



# Lowell Public School Committee

## *Regular Meeting Agenda*

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**Date:** April 15, 2020

**Time:** 6:30PM

**Location:** Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98660741877?>

[pwd=NzdyV0gzZVVwU2hrQ3BFR2RwWkdOZz09](https://zoom.us/j/98660741877?pwd=NzdyV0gzZVVwU2hrQ3BFR2RwWkdOZz09)

Meeting ID: 986 6074 1877

Password: 8Ap69K

### 1. SALUTE TO FLAG

### 2. ROLL CALL

### 3. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

3.1. This Meeting Is Being Held Remotely In Accordance With The Governor Of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions Of The Open Meeting Law G.L. C. 30A, Section 20.

3.2. Public Hearing Inter-District School Choice Program

Documents:

[SCHOOL CHOICE PUBLIC HEARING.DOCX.PDF](#)

### 4. MINUTES

4.1. Approval Of The Minutes Of The Special Meeting Of The Lowell School Committee Of March 27, 2020

Documents:

[LSC SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - MARCH 27, 2020.PDF](#)

4.2. Approval Of The Minutes Of The Regularly Scheduled Lowell School Committee Meeting Of Wednesday, April 1,

2020

Documents:

[LSC MINUTES - APRIL 1, 2020.PDF](#)

4.3. Approval Of The Minutes Of The Special Meeting Of The Lowell School Committee Of Monday, April 6, 2020

Documents:

[LSC SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - APRIL 6, 2020.PDF](#)

5. **MOTIONS**

5.1. [By Mayor John Leahy]:

Requesting that the administration provide the committee with an update on internet services, the status on Chromebooks distribution and the potential purchase of additional electronic devices.

5.2. [By Mayor John Leahy]:

Request that the Superintendent provide the committee with a report showing that the administration is working on a plan B for the FY21 Budget.

5.3. [By Connie Martin]:

Requesting that the Administration report on the roll out and implementation of the District-wide Remote Learning Policy. The report should include the recommended benchmarks and outcome measures that the district will be using to track both short and long term effectiveness of the existing plan.

5.4. [By Jackie Doherty]:

Request the Superintendent provide the committee with a report that examines the factors that may have contributed to tripling the number of student dropouts over the last few years including staff reductions, discontinued actions, or program changes

5.5. [By Jackie Doherty]:

Request the Superintendent develop a plan that enables custodial staff to safely clean and maintain school buildings and grounds during the shutdown, including the potential to complete projects often overlooked due to time constraints, such as inventory control and grounds

work.

5.6. [By Michael Dillon Jr.]:

Request that the administration explore closing LPS through the end of the current school year and continuing to operate in a distance-learning environment.

5.7. [By Michael Dillon Jr.]:

Request the Superintendent ask the Athletic Director to provide a report identifying any recommendations to be considered for athletics during the current budget process.

5.8. [By Michael Dillon Jr.]:

Request the Administration provide a report on the position of Athletic Director at Lowell HS including a job description, outline of responsibilities, number of teams/ programs, number of staff, and any other relevant information available.

## 6. **SUBCOMMITTEES**

6.1. Finance Subcommittee:

Report and Approval of the Meeting of Wednesday, April 8, 2020 [Connie Martin, Chairperson]

Documents:

[FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE -APRIL 8, 2020.PDF](#)

## 7. **REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

7.1. COVID-19 Response Update

Documents:

[LPS COVID-19 RESPONSE 4-15.20.PDF](#)

7.2. Lowell High School Head Of School Hiring Update

Documents:

### 7.3. Report On Motions

Documents:

[REPORT MOTIONS APRIL 15,.PDF](#)

- 7.3.1. Response To Motion 5.CAO Of 02/19/20 By Hillary Clark: Makerspaces In Lowell Public Schools Request The Superintendent Provide A Status Update On The Use Of The Makerspace's At Lowell High School And The Bartlett Community Partnership School.

Documents:

[MAKERSPACE RESPONSE TO MOTION.PDF](#)

- 7.3.2. Response To Motion 5. COO Of 03/27/20 By Bob Hoey: Superintendent To Review With Solicitor The School Committee's Authority To Vote On Paying Transportation Providers And Other Venders When Services Could Not Be Performed Because Of COVID-19 Closure Of Schools.

Documents:

[MOTION RESPONSE- AUTHORITY ON CONTRACTS .PDF](#)

## 8. **NEW BUSINESS**

### 8.1. Vote Of Inter-District School Choice

Documents:

[1- SCHOOL CHOICE MEMO 4.13.20.DOCX.PDF](#)  
[2-SCHOOL CHOICE DOC 2\[4\].PDF](#)  
[3-SCHOOL CHOICE\[4\].PDF](#)

### 8.2. Grading And Promotion Policies During Covid-19 Public Health Crisis

Documents:

[GRADING AND PROMOTION POLICIES DURING COVID-19.PDF](#)

### 8.3. Approval Of Revised 2019-2020 School Calendar Due To Health Emergency

Documents:

[CURRENT VERSION 2019-2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR WITH EARLY RELEASE.PDF](#)

9. **PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL**

9.1. UTL Donated Sick Days For Julie Bannerman

Documents:

[UTL.PDF](#)

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

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<http://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/>



## Public Hearing - School Choice

To: Michael Geary, City Clerk  
From: Joel D. Boyd, Ed.D Superintendent  
Date: April 13, 2020  
Re: Public Hearing - School Choice

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A Public Hearing is being called for the purpose of reopening the discussion regarding the feasibility of School Choice at Lowell High School for the 2020-2021 school year. The Public Hearing will be held on April 15, 2020 in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 6:30 PM.

xc: Central Office Administrators  
Principals, Headmaster  
United Teachers of Lowell  
Clerical Unit  
LSAA  
Lowell Sun  
Wendy Blom, Lowell Telecommunications  
Mary Sheehan, Recorder



# LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## *REGULAR MEETING MINUTES*

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**Date:** March 27, 2020  
**Time:** 6:00PM  
**Location:** Virtual Meeting Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/527081216>  
Meeting ID: 527 081 216

This meeting is being held remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. 30A, Section 20.

### 1. SALUTE TO FLAG

### 2. ROLL CALL

On a roll call at 6:09 p.m., all members were present, namely: Ms. Martin, Ms. Clark, Mr. Descoteaux, Mr. Dillon, Ms. Doherty, Mr. Hoey and Mayor Leahy.

### 3. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

**3.1.** An Executive Session May Be Called To Discuss Collective Bargaining, Strategies and/or Possible Litigation Under Open Meeting Law, Chapter 30A, Section 21 (A) (B), 2, 3 Of The Commonwealth Of Massachusetts General Laws. Open Meeting Discussion May Have A Detrimental Effect On The Bargaining Or Litigating Position Of The Public Body.

### 4. MOTIONS

**4.1. [By Bob Hoey]:** Superintendent to review with Solicitor the School Committee's authority to vote on paying transportation providers and other vendors when services could not be performed because of COVID-19 closure of schools.

Ms. Turner, Chief Financial Officer informed the Committee that she has a planned conference call with the State on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> and she will be receiving more information and will provide that to the Committee.

**Mr. Hoey made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED**

**4.2. [By Mayor John Leahy]:** To authorize the Superintendent to donate Lowell school supplies that may be needed for Covid-19 response to Lowell fire department for distribution.

**Mayor Leahy made a motion to approve; seconded Mr. Hoey. 7 yeas APPROVED**



## **5. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Ms. Martin made a motion to recess at 6:18 p.m. and to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining, Strategies and/or Possible Litigation under Open Meeting Law, Chapter 30A, Section 21 (A) (B), 2, 3 of the Commonwealth Of Massachusetts General Laws related to: Consideration, Discussion, and Action on MOA - LSAA work at home during school closure, Consideration, Discussion, and Action on MOA - UTL work at home during school closure and Consideration, Discussion, and Action on MOA - Cafeteria work during COVID-19 closure of which open meeting discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body, and to adjourn from Executive Session; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 7 yeas APPROVED**

### **5.1. Items:**

- 1. Consideration, Discussion, and Action on MOA - LSAA work at home during school closure**
- 2. Consideration, Discussion, and Action on MOA - UTL work at home during school closure**
- 3. Consideration, Discussion, and Action on MOA - Cafeteria work during COVID-19 closure**



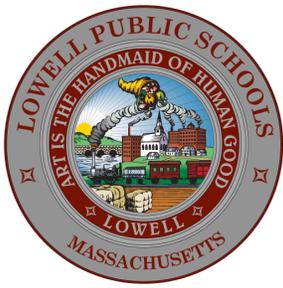
**6. ADJOURNMENT**

**Ms. Martin made a motion to recess at 6:18 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 7 yeas APPROVED**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joel D. Boyd, Ed.D., Superintendent and  
Secretary to the Lowell School Committee**

**JDB/mes**



# LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## *REGULAR MEETING MINUTES*

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**Date:** April 1, 2020  
**Time:** 6:30PM  
**Location:** Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/746616574>  
Meeting ID: 746 616 574

### 1. SALUTE TO FLAG

### 2. ROLL CALL

On a roll call at 6:38 p.m., all members were present, namely: Ms. Clark, Mr. Descoteaux, Mr. Dillon, Ms. Doherty, Mr. Hoey, Mayor Leahy and Ms. Martin.

### 3. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

3.1. This Meeting Is Being Held Remotely In Accordance With The Governor Of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions Of The Open Meeting Law G.L. C. 30A, Section 20.

Mayor Leahy read to the public that this meeting was being held remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L.C. 30A, Section 20.

### 4. MINUTES

4.1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Lowell School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Ms. Clark made a motion to approve and place on file the minutes from the regularly scheduled Lowell School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, March 4, 2020; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 years  
**APPROVED**

### 5. PERMISSION TO ENTER

5.1. Permission to Enter 1: April 1, 2020

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve the Permission to Enter; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 7 years  
**APPROVED**



5.2. Permission to Enter 2: April 1, 2020

**Mr. Dillon made a motion to approve the Permission to Enter; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED**

## 6. MEMORIALS

6.1. Paula Abraham, Retired Teacher in the LPS

6.2. Violet Santamaria, Retired Teacher in the LPS, Who Lived A Very Long Life, 104.

6.3. Robert Hand, Jr. Lowell High School Custodian.

6.4 Marilyn Gill, Mother of Mary Geoffroy, Data Scheduler at Lowell High School, Grandmother to Gina Martel, Social Worker at the Freshman Academy and Aunt to Mayor Leahy.

