



CITY OF LAWRENCE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City Hall • 200 Common Street • Lawrence, MA 01840
Tel: (978) 620-3010 • www.cityoflawrence.com

Kendrys Vasquez
Mayor of Lawrence

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Press Contact: Sheila Ramirez Press Secretary & Policy Advisor | 978-620-3013 |
sramirez@cityoflawrence.com

Mayor Vasquez Calls for the Immediate Resignation of Michael Moriarty Offensive Remarks About Lawrence Schools Made by Education Board Member

April 22, 2021, Lawrence, MA - Mayor Kendrys Vasquez calls for the immediate resignation of Michael Moriarty from the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. During the MA Department of Elementary Secondary Education meeting on April 20, 2021 Moriarty asked for comment during the public comment portion of the meeting discussing accountability determinations for 2021 school year. The substance of the conversation was about the Accountability System. This year the state will be refraining from changes to the accountability system, there will be no new determinations or recommendations for any underperforming or chronically underperforming schools.

Michael Moriarty currently serving his second term on the State Education Board stated in regard to accountability in places like Lawrence and Holyoke “a period of time now that we [the board] have been unable to take the kind of actions that are necessary because of the deep inequities that exists from one district to a next we know they can’t change themselves ‘cause they never do.” Mr. Moriarty did not mince words when describing the desperate impact in the City of Lawrence and how our students and schools are treated differently than the rest of the school districts around the state.

Mayor Vasquez firmly takes great offense by the words shared by Mr. Moriarty. He has insulted the City of Lawrence and all students in the Lawrence Public School system. Mr. Vasquez stated that “his words have acted as a dog whistle and what you really want to say is that ‘immigrants are lazy people who do not care about education’. To insinuate that Lawrence Public Schools cannot change because of our past or our current status is offensive. This is wholeheartedly wrong and your words and lack of action to improve the schools have shown me that you do not care about communities like Lawrence and to speak so poorly of your own community lets me know the type of person you are. I am asking for the immediate resignation of Mr. Moriarty from the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and if you do not resign I am asking the commissioner and Governor Baker for your immediate removal.

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