***Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education***

 *75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906 Telephone: (781) 338-3000*

*TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370*

Jeffrey C. Riley

*Commissioner*

May 4, 2023

Dear members of the Lawrence Public Schools community,

I am writing to update you on the next phase of governance for the Lawrence Public Schools (LPS). Before doing so, I wish to extend my appreciation to three outgoing Lawrence Alliance for Education (LAE) board members – Jessica Andors, Noemi Custodia-Lora, and Julia Silverio – for their dedication to the Lawrence community throughout the past five years. Their service has been invaluable to LPS.

In my March 28, 2023 letter, I shared that, for the first time, the elected state delegation representing Lawrence recommended to me individuals for appointment to the LAE. I am pleased to announce three new members to the LAE effective May 5, 2023 – Dr. Dolores Calaf, Mr. Edgar De Leon, and Ms. Juana Matias. A fourth member will be appointed in the coming weeks. These new members will join Mayor DePeña, Patricia Mariano, and Maria Moeller who will retain their seats on the Board.

Dr. Calaf is currently an adjunct professor of early childhood and K-12 education and a consultant with Community Consulting Collaborative. Former Humanities teacher in LPS, Mr.

De Leon is now the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director at Noble and Greenough School.

Ms. Matias joins the LAE Board in her personal capacity as a former State Representative for the

16th Essex District, which includes much of the City of Lawrence. Since April of 2022,

Ms. Matias has been the Regional Administrator for the New England Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These individuals bring extensive professional experience in education and community partnerships and have deep ties to the Lawrence community. I look forward to their perspectives and ideas to guide the LAE’s work.

The LAE, in its role as receiver of LPS, will begin the search process for a permanent superintendent this fall. I am pleased that, pending contract negotiations, Mr. Juan Rodriguez will continue to serve in the role as interim superintendent until a new superintendent is in place.

I look forward to continuing working closely with Mayor DePeña, elected officials, and the LAE on behalf of the students in the Lawrence Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education