## 7. MOTIONS

7.1. [By Andy Descoteaux]: Ask the Superintendent to ask the City Manager what the status is of the empty judicial buildings in the city. If they are available for city use, the LPS could use one or two.

**Mr. Descoteaux made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 7 yeas APPROVED**

7.2. [By Bob Hoey]: That the superintendent produce a report by April 1, 2020 meet with the following information charting out spend expenditures by year for the last 15 years (or as far as back as possible):

- Number of total special education budget; | Percentage of kids receiving special location services;
- Amount of money spent on out of district services; | Percentages of children utilizing out of district services;
- Number of employees working in Special Education (please also provide their job descriptions);
- Total of number of employees within the district per year

Mr. Hoey stated that the administration can have as much time as they need to provide the information back to the Committee.

**Mr. Hoey made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Clark. 7 yeas APPROVED**

7.3. [By Mayor John Leahy]: Request the Superintendent to update the Committee on district's plan to support the 2020 United States Census.

**Mayor Leahy made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 7 yeas APPROVED**



**7.4. [By Andy Descoteaux]:** Ask the Superintendent to provide a report at the next School Committee meeting on the legal ramifications of remote learning as it applies to our SPED population.

**Mr. Descoteaux made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Dillon. 7 yeas APPROVED**

## **8. SUBCOMMITTEES**

**8.1. Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting:** Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, March 4, 2020 [Connie Martin, Chairperson]

Chairperson Martin gave a report to the Committee from the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee Meeting at the March 4, 2020 School Committee meeting.

**Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee report as a report of progress; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 7 yeas APPROVED**

**8.2. Policy Subcommittee Meeting:** Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, March 4, 2020 [Jackie Doherty, Chairperson]

Chairperson Doherty gave a report to the Committee from the Policy Subcommittee Meeting at the March 4, 2020 School Committee meeting.

**Mr. Hoey made a motion to accept the Policy Subcommittee report as a report of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED**

## **9. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

### **9.1. Student Opportunity Act Update**

The Student Opportunity Act Update provided to the Committee included the following:

- Overview of the Student Opportunity Act
- Core Beliefs and Fundamental Commitments
- Review of LPS' Long-Term Strategic Priorities
- Alignment of Priorities and Allowable SOA Expenditures
- SOA-Approved Program Areas and Resource Needs
- Remaining Budget Considerations
- Next Steps for SOA Plan Submission to DESE in April

**Mr. Dillion made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 9.1 through 9.7 as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED**



## 9.2. Report from the United Teachers of Lowell

Paul Georges, UTL President spoke to the Committee about a survey teachers and paraprofessionals took that was conducted by the UTL. The survey included the following information:

- Demographics: Respondents
- District Proposed Priorities
- Identifying Impediments to Students Learning and Teachers Teaching
- Disruptive Behaviors & Social-Emotional Support
- Statements from Teachers and Paraprofessionals
- Staffing Needs
- Responses to Staff Questions
- Restoring Previously Eliminated Programs
- Restoring Newcomer Classrooms
- Resources
- Other Issues that were Identified Through the Survey
- Understanding School Site Councils
- Educator Voice: How PD Needs are Best Determined
- Time and Focus on Standardized Testing
- Conditions of Buildings
- Students Learning and Teachers Teaching: Impact of Addressing Concerns

Lori McCarthy was registered and spoke to the Committee regarding the survey.

**Mr. Dillion made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 9.1 through 9.7 as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED**

## 9.3. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

Ms. Phillips, Chief Engagement & Equity Officer provided an update to the Committee regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response. The update included the following information:

- Communication tools (messages by email, phone, social media and the website sent out to the entire student population and in multiple languages)
- Breakfast and Lunch still being provided for students
- Home Learning that includes an at home learning section on our website, home learning packets have been made available at the lunch sites, resources to address mental and social emotional needs have been uploaded on the website)
- School Site Councils and School Based Budgeting Process
- Central Office and Family Resource Center
- Registration and the Knowledge Bowl finals have been delayed

**Mr. Dillion made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 9.1 through 9.7 as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED**



#### 9.4. Article 24 Request

Dr. Guillory, Chief Schools Officer provided a report that informed the Committee that each school responded to a request for materials. The report included schools and their requests. The total estimated amount requested in the report is \$405,741.17.

**Mr. Dillion made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 9.1 through 9.7 as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED**

#### 9.5. Report on Motions

Superintendent Boyd provided the Committee with an updated report on the status of outstanding motions and asked the Committee if they had any concerns or questions.

**Mr. Dillion made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 9.1 through 9.7 as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED**

##### 9.5.1. Response to Motions 6 & 7. CAO of 03/04/20 by Mayor John Leahy: Idea Camp and Report on Summer School

- Request the Superintendent provide the committee with an update on Summer School Programs.
- Request the Superintendent provide the committee with an update on IDEA Camp.

Ms. Desmond, Chief Academic Officer provided the Committee with a report that informed them that preparation is well underway for the 2020 summer programming. Due to an increase in grants to the district we will be providing more summer learning opportunities for youth than in past years. She also informed the Committee that with support from the district and partners Project Learn and UMASS Lowell, the 2020 IDEA camp will once again be offered to our students in grades 5 – 10. The IDEA camp will be operating for three (3) weeks from July 6<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>. Scholarships are available for Lowell Public School students at a reduced rate of \$40 per week.

**Mr. Dillion made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 9.1 through 9.7 as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED**

##### 9.5.2. Response to Motion 1. CSO of 02/19/20 by Andy Descoteaux: Ask the Superintendent to review whether or not all of our schools (save the High School) have incorporated recess into their daily schedules.

Dr. Guillory, Chief Schools Officer provided a report that informed the Committee that all schools have incorporated recess (save the high school) into their daily schedules. The report included a chart that delineates the amount of time afforded for recess at each school/program serving elementary and middle school students.

**Mr. Dillion made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 9.1 through 9.7 as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED**



**9.6. List of Eligible Teachers**

The List of Eligible Teachers officially informs the Committee of all eligible teachers by subject and grade.

**Mr. Dillion made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 9.1 through 9.7 as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED**

**9.7. Personnel Report**

The Personnel Report officially informs the Committee of all retirements, resignations, promotions and new hires.

**Mr. Dillion made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 9.1 through 9.7 as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED**

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**10.1. Budget Transfer**

Department:		SCHOOLS				
<b>TRANSFER TO:</b>						
Account #				Description	Amount	
Org.	Object	Project	DESE Function			
99341227	570102		1400	Admin. Tech. - Hardware	\$	350,000.00
92510603	512110		2000	Molloy Coordinator	\$	1,450.95
90141103	512902		2200	Cardinal School Clerk	\$	40,950.82
90241103	512902		2200	Bailey School Clerk	\$	10,567.31
91241103	512102		2200	McAvinnue Asst. Principal	\$	6,460.05
91241103	512902		2200	McAvinnue School Clerk	\$	9,328.84
91541103	512902		2200	Greenhalge School Clerk	\$	14,124.58
92541105	512902		2200	Molloy School Clerk	\$	9,328.81
92741103	512902		2200	Moody School Clerk	\$	10,179.75
93641103	512101		2200	Pawtucket Principal	\$	2,427.24
93641103	512902		2200	Pawtucket School Clerk	\$	9,328.83
95041103	512902		2200	Shaughnessy School Clerk	\$	9,328.84
95441103	512902		2200	LDS School Clerk	\$	9,737.62
95541103	512902		2200	Washington School Clerk	\$	5,275.94
97541103	512902		2200	McAuliffe School Clerk	\$	9,799.93
98041103	512902		2200	Murkland School Clerk	\$	9,328.85
98341103	512902		2200	Bartlett School Clerk	\$	8,858.10
98541103	512902		2200	Daley School Clerk	\$	16,829.31
98641103	512102		2200	Robinson Asst. Principal	\$	66,603.00



98641103	512902		<b>2200</b>	Robinson School Clerk	\$ 8,676.52
98741103	512102		<b>2200</b>	Rogers Asst. Principal	\$ 116,062.84
98741103	512902		<b>2200</b>	Rogers School Clerk	\$ 12,560.34
99010703	512958		<b>2200</b>	LHS Paraprofessional	\$ 4,874.29
99030306	512112		<b>2200</b>	LHS Student Supt Spec - FA	\$ 7,090.70
99041103	512902		<b>2200</b>	LHS School Clerk	\$ 29,364.45
99241103	512902		<b>2200</b>	NONINSTRUCT/SEC&CLERSAL	\$ 57,559.84
92037020	530002		<b>2350</b>	Lincoln SA - Prof. Dev.	\$ 27.50
98737033	530002		<b>2350</b>	Rogers SA - Prof. Dev.	\$ 327.08
99237070	512903		<b>2350</b>	SW PROF STAFF/CLASSROOM TEACHR	\$ 4,950.04
99310008	512155		<b>2350</b>	ACADEMIC COACHES	\$ 62,115.56
99310008	512963		<b>2350</b>	Teacher Acad. Mentors K-8	\$ 3,400.00
99312003	512110		<b>2350</b>	Coordinator of Math (PK-4)	\$ 859.38
99035003	512105		<b>2700</b>	LHS Guidance Counselor	\$ 82,549.90
99320104	511000		<b>3200</b>	School Nurses - Special Ed.	\$ 39,050.38
93541408	512915		<b>4000</b>	LeBlanc Security Guard	\$ 2,284.50
99041403	512915		<b>4000</b>	LHS Security Guard	\$ 113,997.94
99047103	512960		<b>4000</b>	LHS Custodian	\$ 364,943.65
99347103	512906		<b>4000</b>	Director of Operations/Mainten	\$ 424.46
99347103	512960		<b>4000</b>	Administration Bldg. Custodian	\$ 46,851.05
95047103	512960		<b>4110</b>	Shaughnessy Custodian	\$ 3,586.18
				<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 1,561,465.37
<b>TRANSFER FROM:</b>					
<b>Account #</b>				<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Org.</b>	<b>Object</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>DESE Function</b>		
99341129	511000		<b>2200</b>	Principal Merit Increases	\$ 1,450.95
91810103	512903		<b>2300</b>	Pyne Arts Elementary Teacher	\$ 146,885.63
99328106	512969		<b>2300</b>	Behavior Specialist - K-4	\$ 155,084.67
91811403	541500		<b>2400</b>	BASIC TEXT	\$ 2.09
92741113	541500		<b>2400</b>	BASIC TEXT	\$ 0.25
98410604	541500		<b>2400</b>	BASIC TEXT	\$ 151.00
98941104	541500		<b>2400</b>	BASIC TEXT	\$ 0.22
99338007	541600		<b>2400</b>	ELL Textbooks	\$ 3.36
91510124	541000		<b>2450</b>	Greenhalge SA - Technology Exp	\$ 100.00
95510124	541000		<b>2450</b>	Washington SA - Tech. Exp.	\$ 1.33
96010124	541000		<b>2450</b>	Stoklosa SA - Tech. Exp.	\$ 0.03
98310624	541000		<b>2450</b>	Bartlett SA - Technology Exp.	\$ 107.09
98410624	541000		<b>2450</b>	Butler SA - Technology Exp.	\$ 1,088.00
98810624	541000		<b>2450</b>	Sullivan SA - Technology Exp.	\$ 1,167.50



