



MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
OCTOBER 15, 2025

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by the Chairperson of the Board, Mr. Jeffrey Laing. The following were present:

Board of Directors: Mr. Albert J. Christopher, Agawam
 Mr. William Strother, East Longmeadow
 Ms. Lisa Murray, Hampden-Wilbraham Regional
 Ms. H. Kate Bean, Longmeadow
 Mr. Jeffrey Laing, Ludlow
 Ms. Julie Anne Wise, West Springfield

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

Guests: Ms. Stacy Wieners, Administrative Assistant
 Ms. Jennifer Zapor, Administrative Assistant

2. A public forum was offered. There were no comments from the public.
3. Ms. Murray moved to approve this evening's consent agenda items as presented. Mr. Christopher seconded. Approved unanimously.
4. With regard to transportation service issues, Mr. Laing discussed the Ludlow School Committee's decision to remove two routes from the LPVEC's control and have a private contractor provide the coverage for those routes. The group discussed the fact that all member districts should be invested in solving these recurring issues as a group. Mr. Morton noted there are currently 13 driver openings throughout districts at this time. Mr. Morton noted that the LPVEC had also previously investigated subcontracting routes as a possible method to alleviate driver shortages. Mr. Morton will keep the group apprised of any new concerns.
5. A. Mr. Morton reported there are currently three openings in Career and Technical Education as well as 6 in Special Education and one network technology position in Administration.
- B. Mr. Morton noted that three additional job descriptions have been updated to include a job summary section which highlights the competencies that each position is responsible for. Mr. Christopher moved to approve the updated job description entitled "Teacher: Cosmetology" as presented. Ms. Murray seconded. Approved unanimously.

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

SERVING AGAWAM•EAST LONGMEADOW•HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM•LONGMEADOW•LUDLOW•SOUTHWICK-TOLLAND-GRANVILLE•WEST SPRINGFIELD

Ms. Murray moved to approve the updated job description entitled "Teacher: Culinary Arts" as presented. Mr. Christopher seconded. Approved unanimously.

Ms. Murray moved to approve the updated job description entitled "Teacher: Early Childhood and Care" as presented. Mr. Christopher seconded. Approved unanimously.

- C. Mr. Morton noted that a number of policies had been presented at the last meeting and require a second and final reading for adoption.

Ms. Murray moved to adopt the policy entitled "JICFA: Prohibition of Hazing" as this its second and final reading. Mr. Christopher seconded. Approved unanimously.

Ms. Murray moved to adopt the policy entitled "JIH: SEARCHES, INTERROGATIONS, AND ARRESTS" at this it's second and final reading. Mr. Christopher seconded. Approved unanimously.

Ms. Murray moved to adopt the policy entitled "JICK: HARASSMENT OF STUDENTS" at this it's second and final reading. Mr. Christopher seconded. Approved unanimously.

A policy entitled "JIE: PREGNANT STUDENTS" is also presented for review and comments and will be brought forward to the next meeting for adoption.

- D. Mr. Morton noted that an admissions lottery process is being developed according to direction from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Superintendents would like to see a blind lottery formula by district, using a three-year average rather than four. Mr. Morton and Mr. Jarvis will request an extension for submission from the Department.
- E. Mr. Morton noted that the fall Open House at Brush Hill is scheduled for November 25th.
- F. Mr. Morton discussed upcoming events and he will provide the Board with an electronic flyer for the Hair Cut A Thon and the Blood Drive.

6. At 7 p.m., Mr. Christopher moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition, or mental health of an individual or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual and to also discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares. Ms. Murray seconded. Approved unanimously.

Open Session resumed at 7:19 p.m.

Ms. Murray moved to approve the collective bargaining agreement between the UFCW and LPVEC Mechanics dated July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027, as presented. Mr. Christopher seconded. Approved unanimously.

- 7. A. Ms. Bishop discussed past practice whereby managers and supervisors have been compensated for filling in for driver shortages on a continual basis. These staff members would receive \$29.37 per hour only for the time they spend driving. Last year the budget effect for this compensation was approximately \$36,000. Ms. Murray moved to authorize compensation to transportation supervisors and managers at an hourly rate of \$29.37 for time spent driving school buses to cover driver shortages in FY26 as presented. Mr. Christopher seconded. Mr. Laing voted no. Motion carries 5:1:0.
- B. Ms. Bishop gave an update on the progress of paving at the Agawam transportation site. She expects the project to be on budget and completed by the end of the month.
- C. Ms. Bishop reported that the accountants are in the process of preparing financial statements for both the Collaborative and Corporation and will present both at the November Board meeting.

The group further discussed establishing a bonus to bus drivers who refer a new recruit with a scale based on how long the new recruit continues employment with the LPVEC. Ms. Bishop will review the amounts of prior bonuses given. Mr. Christopher moved that when a new hire continues employment with the LPVEC past 5 months, the driver who referred this new hire will receive a \$200 bonus and further, when a new hire completes 10 months of employment with the LPVEC, the driver who referred the new hire will receive \$600. Ms. Murray seconded. Approved unanimously.

Ms. Murray moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Christopher seconded. Approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

(date)

, Clerk