact curriculum development and workforce pathway expansion in Health and Public Safety Programs, \$6,275 Grant Funded Stipend inclusive of travel expenses, May-August, 2026, New Position (See Attached)

Mr. Mejia requested items before the meeting begins going forward.

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved to approve the Health and Public Safety Workforce Pathway Development Department leads (2) as presented.

2ND: Mr. Mercedes

VOTE: 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

#19186

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:05PM.

2ND: Mr. Jones

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#19187

ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

ENTER OPEN SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Jones moved to pay the Facilities Director a one-time stipend of \$3,000 for acting as a project manager on a campus project. This is a one-time stipend; any future project oversight must be pre-discussed before starting.

2ND: Mr. Mercedes

VOTE: Roll Call by District Recorder

Mr. Mercedes Yes

Mr. Tarbox Yes

Ms. Faris Yes

Ms. Disla No

Mr. Jones Yes

Mr. Mejia Yes

Mr. Hatem Yes
6 yes', 1 no
Motion Passes
#19190

MOTION: Ms. Faris moved to approve the facilities administrative assistant's retroactive pay.

2ND: Mr. Jones

VOTE: Roll Call by District Recorder

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

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

Motion Passes

#19191

Ms. Disla stated she was voting no because the title will be involved in other situations and she feels the Committee is making a mistake.

MOTION: Mr. Mercedes moved to approve changing the language from retirement to separation to buy back Ms. Richardson's sick days.

2ND: Mr. Mejia

VOTE: Roll Call by District Recorder

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

6 yes', 1 no

Motion Passes

#19192

MOTION: Mr. Tarbox moved to allow the Superintendent to rollover the balance of his vacation days to the next school year.

2ND: Mr. Jones

VOTE: Roll Call by District Recorder

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

5 yes', 1 no, 1 abstained

Motion Passes

#19193

MOTION: Ms. Faris moved to accept the clerical contract as ratified by local 1707 including the CTE clerical position.

2ND: Mr. Jones

VOTE: Roll Call by District Recorder

Ms. Faris Yes

Ms. Disla No

Mr. Jones Yes

Mr. Mejia Yes

Mr. Mercedes No

Mr. Tarbox Yes

Mr. Hatem Yes

5 yes', 2 nos'

Motion Passes

#19194

Ms. Disla stated she was voting no because she feels the discussion in Executive Session should not have taken place; and in her opinion, everything was out of order.

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to establish a subcommittee on personnel.

2ND: Ms. Faris

VOTE: 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

#19195

MOTION: Mr. Mejia moved to change the title for the facility's administrative assistant to procurement and to allow that position to be sent to the AG's office for approval.

2ND: Mr. Jones

VOTE: Roll Call by District Recorder

Mr. Mercedes Abstained

Mr. Tarbox Yes

Ms. Faris Yes

Ms. Disla No

Mr. Jones Yes

Mr. Mejia No

Mr. Hatem Yes

4 yes', 2 nos', 1 abstained

Motion Passes

#19196

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Mercedes moved to adjourn at 10:53PM.

2ND: Mr. Jones

VOTE: Unanimously Approved

#19197

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl Dennis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cheryl Dennis
District Recorder

Minutes Reviewed

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John N. Lavoie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John N. Lavoie
Superintendent-Director