99030510	541000		<b>2450</b>	LHS SA - Technology Exp.	\$ 3.78
99311203	512112		<b>2450</b>	Tech. Instr. Suport Specialist	\$ 0.29
98735003	512105		<b>2700</b>	Rogers Guidance Counselor	\$ 4,714.81
99310451	512135		<b>2800</b>	Social Workers	\$ 159,190.14
99339004	512112		<b>3100</b>	District Support Specialists	\$ 27,653.01
99339004	512157		<b>3100</b>	COMMUNITY OUTREACH STRATEGIST	\$ 24,442.73
99341403	512910		<b>3100</b>	Attendance Monitor	\$ 79.56
90247103	512960		<b>4110</b>	Bailey Custodian	\$ 6,339.88
91247103	512960		<b>4110</b>	McAvinnue Custodian	\$ 6,292.65
92747103	512960		<b>4110</b>	Moody Custodian	\$ 5,719.46
93047103	512960		<b>4110</b>	Morey Custodian	\$ 2,651.25
93547103	512960		<b>4110</b>	LeBlanc Custodian	\$ 1,121.10
93647103	512960		<b>4110</b>	Pawtucket Custodian	\$ 4,988.46
95547103	512960		<b>4110</b>	Washington Custodian	\$ 3,056.98
97547103	512960		<b>4110</b>	McAuliffe Custodian	\$ 3,780.39
98347103	512960		<b>4110</b>	Bartlett Custodian	\$ 6,415.30
98447103	512960		<b>4110</b>	Butler Custodian	\$ 5,895.19
98547103	512960		<b>4110</b>	Daley Custodian	\$ 3,665.57
98647103	512960		<b>4110</b>	Robinson Custodian	\$ 3,119.96
98747103	512960		<b>4110</b>	Rogers Custodian	\$ 6,870.02
98847103	512960		<b>4110</b>	Sullivan Custodian	\$ 3,112.71
98947103	512960		<b>4110</b>	Wang Custodian	\$ 6,720.83
99247103	512960		<b>4110</b>	Riverside Custodian	\$ 1,661.77
99345006	563600		<b>5200</b>	Employee Health Insurance	\$ 967,927.41
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,561,465.37</b>

**REASON FOR TRANSFER: ADJUSTMENTS TO EXPEND THE BUDGET**

**Ms. Clark made a motion to approve the budget transfer of \$1,561,465.37; seconded by Mr. Dillon. 7 yeas APPROVED**

**10.2. Approval of MOA for Club Stipend for after School Activity**

A Memorandum of Agreement was presented to the Committee that would fund an additional advisor position: Spring Strength and Conditioning for the amount of \$2,500.00.

**Ms. Clark made a motion to approve the MOA for Club Stipend for after School Activity (Spring Strength and Conditioning); seconded by Ms. Martin. 5 yeas, 2 nays (Ms. Doherty, Mayor Leahy) APPROVED**



### 10.3. Approval of MOA for Advisor Position and Coaches

A Memorandum of Agreement was presented to the Committee that states: Continue work for Advisors and Athletic Coaches during the closure of schools by the Superintendent and then by the Governor's orders. During this closure, Advisors, Head Coaches, and Assistant Coaches will continue work through meaningful remote interaction with students. This work is expected to continue through the closure of schools. The School Committee and the Union hereby agree modifications of the Contract only for the time period of the COVID-19 school closure and no longer than June 30, 2020

The Committee asked that the Superintendent provide back up to show that work had been done during the closure.

**Ms. Clark made a motion to approve the MOA for Advisor Position and Coaches; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 5 yeas, 2 nays (Ms. Doherty, Mayor Leahy) APPROVED**



**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Ms. Doherty made a motion to adjourn at 9:24 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 7 yeas APPROVED**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joel D. Boyd, Ed.D., Superintendent and  
Secretary to the Lowell School Committee**

**JDB/mes**



# LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## *REGULAR MEETING MINUTES*

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**Date:** April 6, 2020  
**Time:** 6:30PM  
**Location:** Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/497116805>  
Meeting ID: 497 116 805

**This meeting is being held remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. 30A, Section 20.**

### **1. SALUTE TO FLAG**

### **2. ROLL CALL**

**On a roll call at 6:31 p.m., all members were present, namely: Mr. Descoteaux, Mr. Dillon, Ms. Doherty, Mr. Hoey, Mayor Leahy, Ms. Martin and Ms. Clark.**

### **3. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**3.1.** An Executive Session May Be Called To Discuss Collective Bargaining, Strategies and/or Possible Litigation Under Open Meeting Law, Chapter 30A, Section 21 (A) (B), 2, 3 Of The Commonwealth Of Massachusetts General Laws. Open Meeting Discussion May Have A Detrimental Effect On The Bargaining Or Litigating Position Of The Public Body.

### **4. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

#### **4.1.** Superintendent's Report on Agreement on Meaningful Remote Learning Model with UTL

Superintendent Boyd informed the Committee that an agreement was made with the UTL on April 2, 2020 regarding remote learning. Dr. Boyd thanked Dr. Hall and Paul Georges, UTL President for all their hard work. Dr. Boyd stated that remote learning will ensure that all students will have meaningful learning during this closure. He also spoke about the eleven (11) lunch sites that are providing breakfast and lunch to our community as well as the chrome books that are being distributed to students who are in need of them.



## **5. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Mr. Dillon made a motion to recess at 6:45 p.m. and to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining, Strategies and/or Possible Litigation Under Open Meeting Law, Chapter 30A, Section 21 (A) (B), 2, 3 Of The Commonwealth Of Massachusetts General Laws related to: LSAA-Collective Bargaining- review and consideration of proposals and strategy and UTL- Collective Bargaining- review and consideration of proposals and strategy of which open meeting discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body, and to adjourn from Executive Session; seconded by Ms. Clark. 7 yeas APPROVED**

### **5.1. Items:**

- 1. LSAA- Collective Bargaining- review and consideration of proposals and strategy**
- 2. UTL- Collective Bargaining- review and consideration of proposals and strategy**



**6. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Dillon made a motion to recess at 6:45 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Clark. 7 yeas APPROVED**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Joel D. Boyd, Ed.D., Superintendent and  
Secretary to the Lowell School Committee**



JDB/mes



**LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Henry J. Mroz Administration Office**  
**155 Merrimack Street**  
**Lowell, Massachusetts 01852**

**John J. Leahy**  
**Mayor and Chairperson**

## **Finance Subcommittee Meeting**

**Tel: (978) 674-4324**  
**Fax: (978) 937-7609**

**Andre P. Descoteaux**  
**Vice-Chairperson**

**Wednesday, April 8, 2020**  
**Zoom Virtual Meeting**  
**5:00 p.m.**

**Hilary Clark**  
**Michael Dillon Jr.**  
**Robert J. Hoey Jr.**  
**Connie A. Martin**

Subcommittee Members Present:	Chairperson Connie Martin, Andy Descoteaux and Robert Hoey
School Committee Members Present:	Mayor Leahy, Hilary Clark, Jackie Doherty and Mike Dillon
School Department Personnel Present:	Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools Billie Jo Turner, Chief Financial Officer

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**This meeting is being held remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. 30A, Section 20.**

Chairperson Martin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The following agenda item was discussed:

### **1. Budget Update**

Ms. Martin asked Superintendent Boyd to address the Subcommittee. Superintendent Boyd stated that the district is working with the projected funding amount from the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) year one (1) roll out, but now with the impact of the Coronavirus the economic conditions are unclear. He stated that the Massachusetts budget that is provided to the cities and towns will be late due to the volatile environment that we are in. He stated that the state's rainy day fund presently has \$3.4 billion dollars and the federal stimulus package is slated to provide over \$200 million dollars to Massachusetts so they're a lot of moving parts, but at this time the district will proceed conservatively. Superintendent Boyd then asked Ms. Turner to speak to the Subcommittee and to share the PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Turner informed the Subcommittee that the anticipated balances for the current year are as follows:

- Payroll \$298,000
- Transportation \$700,000
- Substitutes \$350,000
- Out of District \$298,000

She stated that this gives the district a total of \$1,606,000, however we would need to deduct \$200,000 from that amount due to being short \$200,000 in the sick leave buy back account. She also stated that the amounts are based on assumptions and could change instantly and drastically. She stated that moving forward the district has an opportunity with this possible projected revenue to pre-purchase supplies which will alleviate delays of needed supplies on the first day of school, spend less grant money this year which will allow the district to spend more of the available local budget balance now and allow us to carry grant money forward into the next fiscal year, and to charge more to the local budget balance which results in charging less to the revolving account which then would give the district higher “rainy day” funds.

Ms. Turner then spoke about the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) and how that has changed how Chapter 70 funds are allocated to the district. She stated that in FY21, the Lowell Public Schools is slated to receive \$12.7 million, approximately \$800 per student, through the first year of the SOA roll out, but at the same time the district will experience an increase in fixed costs of \$6.5 million due to embedded step increases in collective bargaining agreements and increases to healthcare premiums, leaving a difference of \$6.2 million or approximately \$400 per student for strategic investments in the classroom.

Ms. Turner then spoke about average staff cost and provided a spreadsheet to the Committee that shows schools using average cost rather than actuals. She stated that this eliminates some schools seeming more expensive if they have older teachers. She provided a spreadsheet that included showing current year allocations to allow for a year to year comparison with next year’s allocation. She informed them that twenty-eight (28) school budgets have already been defended and provided the Subcommittee with all of the budget guidelines the schools had to follow, the net staff changes that have been added, and the next steps with a timeline.

Ms. Turner concluded by stating that due to the city expressing concerns about the impact of the Coronavirus on our funding, they have drafted the following brief back up plan:

- Maintain Status Quo which would cost \$6.5 million (\$5.4 million in step increases plus \$1.1 health insurance increase)
- Maintain Status Quo plus the increases to schools - \$8.5 million
- Review and consider all voidable contracts for cancellation
- Consider hiring freeze for vacant positions
- Last and most unlikely: Reduction in Force

Subcommittee members and Committee members asked multiple questions about the number of times the School Site Councils met as well as funding not being added to the Athletic budget.

