



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**LPVEC Conference Room**  
**AUGUST 21, 2024**

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by the Chairperson of the Board, Mr. Jeffrey Laing. The following were present:

Board of Directors:                    Mr. Albert J. Christopher, Agawam  
   Ms. Lisa Murray, Hampden-Wilbraham Regional  
   Mr. Jeffrey Laing, Ludlow  
   Mr. Gregory Thompson, East Longmeadow

Collaborative:                         Mr. Alvin W. Morton, I, Executive Director  
   Ms. Anna Bishop, Director of Finance

2. A public forum was offered. There were no comments from the public.
3. Ms. Murray moved to approve this evening's consent calendar as presented. Mr. Christopher seconded. Approved unanimously.
4. A. Mr. Morton reviewed the professional development activities he plans to attend this school year. Ms. Murray moved to approve the listing of activities for FY25 as presented. Mr. Christopher seconded. Approved unanimously.  
B. There was discussion on the effect teacher and transportation union negotiations have had and will have on the FY25 budget. All areas have been examined for possible reductions but efforts are exhausted with superintendents in agreement. The main impact is in the area of salary and cannot be finalized until a collective bargaining agreement is reached. Until that time, the budget has been prepared with a maximum nine percent contingency. Year end dividends can be used to absorb some of the impact of this year's increase in the overall budget. Ms. Murray moved to approve the FY25 budget as presented. Mr. Christopher seconded. On a roll call vote, Ms. Murray voted NO; Mr. Christopher, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Laing voted YES. Motion carries.  
C. Ms. Bishop noted that dividends were derived by district usage last year and total \$551,538. Each district was provided the amount they will be able to use to offset costs during the year. Ms. Murray moved to issue dividends to member districts for fiscal year 2025 totaling \$551,538 as presented. Mr. Christopher seconded. On a roll call vote, Ms. Murray voted NO; Mr. Christopher, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Laing voted YES. Motion carries.

**LOWER PIONEER VALLEY EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE**  
**174 BRUSH HILL AVENUE, WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA 01089      PHONE 413-735-2200      FAX 413-735-2280**

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LPVEC MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AUGUST 21, 2024  
PAGE TWO

- D. Mr. Morton and Ms. Bishop discussed the upcoming launch of the parent phone application to track their child on their school bus. Instructions will be sent out by districts to parents in the next few weeks.
- E. Mr. Morton reviewed two new policies developed to give staff guidance with regard to transporting students in personal vehicles as well as social networking. Ms. Murray moved to adopt as presented Policy EEAG: Use of Private Vehicles for Transportation of Students and GBEBB: Digital Communication and Social Networking. Mr. Christopher seconded. Approved unanimously.

At 8:00 p.m., Mr. Laing moved to enter into Executive Session to conduct strategy for negotiations with nonunion personnel and to also discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining as an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the LPVEC. Ms. Murray seconded. Approved unanimously.

Open session resumed at 8:31 p.m.

- F. Ms. Murray moved to approve contracts with the Director of Finance, Director of Human Resources, Director of Special Education, and also Director of Occupational Education under the terms negotiated. Mr. Christopher seconded. Approved unanimously.
  - G. Mr. Morton reported that the Director of Special and Alternative Education has resigned and the job description for that position has been revised in order to begin the hiring process. The position will be posted for full year at a salary between \$114,000 and \$120,000.
  - H. Mr. Morton updated the group on the current positions vacant throughout the organization. In addition to bus drivers and monitors, the LPVEC is currently looking for an ISSN instructor, Carpentry technical assistant, and full-time substitute as well as individual aides at this time.
- 5.
- A. Ms. Bishop reported that as the budget has just been approved this evening, it will need to be implemented into the accounting system before any reports can be generated. Additionally, until the first quarter billing, there will be no revenue reflected.
  - B. Ms. Bishop noted that a number of programs needed to move funds between line items to cover any shortages and policy requires that transfers from any salary line be approved by the Board. Ms. Murray moved to approve the line items changes as presented this evening. Mr. Christopher seconded. Approved unanimously.
  - C. Ms. Bishop reported that the Agawam parking lot and fueling station project is progressing and additional expenses need to be appropriated from the capital project fund. Ms. Murray moved to appropriate \$163,495 from the Enterprise Capital Projects Fund for additional expenses incurred to date from J.L. Construction Inc. for the Agawam Parking lot project as presented. Mr. Christopher seconded. Approved unanimously.

In addition, Ms. Murray moved to appropriate \$457,777.70 from the Enterprise Capital Project Fund for expenses incurred to date from Weston & Sampson for on-going design services. Mr. Christopher seconded. Approved unanimously.

- D. Ms. Bishop noted that the infrastructure is still progressing at garage sites to accommodate the electric busses. Cameras are being installed on the vehicles and should be in service in October or November. She will keep the group apprised of the progress.
6. Mr. Morton noted that staff convocation and professional development begins next week with "Inclusion by Design" as this year's theme.
7. The next meeting will be rescheduled to September 25<sup>th</sup> as both Mr. Morton and Ms. Bishop will be out of town at conferences.

Mr. Christopher moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Thompson seconded. Approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

1-15-25

(date)

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk

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