Ms. Turner stated that she can provide the Committee with information that shows the percentage of what goes towards Athletics, Arts and Academics at Lowell High School.

**Mr. Descoteaux made a motion to accept the report as a report of progress; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 3 yeas APPROVED**

**Mr. Hoey made a motion to adjourn at 6:21 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 3 yeas APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Jo Turner, Chief Financial Officer  
for Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent and  
Secretary, Lowell School Committee

BJT/mes

*Lowell Public Schools*

# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

April 15, 2020





## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

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- The Lowell Public Schools have been closed since Monday, March 16. The projected return date is Monday, May 4.
  - *On March 13, LPS announced a 2 week closure.*
  - *On March 15, Governor Baker announced all schools in the state will be closed for 3 weeks*
  - *On March 25, Governor Baker extended the state-wide closure until May 4*
- Prior to our closure, we announced that the district was canceling any out-of-state domestic school-related travel and any school-organized international trips for student groups, following the recommendations of Governor Baker and DESE.



# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

## COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS

- Connect Ed – messages sent out to entire student population
  - Emails
  - Phone Calls
- Website
  - COVID-19 info page is updated with the latest information and is accessible from all websites throughout the district. Includes dedicated pages for our grab and go meal service and at home learning opportunities.
- Social Media
  - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
- Translation of messages in multiple languages (Spanish, Portuguese, Khmer, Swahili)
- Language Line and Language Apps





## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

- **STILL PROVIDING MEAL SERVICE**
  - We are still providing breakfast and lunch for students during the weekdays at **11 sites** while school is closed: Butler, Greenhalge, Lincoln, Moody, [Morey](#), Murkland, Pawtucketville, Robinson, STEM Academy, [Stoklosa](#) and the [Westminster Village Apartments](#).
    - All students ages 2-18 are eligible for meal service
    - Given circumstances, students don't have to be present to pick up food. A parent or neighbor can pick up food.
  - Students / Families are able to pick up breakfast for the next day when they pick up that day's lunch.
  - On Fridays, students / families will be able to pick up meals for the weekend days as well.





## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

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- ALSO DISTRIBUTED TOILETRIES, ACTIVITY BAGS, AND FOOD BOXES
  - Thanks to donations from community partners, such as Catie's Closet, Middlemiss Foundation and the Greater Boston Food Bank, LPS has been able to distribute additional items of need to our students and families.
  - Families will be notified via the connect-ed phone call system when toiletries, food boxes and other distributions are scheduled at their local lunch distribution site.





## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

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### EMERGENCY SHELTER OPENED AT STOKLOSA MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Shelter will serve individuals that may have been exposed to other individuals that have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Individuals who have tested positive will not be directed to the shelter.
- The site will be staffed and monitored by professionals from Lowell Community Health Center.

[LOWELLMA.GOV/CORONAVIRUS](http://LOWELLMA.GOV/CORONAVIRUS)



# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

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## REMOTE LEARNING

- An MOA between the Lowell Public Schools and UTL was reached on April 2, 2020
- Following guidance from DESE, the district began implementing a remote learning program last week. Detailed outlines for preschool, elementary school (K-4), middle school (5-8), and high school have been uploaded to the district website, translated into Spanish, Portuguese, Khmer, and shared with families.
- Nothing can replace the in-person schooling experience, and we should not expect that remote learning can replicate the traditional school day. But, we are prepared to offer our students an engaging and meaningful learning experience during this time away from school.





# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

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## REMOTE LEARNING

- We are asking students to engage in meaningful and productive learning for approximately half the length of a regular school day (3 to 3.5 hours).
- Learning at all grade levels will take place via a combination of educator-directed learning and student self-directed learning.
  - Given the nature of their coursework, high school students will continue learning the content outlined in each course syllabus.
  - Students in preschool through grade 8 will reinforce the skills and concepts they have learned, as well as engage in new project-based experiences and online learning based on their learning needs.





# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

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## REMOTE LEARNING

- For students receiving special education services, teachers and Evaluation Team Chairs will make contact with students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) as they continue to work to develop a temporary distance learning plan that will support each child's individual needs during this temporary closure.
- For students identified for English learner services, teachers will contact their students to determine differentiated supports based on a student's English level.





# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

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## REMOTE LEARNING - Chromebook Distribution

- School staff are surveying families to determine each family's access to the internet and devices needed to participate in online learning.
  - Chromebook distribution has almost reached completion at the high school.
  - Middle schools and K-8 schools have started engaging in the Chromebook distribution process which is anticipated to be completed at the end of this upcoming week.
  - Soon thereafter, the district will transition to developing an assessment and distribution process for elementary school students.
  - These Chromebooks are on loan from the district and students will be responsible for returning them in the same condition in which they were received.





## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

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SUPPORTING THE REMOTE LEARNING NEEDS OF STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE AND STUDENTS THAT QUALIFY FOR MCKINNEY VENTO PROVISIONS DURING THE COVID-19

- The [McKinney-Vento Specialists](#) are reaching out to each of their assigned schools to:
  - Cross reference the list of students that have received Chromebooks or have responded to surveys indicating a need.
  - Verify that families of students receiving McKinney-Vento services have been contacted and in touch.
  - Assess the immediate housing and food needs of students and families.





## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

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SUPPORTING THE REMOTE LEARNING NEEDS OF STUDENTS IN FOSTER CARE AND STUDENTS THAT QUALIFY FOR MCKINNEY VENTO PROVISIONS DURING THE COVID-19

- Additionally, lists of students identified as being in a Foster Care arrangement are being cross-referenced with schools to ensure the learning needs of students in foster care are being met.





# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

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## REMOTE LEARNING - GRADING AND REPORT CARDS

- Report cards for elementary school students were mailed at the end of last week, which closely aligned with the regular schedule for elementary school report card distribution.
- Middle and High School report cards schedules are under review, and more information will be provided to students and families as we approach the regular timeline for secondary school report card distribution.
- Grading Policy to be discussed under New Business





## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

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**MCAS UPDATE** - from DESE Commissioner Riley as of Friday, 4/10

- DESE previously requested and received a waiver from the federal requirement for annual statewide student assessment.
- With the state legislation enacted, the MCAS testing requirement is waived for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.
- The commissioner is canceling this spring's regular administration of grade-level MCAS tests for students in grades 3-10.
- In addition, the legislation allows the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, upon DESE's recommendation, to modify or waive the requirements of the competency determination for high school graduation in order to address disruptions caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 or the state of emergency.
- Further guidance will be forthcoming.





# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

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## AT HOME LEARNING

- Before making a transition to remote learning, we were offering optional enrichment opportunities for all students.
- The at home learning section on our website is still populated with enrichment activities the Curriculum Office has put together to support your child's learning at each grade level and across various subjects to include ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, Social Emotional Learning and Physical Activities.
- At home learning packets have been made available at our lunch sites for students/families to take home. These packets can also be found on our website as downloadable PDFs. 2500 packets were printed for each week's distribution.





# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

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## RESOURCES FOR SOCIAL EMOTIONAL NEEDS

- The “at home learning” section of the Lowell Public Schools website includes links to social emotional learning (SEL) activities/resources to help children to talk about their feelings and adjusting to our new “normal”.
- Stay tuned for LPS #wellnesswednesdays where social emotional activities are selected and highlighted for students and families.
- Students and families who are in need of speaking with someone with questions or concerns during this time of need can call the Family Resource Center at 978 674-4321.
- The FRC will connect students and families with an SEL team member who can help connect families with community programs, support hotlines and even a way to consult with our school staff who specialize in mental health and social emotional needs for students and families.





## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

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- **CENTRAL OFFICE & FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER:** As of Tuesday, March 17, both locations have been closed to the public, with all staff working remotely.
  - Even with Central Office and FRC both closed to the public, families will still be able to call both offices:
    - Central Office - 978-674-4320
    - FRC - 978-674-4321





# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

## ONGOING MATTERS

- **REGISTRATION DELAYED:** School registration for preschool was scheduled to start on March 16, and registration for kindergarten was scheduled to start on March 30. We will be delaying both registration periods and will provide you with more details once new dates are finalized.
- **APRIL VACATION:** Recommendation will be provided under New Business





# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

## ONGOING MATTERS

- **GRADUATION:** High school graduation was originally scheduled on the 2019-2020 school calendar for June 3rd. Given Covid-19 and the ongoing updates to the Covid-19 response, June 24 has been identified as a contingency date.
- **SCHOOL PROM:** LHS leadership is meeting with class officers to determine contingency dates and plans for school prom.



*Lowell Public Schools*

# LHS Head of School Search

April 15, 2020

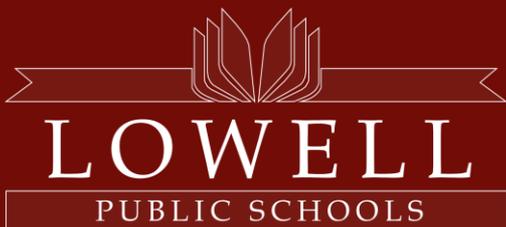




## Agenda

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- Head of School Opening
- Timeline
- Community Engagement
- Selection Process
- Recommendation



## Head of School Opening

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### How Did We Get Here?

- March 2, 2020
- Letter to LHS families and community
- Process for selecting a new HoS was drafted
  - Paused to focus on COVID-19
- District priorities immediately shifted to responding to student, family and staff needs



## Timeline

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### Steps Taken to-date

- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Announcement of HoS transition to central office
- The Lowell Public Schools closed Monday, March 16. The projected return date is Monday, May 4.
  - *On March 13, LPS announced a 2 week closure.*
  - *On March 15, Governor Baker announced all schools in the state will be closed for 3 weeks*
  - *On March 25, Governor Baker extended the state-wide closure until May 4*
- Prior to our closure, the plan was to begin the initial phases of the search process mid-March.



## Projected Timeline - Updated

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### Moving Forward

- Post HoS position – No later than April 24<sup>th</sup>
- Receive applications through May 15<sup>th</sup> , rolling review of applications for minimum qualifications
- Community Engagement Forums – TBA, prior to first interview
- Establish Screening Committee – April 27<sup>th</sup> - May 1st
  - Interview Qualified Applicants, May 18<sup>th</sup> – May 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Recommend 3 candidates to Superintendent
- Community: Meet the Finalists Forums May 27<sup>th</sup> - May 29<sup>th</sup>
- Superintendent makes final selection of candidate by June 2020



# Community Engagement - Awareness

## COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS

- Connect Ed – messages sent out to entire LHS student population
  - Emails
  - Phone Calls
- Website
- Social Media
  - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
- Emails to LHS staff, students, families
- Translation of messages in multiple languages



# Community Engagement - Input

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## COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS

- Community Engagement Forums – presently focused on virtual platforms/formats
  - Students
  - Staff
  - Community
- Input surveys – *attributes of the next HoS*
- Meet the finalists





## Search Process: External or Internal

- **External Consultant**
- Advantages
  - Established reputation/reach
  - External Objectivity
  - Expert status i.e. this is what they do
- Disadvantages
  - Missing the point
  - In and out
- **Internal Staff**
- Advantages
  - Integrated understanding
  - Follow-through
  - Proactive planning
- Disadvantages
  - Managing many projects



# Recommendation

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## Blended approach

- Lead the process internally by Chief Schools Officer
- Engage consultants on an as needed basis
  - To benefit from extensive knowledge of the field
  - To supplement staffing in this process

# Lowell Public Schools



## REPORT ON STATUS OF OUTSTANDING MOTIONS

Report on Motions: April 15, 2020

### ON-GOING REPORTS

Lowell High School Advisory: October 2 <sup>nd</sup> , December 18 <sup>th</sup> , March 18 <sup>th</sup> , May 20 <sup>th</sup> ,
Recognize Retirees: Every June
Annual Report on Textbook Purchases: Every August
Quarterly Enrollment Figures: October, January, April and July

### OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

LEAD	DATE OF MOTION	MOTION	DEPARTMENT ASSIGNED & EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS
1. SUPT	03/04/20	<p><u><i>Redline Edits to Specify Changes</i></u></p> <p>Request the Superintendent provide contracts, job descriptions, and other documents requiring school committee review (whether for executive session or open meeting) at least 24 hours before the meeting occurs. Also, the documents being reviewed must have redline edits that specify all changes from previous similar-type documents.</p>	Offices of Personnel & Superintendent	Ongoing



## REPORT ON STATUS OF OUTSTANDING MOTIONS

### OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL EQUITY & COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT – CHIEF EQUITY & ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

LEAD	DATE OF MOTION	MOTION	DEPARTMENT ASSIGNED & EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS
1. CEEO	08/21/19	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Revise Policy School Visits, Social Media &amp; Fundraising</i></u></p> <p>[by Gerard Nutter]: Request policy subcommittee meet with the administration before the two October School committee meetings to review/revise policy on school committee visits, social media, fundraising.</p>	Legislative Affairs	Will be raised for discussion at one of the upcoming Policy Subcommittee meetings that will be held per the availability of the Policy Subcommittee members
2. CEEO	09/04/19	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Review School Assignment Policy</i></u></p> <p>[by Mayor William Samaras and Gerard Nutter]: Administration to review the JCA – School Assignment Policy and provide recommendations especially with regard to siblings and the importance of family along with the student living within the school neighborhood street directory criteria.</p>	Welcome Services/FRC	Closed. School Assignment Policy approved at January 15, 2020 meeting
3. CEEO	09/18/19	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>District Wide Recess Policy</i></u></p> <p>[by Gerard Nutter And Andy Descoteaux ]: Administration compile a report on the implementation of District Wide Recess Policy to see how it is being followed and consider partnering with Lowell Education Justice Alliance to form a task force for further review and recommendations on recess being taken away as punishment.</p>	Office of Equity & Engagement	Will be discussed further at one of the upcoming Policy Subcommittee meetings that will be held per the availability of the Policy Subcommittee members
4. CEEO	10/02/19	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Training Program for School Site Council</i></u></p> <p>[by Jackie Doherty]: Request the Superintendent collaborates with the Citywide Family Council to develop and implement a training/educational program for School Site Council members in preparation for school-based budgeting in Spring 2020.</p>	Office of Equity & Engagement	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">School Site Council Memo</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Click link for memo</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In progress.</p>



## REPORT ON STATUS OF OUTSTANDING MOTIONS

LEAD	DATE OF MOTION	MOTION	DEPARTMENT ASSIGNED & EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS
5. CEEO	11/06/19	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Support Citywide Family Council</u></p> <p>[by Jackie Doherty]: Request the Superintendent provide the committee with a plan to support the Citywide Family Council efforts to engage parents that includes regular access to school leadership, designated school contacts, assistance in promoting CFC events directly to families, school site councils, advisory councils, and parent-teacher organizations, as well as other suggestions to collaborate with CFC in support of family-school engagement.</p>	Office of Equity & Engagement	Collaborative plan being developed to include strengthening communication and providing leadership workshops/trainings for implementation this school year.
6. CEEO	11/20/19	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Adult Education Graduation Rate</u></p> <p>[by Gerard Nutter]: Request Superintendent provides a report on how many Lowell Parents / Adults were enrolled in Adult Education for the last 3 years, how many out of City adults are we educating? Graduation rate of both.</p>	Adult Education Center	Closed. information provided at the December 18 <sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting.
7. CEEO	02/19/20	<p>[by Andy Descoteaux]: Ask the Superintendent to assign the responsibility to someone in the district to maintain a system-wide calendar of events that will be easy to navigate for all of our parents and staff who would attend many of these events if they knew where they could go on our website to find out.</p>	Office of Equity & Engagement – Communications Team	In progress
8. CEEO	02/19/20	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Selection Process on SSC</u></p> <p>[by Andy Descoteaux]: Ask the Superintendent to review whether or not some schools had administrative interference in the selection process of their SSC's. It should involve parents only.</p>	Office of Equity & Engagement	In progress



## REPORT ON STATUS OF OUTSTANDING MOTIONS

LEAD	DATE OF MOTION	MOTION	DEPARTMENT ASSIGNED & EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS
9. CEEO	02/19/20	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Smore newsletter software</u></p> <p>[by Hillary Clark]: Request the Superintendent provide the committee with a report on the feasibility of procuring licenses for the Smore newsletter software for use at every school in the district. Report back should include cost and plan for implementation including training. Smore is currently in use at the Pyne Arts Magnet School, Washington Elementary and Lowell High School. Benefits include translation of newsletter content into 100 languages and tracks engagement.</p>	Office of Equity & Engagement – Communications Team	In progress
10. CEEO	02/19/20	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Funds From Student Opportunity Act</u></p> <p>[by Jackie Doherty]: Request the Superintendent develop the spending plan and timeline for informing the committee and engaging the community on how the district will use additional funds generated from the Student Opportunity Act prior to April 1, which is the deadline for submitting to DESE.</p>	Office of Equity & Engagement	In progress
11. CEEO	02/19/20	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Citywide Family Council Annual Update</u></p> <p>[by Jackie Doherty]: <i>Per December 2018 motion</i>, request the Superintendent invite leaders from the Citywide Family Council to make their annual presentation updating the school committee on their work to engage families.</p>	Office of Equity and Engagement – Family Engagement Team	In progress



## REPORT ON STATUS OF OUTSTANDING MOTIONS

LEAD	DATE OF MOTION	MOTION	DEPARTMENT ASSIGNED & EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS
12. CEEO	04/01/20	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>United States Census</u></p> <p>[By Mayor John Leahy]: Request the Superintendent to update the Committee on district's plan to support the 2020 United States Census.</p>	Office of Equity & Engagement	In Progress

### OFFICE OF TEACHING & LEARNING – CHIEF OF SCHOOLS

LEAD	DATE OF MOTION	MOTION	DEPARTMENT ASSIGNED & EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS
1. CSO	02/19/20	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Recess &amp; Schools Daily Schedules</u></p> <p>[by Andy Descoteaux]: Ask the Superintendent to review whether or not all of our schools (save the High School) have incorporated recess into their daily schedules.</p>	CSO	Will be presented 03/18/20



## REPORT ON STATUS OF OUTSTANDING MOTIONS

### OFFICE OF TEACHING & LEARNING – CHIEF OF ACADEMICS

LEAD	DATE OF MOTION	MOTION	DEPARTMENT ASSIGNED & EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS
1. CAO	10/16/19	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Learning a Trade at LHS</i></u></p> <p>[by Dominik Lay]: Ask the Superintendent to develop a partnership with the Greater Lowell Technical School to afford students to learn a trade while attending Lowell High School.</p>	Office of Teaching and Learning Chief Academic Officer	Report will be prepared once grant notification from the DESE is received.
2. CAO	10/16/19	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Community Service Requirement</i></u></p> <p>[by Gerard Nutter]: Request LHS Sub-Committee meet to discuss possibility of adding a Community Service Requirement for all grades to count towards Graduation.</p>	LHS Head of Schools	Taskforce will be created to look at the feasibility
3. CAO	12/18/19	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Update on Bullying Policies</i></u></p> <p>[by Andy Descoteaux]: Request the Superintendent to update us on any new policies going forward on bullying.</p>	Office of Teaching & Learning	Referred to Policy Subcommittee
4. CAO	02/19/20	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Opioid Prevention Program</i></u></p> <p>[by Mayor John Leahy]: Request that the Superintendent work with the Fire Department to establish an Opioid Prevention Program at Lowell High School.</p>	Office of Teaching & Learning	Ongoing
5. CAO	02/19/20	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Makerspace's at LHS</i></u></p> <p>[by Hilary Clark]: Request the Superintendent provide a status update on the use of the Makerspace's at Lowell High School and the Bartlett Community Partnership School.</p>	Report will be provided at 3/18/2020 meeting	Report will be provided at 3/18/2020 meeting



## REPORT ON STATUS OF OUTSTANDING MOTIONS

LEAD	DATE OF MOTION	MOTION	DEPARTMENT ASSIGNED & EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS
6. CAO	03/04/20	<u>IDEA Camp</u> [by Mayor John Leahy]: Request the Superintendent provide the committee with an update on IDEA Camp	Office of Teaching & Learning	Will be presented 03/18/20
7. CAO	03/04/20	<u>Summer School Programs</u> [by Mayor John Leahy]: Request the Superintendent provide the committee with an update on Summer School Programs	Office of Teaching & Learning	Will be presented 03/18/20



## REPORT ON STATUS OF OUTSTANDING MOTIONS

### OFFICE OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS – CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

LEAD	DATE OF MOTION	MOTION	DEPARTMENT ASSIGNED & EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS
1. CFO	11/06/19	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PEG Funding</u></p> <p>[by Gerard Nutter And Andy Descoteaux]: Request School Committee vote to direct ALL PEG funding be used to update TV Studio Equipment and NOT on Personal salaries.</p>	In Progress Dec 2019	Report is in progress/draft
2. CFO	11/06/19	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Status of C.E.P. Program</u></p> <p>[by Gerard Nutter]: Request Update from Administration on status of C.E.P. program (Community Eligibility Provision) specifically if Gov't funding will continue/possible cuts and date when we have to reapply.</p>	Draft 11/15/19	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Draft Memo</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Click link for memo</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Waiting for DESE response</p>
3. CFO	04/01/20	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Expenditures by year</u></p> <p>By Bob Hoey]: That the superintendent produce a report by April 1, 2020 meet with the following information charting out spend expenditures by year for the last 15 years (or as far as back as possible)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of total special education budget; I Percentage of kids receiving special location services;</li> <li>• Amount of money spent on out of district services; I Percentages of children utilizing out of district services;</li> <li>• Number of employees working in Special Education (please also provide their job descriptions);</li> <li>• Total of number of employees within the district per year.</li> </ul>	CFO	In Progress



## REPORT ON STATUS OF OUTSTANDING MOTIONS

### OFFICE OF FINANCE & OPERATIONS- CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

LEAD	DATE OF MOTION	MOTION	DEPARTMENT ASSIGNED & EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS
1. COO	11/06/19	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Collegiate Charter School Hours</u></p> <p>[by Gerard Nutter]: Request Update from Administration on plans to alleviate additional transportation cost caused by the change in hours at the Collegiate Charter School of Lowell.</p>	Ongoing Transportation John Descoteaux	Transportation is in contact with CCS to addressing any proposed changes
2. COO	11/06/19	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MSBA School Repairs Update</u></p> <p>[by Andy Descoteaux]: Request the Superintendent provides the Committee with an update on the process of MSBA school repairs.</p>	Ongoing Facilities	Meetings occurred @ MSBA on 11/06/19 coordination with City is ongoing
3. COO	12/18/19	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Staff Evaluations</u></p> <p>(By Jacqueline Doherty): Request the Superintendent provide the committee with a report on the staffing positions (and number of employees impacted) that were not evaluated or only partially evaluated during the 2018-2019 academic year and the reasons, if known, why those evaluations were not completed. The report also should include whether any positions are not scheduled to be evaluated during the current academic year, and if so, what plans are in place to remedy any challenges going forward.</p>	COO	Ongoing Presented 02/05/20
4. COO	04/01/20	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Empty Judicial Building</u></p> <p>By Andy Descoteaux]: Ask the Superintendent to ask the City Manager what the status is of the empty judicial buildings in the city. If they are available for city use, the LPS could use one or two.</p>	COO	Status 4/15/20 Information of process requested from City. Will report at next meeting.



## REPORT ON STATUS OF OUTSTANDING MOTIONS

LEAD	DATE OF MOTION	MOTION	DEPARTMENT ASSIGNED & EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS
5. COO	3/27/20	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>S.C. Authority to Act on Contracts</u></p> <p>By Bob Hoey: Superintendent to review with Solicitor the School Committee's authority to vote on paying transportation providers and other vendors when services could not be performed because of COVID-19 closure of schools.</p>	COO	See memo dated 4/13/20

### CITY COUNCIL MOTIONS

LEAD	DATE OF MOTION	MOTION	DEPARTMENT ASSIGNED & EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	STATUS
2. CSO				



## Response to Motion: Makerspaces in Lowell Public Schools

TO: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools  
FROM: Robin Desmond, Chief Academic Officer *Robin Desmond*  
DATE: April 7, 2020  
RE: *Makerspaces in Lowell Public Schools*

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The following report is in response to the motion by Hilary Clark:

*Request the Superintendent provide a status update on the use of the Makerspace's at Lowell High School and the Bartlett Community Partnership School.*

The Bartlett Community Partnership School: The District STEM Resources Teacher position was eliminated from the FY20 budget. This position helped the Bartlett School staff get the Makerspace up and running over the past three years. The Bartlett School was unable to manage the Makerspace without the District STEM Resource position this school year. Materials and equipment are remaining housed in the space, but the space itself is not being utilized by the Bartlett staff currently. The principal, Peter Holtz, states that the Makerspace will play more of a role for next year, as enrichment will be more of a focus in the Bartlett School's Improvement Plan. Utilizing the site based budgeting process, Principal Holtz will develop a way to utilize the Makerspace for the next school year, by staffing it with either a teacher or a tutor.

Lowell High School (LHS): The Makerspace at the LHS Freshman Academy opened five years ago. From the start, there were many challenges that limited student access, and ultimately resulted in the space being phased out. In the first year, eight science teachers (each with four classes) were expected to use the Makerspace. Scheduling 32 classes was extremely problematic for the Freshman Academy administration. The Makerspace is physically located in a small space in the basement which makes student (700+) access a challenge. The Makerspace was not originally staffed by an additional teacher, so individual students could not use it as a drop in space. Now, in the fifth year, the downward decline has continued, because the equipment is outdated and there is still no staffing. The Makerspace is slated to be used to house other programs during the new LHS construction. The LHS Science Department Head, Stephanie Selvaggio, plans to reallocate the Makerspace equipment to two engineering teachers. Future LHS plans include, creating a more functional Makerspace in the new LHS building. Ms. Selvaggio will collect data on what should be in a new Makerspace, based on market trends and student interests, before starting the initiative again.

I would like to thank Elaine Santelmann, Coordinator of Science and Social Studies, for the information contained within this report.



## Authority on Payments to Contractors

To: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools

From: Dr. James P. Hall, Chief Operating Officer

Date: April 13, 2020

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The following report is a partial response to the motion by Robert Hoey on March 27, 2020:

**[By Bob Hoey]: Superintendent to review with Solicitor the School Committee's authority to vote on paying transportation providers and other vendors when services could not be performed because of COVID-19 closure of schools.**

We have received legal guidance on whether the Governor's emergency orders to municipalities granted any flexibility to the School Committee to make payments when services were not rendered due to the COVID-19 closure of school.

The School Committee's authority continues to be limited by the Lowell Code of Ordinances, Sec 28-7; supporting case law; and the Contracts themselves. The City Auditor's approval is also needed for any payment and such must be made "in accordance with the terms of the contract" (Lowell Code of Ordinances, 28-7).

LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent of Schools  
155 Merrimack Street  
Lowell, Massachusetts 08152

Phone: (978) 674-4324  
Fax: (978) 937-7609  
E-mail:  
superintendent@lowell.k12.ma.us



To: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools  
From: Latifah Phillips, Chief Equity and Engagement Officer  
Date: April 13, 2020  
Re: School Choice M.G.L. Chapter 76 Section 12b

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I am recommending that the Lowell Public Schools maintain its current stance to opt out of participation in the inter-district school choice program for grades 9-12 for the 2020-2021 school year.

My recommendation is based on discussions with our Lowell Public Schools administrators, consultation with our staff attorneys, and in review of guidance from DESE in regards to School Choice.



*News from Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley & the  
MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

## **On the Desktop – May 3, 2019**

### **Re: School Choice**

Dear Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, and Assistant Superintendents,

The Department has published an updated legal advisory addressing inter-district school choice under G.L. c. 76, § 12B. That advisory can be found at [<http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/advisory/2019-0423glc76s12b.html>], on the “Education Laws and Regulations” page of the Department’s website under “Legal Advisories.” With one exception, the information in this advisory is not new. This advisory updates the previous advisory, issued in 1995, and compiles the numerous questions we have received and answered over the last few decades. As you will see in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), it also touches upon topics such as special education, homeless students, vocational education students, and regional school districts as these topics relate to school choice.

The **one change** in the Department’s previous guidance and legal interpretation of the school choice statute, after much internal and external discussion over several years, is with respect to students enrolled through school choice in a district that has a limited grade span. The new guidance appears in the FAQ section of the advisory as follows:

#### **34. Does a student who attends an elementary or K-8 school district through school choice have an automatic right to progress with resident students to a regional high school?**

No. Effective beginning with fiscal year 2020, school year 2019-20, a school choice student admitted to an elementary or K-8 district does not have a right to attend high school in a regional school district, including a regional vocational technical district. Because regional school districts are districts separate from municipal school districts, those districts separately determine whether to participate in school choice and, if so, into which schools, grades, and programs it will admit students through school choice.<sup>1</sup> If the regional school district operating the high school participates in school choice, a non-resident student may seek to attend the regional high school through school choice under G.L. c. 76, § 12B.

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<sup>1</sup> Municipalities, as opposed to school districts, are the members of regional school districts. G.L. c. 71, §15.

**Note:** This is a change from the Department's prior interpretation of the school choice statute, which advised that a non-resident student admitted through school choice had an automatic right to progress to a separate regional school district for later grades. In changing its interpretation, the Department carefully examined the plain language of the statute. Recognizing this shift, students currently admitted to or attending an elementary or K-8 district through school choice will continue to have an automatic right to attend through graduation from the regional school district, consistent with our past guidance. For future students who may seek admission through school choice, the Department now requires municipal school districts to provide clear, written notice that they will not have an automatic right to progress to the regional school district for later grades. This change takes effect starting with students admitted for fiscal year 2020, school year 2019-20.

#### Example

Student 1 lives in District A and, beginning in fiscal year 2020, attends school in District B through school choice. District B is a municipal school district and offers grades K-8. Municipality B, the municipality in which District B is located, is a member of a regional school district, District C, for grades 9-12. Student 1 does not have an automatic right to attend high school in District C. Student 1, however, may be able to attend high school in District C if District C participates in school choice and has seats available.

Please note that, as stated above, **this change does not apply to students currently admitted to or attending an elementary or K-8 district through school choice.** It will take effect starting with students admitted for fiscal year 2020, school year 2019-20.

As you finalize budgets for the upcoming fiscal year and make decisions regarding inter-district school choice, we encourage you to review this advisory. Please do not hesitate to contact the Department through its Center for School & District Finance at [sfinance@doe.mass.edu](mailto:sfinance@doe.mass.edu) or the Office for College, Career, & Technical Education at [ccte@doe.mass.edu](mailto:ccte@doe.mass.edu) should you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley  
Commissioner

## Education Laws and Regulations

Advisory on Inter-District School Choice  
Pursuant to G.L. c. 76, §12B

To: School Committee Chairpersons, Superintendents of Schools, and Other Interested Parties

From: Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Date: April 23, 2019

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The inter-district school choice program under [G.L. c. 76, § 12B](#), has been in place in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts since 1991.<sup>1</sup> School choice allows a parent or guardian to enroll his or her child in a school district other than the district in which the child lives. The purpose of this advisory is to assist districts in understanding inter-district school choice under G.L. c.76, § 12B, and includes Frequently Asked Questions and Answers. This advisory replaces the previous advisory issued in 1995. This advisory updates the previous advisory and compiles the numerous questions we have received and answered since 1995 interpreting the requirements of G.L. c.76, § 12B. The text of [G.L. c. 76, § 12B](#) is attached for easy reference.

### **Presumption That All School Committees Will Participate in School Choice**

Under the school choice law, G.L. c.76, § 12B, as amended in 1993, all school districts in Massachusetts are presumed to participate in and to admit non-resident students through school choice. See G.L. c. 76, § 12B(d) (“Each city, town or regional school district shall enroll non-resident students at the school of such non-resident student's choice; provided, however, that such receiving district has seats available”). A receiving district can withdraw from school choice only if a school committee holds a public hearing on this issue and then votes to withdraw from the school choice program prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>.<sup>2</sup> G.L. c. 76, § 12B(d). The hearing and the school committee’s vote can occur at the same meeting and may occur at a scheduled school committee meeting provided there is notice to the public that this item will be discussed and that members of the public are afforded an opportunity to participate and make their positions known to the school committee prior to the vote. A separate meeting is not required for this purpose. A school committee that intends to continue participating in school choice is not required to hold a hearing or

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<sup>1</sup> Other public educational choices for students include enrolling in their home district, charter schools, Commonwealth of Massachusetts virtual schools, vocational technical education programs, Metco, and the Massachusetts Academy of Math & Science at WPI. Private educational choices include private and parochial schools and home schooling. For additional information regarding educational choices in Massachusetts, please see <http://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/schoolchoice/choice-guide.html#>.

<sup>2</sup> Sending school districts cannot “withdraw” from school choice.

to vote because G.L. c. 76, § 12B, contains a presumption that all school districts will participate in school choice.

A timely decision and vote by a school committee to withdraw from school choice is effective only for the following school year. The resolution on which the school committee votes to withdraw from school choice must contain the reasons for the withdrawal. While the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) does not review decisions to withdraw from school choice, the school committee must notify the Department of its vote to withdraw and the reasons for the withdrawal as soon as reasonably possible after the vote. A school committee withdrawing from school choice must continue to serve all non-resident students previously admitted through school choice. G.L. c. 76, § 12B(d).

### **Student Selection Process**

When admitting students through school choice under G.L. c.76, § 12B, school districts may not consider or discriminate based on race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need,<sup>3</sup> academic performance, or proficiency in the English language. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of available seats, the selection of students must be on a random basis. The selection process must take place prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> and again, assuming there are seats available, prior to November 1<sup>st</sup>. Once students are selected, the receiving school district<sup>4</sup> must notify the sending district<sup>5</sup> of the acceptance of such students.<sup>6</sup> Neither the sending nor the receiving school district may disclose publicly the identities of student participants in school choice. G.L. c. 76, § 12B(j).

### **Financing School Choice**

The school choice tuition for students in a regular education program is \$5,000 per student.<sup>7</sup> For students attending half-day kindergarten, tuition is \$2,500 per student. For students eligible for special education, an additional increment is added to the base regular education amount to cover the cost of these services. These amounts are determined using a cost calculator similar to the one used for the circuit breaker program

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<sup>3</sup> Section 12B of G.L. c. 76 uses the terms “physical handicap” and “special need” but does not use the term “disability.” Except when citing the specific portion of Section 12B, this advisory uses the term “disability.”

<sup>4</sup> The receiving district is the district in which a student attends school under school choice. This is also referred to as the school choice district.

<sup>5</sup> The sending district is the district in which the student lives.

<sup>6</sup> Additionally, the Department notifies sending districts in December and June through school choice reports.

<sup>7</sup> Section 12B of G.L. c. 76 provides that the amount is 75% of the actual per pupil spending amount for students in the receiving district in the type of program received by the student, up to \$5,000 per student. In every district, this amount has been \$5,000 for a substantial number of years.

under G.L. c. 71B, § 5B.<sup>8</sup> School choice students are not eligible to receive transportation services unless a student's disability requires transportation and their Individual Education Program (IEP) includes special transportation as a related service.

The state treasurer deducts school choice tuition from the sending district's total education aid, as specified in G.L. c. 70 and G.L. c. 76, § 12B(f). If there is not enough Chapter 70 aid to fund fully the school choice tuition, the treasurer deducts the remaining tuition from other state aid appropriated for the sending district. Section 12B(a) of G.L. c. 76 additionally limits school choice participation to 2 percent of the total number of students attending public schools in the Commonwealth in a given fiscal year.

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<sup>8</sup> See also information posted at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/circuitbreaker/>.

<sup>9</sup> If school choice enrollment exceeds this statewide limit, tuition payments would be prorated.

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<sup>9</sup> Additional information regarding school choice and trends in enrollment through school choice can be found at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/schoolchoice/>.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### **District Participation in School Choice**

**1. May a school committee vote to specify into which schools, grades, and programs it will admit students through school choice?**

Yes. When determining capacity for admission of school choice students by June 1<sup>st</sup> for the upcoming school year, school committees may specify the schools and grades in which seats are available for non-resident students. See G.L. c. 76, § 12B(c). Therefore, it is permissible for a school committee to limit the admission of non-resident students through school choice to specific grades, programs, and schools.

It is important to note, however, that once a non-resident student is admitted through school choice, the school district must treat students admitted through school choice in the same manner as it treats students residing in the district. The basic premise of the school choice law is that a school choice student once admitted to the district must be treated in the same way a resident student is treated. Therefore, if students who reside in the district are permitted to transfer to other schools or programs within the district, then students admitted through school choice must also be permitted to transfer to other schools or programs in the district.

**2. May a school committee rescind an earlier vote to participate in school choice?**

It depends. If the new vote of the school committee occurs before June 1, it overrides the previous vote. Students who are already participating in the school choice program, or who were admitted prior to the new vote, have a right to continue attending school in the receiving district. If the new vote of the school committee occurs on or after June 1, it is ineffective and the district remains a school choice district for the upcoming school year.

**3. May a school committee rescind an earlier vote to withdraw from school choice?**

Yes. Consistent with statutory presumption that all school districts will participate in school choice, a school committee may rescind an earlier vote to withdraw from school choice. The new vote to participate in school choice need not occur prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Provision of Information on School Choice**

### **4. May a district advertise its status as a school choice district?**

Yes. Advertising its status and seats available for admission is consistent with notifying potential applicants of the availability of seats and the process for admission through school choice. The Department annually updates and publishes the [list](#) of districts that participate in school choice on its website.

### **5. How should districts that participate in school choice inform potential applicants of the application process?**

Districts participating in school choice are encouraged to publish the availability of school choice seats and the district's admission process and deadlines, including making such information readily available on the district's website. School districts must also must provide the information upon request.

### **6. Where can a family obtain information about how to apply through school choice?**

Applicants should contact the district they want to attend for information on how to apply for school choice.

## **Admission and Continued Attendance of Students**

### **7. Does a student need to be a Massachusetts resident to seek admission pursuant to G.L. c. 76, § 12B?**

Yes. Admission through school choice is only open to residents of Massachusetts. [See](#) G.L. c. 76, § 12B(a) (definition of sending district). Additionally, a student must be a resident of Massachusetts to attend and to continue attending a receiving district through school choice.

### **8. Must a school district use a random selection process?**

The statute requires a random selection process if there are more applications for admission than there are seats available. The statute also prohibits school districts from discriminating in the admission of any student on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need, academic performance, or proficiency in the English language. G.L. c. 76, § 12B(j).

### **9. May a school choice district accept students at any time during the school year?**

Yes, provided that there are fewer applicants than seats available for school choice students. If there are more applicants than seats available, the receiving

district must conduct a random selection process prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> and again, assuming there are seats available, prior to November 1<sup>st</sup>. Once names are selected during a random process, the district can maintain a waitlist of those names and admit students from that list during the year should seats become available. The same requirements regarding notice to the sending district apply to students admitted during the year as apply to students admitted before a school year begins. See the discussion under “student Selection Process” on page 2 of this advisory.

**10. Must school districts establish a sibling preference policy when admitting students pursuant to G.L. c. 76, § 12B?**

Yes. Under G.L. c. 76 § 12B(j), any sibling of a student currently attending school in the receiving district receives a preference for admission. Siblings are students who have a common parent, either biologically or legally through adoption. Children who live in the same household, such as step-siblings and foster children, and do not share a common parent are not siblings for purposes of receiving a sibling preference for admission. Students entitled to a sibling preference are those who have a sibling currently attending school in the receiving district when an offer of admission is made.

This preference is available to students who have a common parent regardless of whether the students live in the same household, whether the student currently attending was admitted as a resident student or through school choice, or whether the student currently attending will still be enrolled when the newly admitted student begins attending. The sibling preference is not available for students who do not share a common parent biologically or legally and live in the same household.

Receive Sibling Preference	Do Not Receive Sibling Preference
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who live in different households but share a common biological or legal parent</li> <li>• Siblings of students who will graduate at the end of the school year in which the admissions process occurs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children who live in the same household but do not share a common biological or legal parent</li> <li>• Foster children without a common biological or legal parent</li> <li>• Step-siblings without a common biological or legal parent</li> <li>• Siblings of applicants accepted for admission who are not yet attending, including twins</li> </ul>

The sibling preference applies only when one sibling is already attending in the school choice district. If siblings of the same family apply simultaneously and only one sibling is admitted, no preference is available for the sibling who has not yet been admitted.

**11. How does sibling preference apply when a student is seeking to attend a regional vocational technical high school through school choice under G.L. c. 76, § 12B?**

Siblings of students currently attending the regional vocational technical school seeking admission under G.L. c. 76, § 12B, must receive a sibling preference during the admission process for school choice. The sibling preference applies to regional vocational schools admitting students under G.L. c. 76, § 12B, in the same manner that it applies to all other schools.

**12. May districts designate students as school choice who have not been admitted through the school choice process?**

No. Only students admitted through the school choice process may be counted and reported as school choice students.

**13. May a school district establish a preference for the children of school district or other municipal employees when admitting students through school choice?**

No. A preference for admission on any basis other than for siblings is inconsistent with the random selection requirement in the statute. Outside of school choice, however, a school district may admit children of school district and municipal employees under G.L. c. 76, § 12. Also see FAQ No. 29. The receiving district is not eligible to receive school choice tuition for such students.

**14. Without signed parental consent, may a receiving district contact a student's district of residence to obtain records?**

During the application phase, the school choice district should not obtain or consider student records from the student's previous or current district. Once a student is admitted and accepts that offer of admission, however, the receiving district can request student records from the sending district as a matter of right under the student record regulations at [603 CMR 23.07\(4\)\(g\)](#). This regulation provides as follows.

(g) Authorized school personnel of the school to which a student seeks or intends to transfer may have access to such student's record without the consent of the eligible student or parent, provided that the school the student is leaving, or has left, gives notice that it forwards student records to schools in which the student seeks or intends to enroll. Such notice may be included in the routine information letter required under 603 CMR 23.10.

**15. May a receiving district consider a student’s disciplinary record prior to accepting a student?**

No. A receiving district may not consider a student’s disciplinary record during the admission process under G.L. c. 76, § 12B. In consultation with its lawyer, a district may consider beginning its own disciplinary process once a student is attending.

**16. May a school district refuse to admit students through school choice who have been expelled from another school?**

No. Prior to 2014, school officials had discretion to admit or not to admit a student who had been expelled. The disciplinary statutes were revised in 2014 and the language permitting public schools to refuse to admit expelled students was deleted. Therefore, public schools may no longer refuse to admit students because they were expelled from another school. While not addressing school choice explicitly, the [advisory](#) and [question and answers](#) on student discipline posted on the Department’s website provide more detailed information about student discipline laws.

**17. May a receiving district rescind an offer of admission based upon a student’s disciplinary record?**

No. A receiving district may not rescind an offer of admission based upon a student’s disciplinary record. In consultation with its lawyer, a district may consider beginning its own disciplinary process once a student is attending.

**18. How can a selective secondary school participate in school choice and still be “selective?”**

Selective secondary schools in Massachusetts, which are primarily regional vocational technical schools, admit students pursuant to an admissions plan that has been approved by the Department. Participating in school choice under G.L. c. 76, § 12B, is an additional option for regional vocational technical schools that have seats not filled by resident students.<sup>10</sup> School choice students are accepted after resident students who meet the minimum requirements for admission.

The admission of students through school choice under G.L. c. 76, § 12B, is a separate and distinct process from the admission of students to a regional vocational school pursuant to its selective admissions plan approved by the Department. If a regional vocational technical school admits students under G.L. c. 76, § 12B, it may not consider, among other characteristics, athletic

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<sup>10</sup> Inter-district school choice under G.L. c. 76, § 12B, is separate and distinct from the nonresident student tuition process under G.L. c. 74 and 603 CMR 4.00. There are significant differences between the two programs. Additional information regarding the nonresident tuition process may be found at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/cte/admissions/>.

performance, physical handicap, special need, or academic performance. An admissions process under G.L. c. 76, § 12B, is not a selective admissions process.

**19. May a child who is too young to be eligible for kindergarten entry in his or her district be admitted through school choice as a kindergarten student in another district that has a different age standard?**

Yes. If the child qualifies for admission to the receiving district, the district of residence must pay the school choice tuition for this student. Additionally, if the student returns to the district of residence after completing kindergarten, the district of residence must enroll this student like any other student enrolling in the district for the first time, including grade placement.

Example

Children in District A must be five years old by September 1<sup>st</sup> to enter kindergarten. Children in District B must be five years old by December 31<sup>st</sup> to enter kindergarten. Student 1 from District A, who does not meet District A's age requirement, enrolls in kindergarten in District B through school choice. District A is responsible for this student's tuition even though the student would not be eligible to enroll in District A. The fact that the sending district has a different kindergarten entry age is irrelevant under school choice, except to the extent that it may motivate families to seek enrollment of the child in another district. Additionally, should Student 1 return to District A for a subsequent grade, District A should enroll that student as it would any other student who moves into the district for the first time and seeks to attend school.

**20. May a district admit students into pre-kindergarten through school choice?**

Yes, districts may admit students into pre-kindergarten programs through school choice provided they follow the admission practices required for school choice and do so after admitting all resident students. Note, however, that receiving districts will receive school choice tuition only for those pre-kindergarten students who qualify for special education and have an IEP.

**21. If a resident student moves from the district but wishes to continue to attend school there, may the district enroll this student through school choice? May the district provide this student an admission preference? May the district count this student as a school choice student?**

Provided it participates in school choice, the district may enroll such a student if it follows the same process that it uses for all other non-resident students, including the provisions relating to public notice. The district, however, may not provide an admission preference to this student or admit this student ahead of other students who may wish to be admitted or who are on a waitlist. Alternatively, the school

committee could allow the former student to continue to attend at no cost to the student's family or could enter into an agreement with the school committee of the new district of residence to allow that student to attend at the expense of the new school district. See G.L. c. 76, § 12 (addressing agreements between school committees for the education of students), and FAQ No. 30. If the student is not admitted through school choice following the same process that it uses for all other non-resident students, the district cannot count the student as a school choice student, receive school choice tuition for the student, or otherwise "convert" the student to school choice.

**22. What happens to a school choice student's status if the student studies abroad independent of the school district's programs or otherwise stops attending school in the receiving district?**

The receiving district would unenroll the student if he or she stops attending school in the receiving district. The student no longer has a right to attend school in the receiving district. Instead, if seats were available and the student wished to attend again in the receiving district, the student would need to reapply and participate in the same application process as all other non-resident students. The receiving district cannot provide an enrollment preference to this student or admit this student ahead of other students.

**23. May a receiving district approve a home schooling plan for a student who does not reside in the district?**

No. Under G.L. c. 76, § 1, the student's district of residence has authority to evaluate and approve home education plans. Such approval must occur in advance of withdrawing a student from school. See G.L. c. 76, § 1 (student of compulsory school age must "attend a public day [or some other approved school . . . but such attendance shall not be required of a child . . . who is being otherwise instructed in a manner approved in advance by the superintendent or the school committee.>"). Students who are home schooled in Massachusetts are considered to be privately enrolled.

**Rights of Students**

**24. Must a student admitted under school choice reapply for admission in subsequent years?**

No. Once a receiving district admits a non-resident student through school choice, that student has the right to remain in the receiving district, provided his or her enrollment is continuous, until he or she graduates from high school or completes the highest grade offered by the district. The right to continued attendance exists even if the school district decides that it will no longer participate in the school choice program.

**25. Once a student is accepted through school choice, can the receiving district rescind the acceptance because of the student’s academic record?**

No. A district may not rescind an offer of admission based upon a student’s academic record because that would be discriminating based upon academic performance, a practice explicitly prohibited by the school choice statute at G.L. c. 76, § 12B(j).

**26. Must a school choice district admit students with disabilities who may require out-of-district placements?**

Yes. The school choice law explicitly states that applicants cannot be discriminated against on the basis of disability. School districts may not consider whether students have a disability or the nature of their disabilities in determining whether to admit them under G.L. c. 76, § 12B, and similarly may not rescind any offers of admission on the basis of a student’s disability or needs.<sup>11</sup> Neither a sending district nor a receiving district may require a student who needs an out-of-district placement to unenroll from the receiving district or to re-enroll in the sending district. A student who is accepted through school choice is entitled to the same rights and privileges as if the student were a resident of the district. It is important to note that the school choice tuition for a student with disabilities is determined using a cost calculator similar to the one used for the circuit breaker program; this does not include the costs of evaluations for special education. The costs of evaluations are paid by receiving districts.

**27. May a school choice student be disciplined, including suspension or expulsion, by the receiving district?**

Yes. The same rules and process regarding discipline that apply to resident students also apply to non-resident students attending through school choice. See the Department’s [discipline advisory](#) for additional information regarding student discipline. If a receiving district imposes discipline on a school choice student, it must provide alternative educational services. While a student always has the right to re-enroll in the district of residence, a receiving district may not “send a student back” to the district of residence following discipline or otherwise pressure a student to re-enroll in the district of residence.

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<sup>11</sup> Under the special education regulations at [603 CMR 28.10\(6\)\(b\)](#), the school choice district must invite the district of residence to Team meetings “provided such participation [does] not limit the student’s right to a timely evaluation and placement.”

**28. If a student who is participating in school choice becomes homeless, may the student continue to participate in school choice?**

Yes. Students who are attending through school choice under G.L. c. 76, § 12B, have a right to continue attending as school choice students through the full course of curriculum. This is true irrespective of whether they become homeless, provided they continue to reside outside the district in which they attend school through school choice. In general, however, school choice students do not have a right to transportation.

Alternatively, the student may continue to attend in the school choice district as a homeless student under the federal McKinney-Vento Act. Under McKinney-Vento, students who become homeless have a right either to remain in their “school of origin” or to attend school where they are temporarily residing. The school choice district in which the student was attending school when the student became homeless is the “school of origin.” Homeless students who choose to remain in their school of origin have the right to remain there until the end of the school year in which they get permanent housing, and have additional rights to transportation. Detailed information regarding the education rights of homeless students can be found at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mv/>.

School choice students who become homeless and who wish to remain in school in the receiving district may choose whether to continue attending as school choice students or whether to exercise their rights to continue attending in the school choice district under McKinney-Vento. While school districts should inform parents, guardians, and students of their rights, school districts may not pressure or otherwise encourage such students to make a particular choice or to give up their rights. The consequences of such a choice are significant. If the student chooses to continue to be a school choice student, they will not have access to transportation services. If the student chooses to continue attending under McKinney-Vento, they will have access to transportation but may not be able to continue attending school in the district beyond the end of the school year in which they get permanent housing.

**29. May a homeless student seek admission through school choice?**

Yes, a homeless student has the same right to seek admission through school choice as any other student who resides in Massachusetts.

**30. May a district report to the Department a student as “school choice” solely because the student became homeless and resides temporarily outside the school district in which the student attends school?**

No. School districts may only report students to the Department as “school choice” if the students have been admitted to the district through the admission

process for school choice. Students may not be “converted” to school choice solely because they live outside the district in which they attend school.

**31. Are students placed in foster care by the Department of Children and Families school choice students?**

No. Students who reside in a foster home are not school choice students on that basis alone. Students in foster care, however, may seek admission through school choice to districts other than those in which they live. Detailed information regarding the education of students in foster care can be found at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/foster/>.

**32. If a student lives in two school districts and attends school in one of those districts, is that student a school choice student?**

No. If a student lives in two separate residences because his or her parents share physical custody, irrespective of how that time is divided, the student may choose either location as the district of residence for purposes of attending school. That student is considered a resident of whichever district in which he or she chooses to attend school. Such students are not counted or reported as school choice students.

**33. If a student lives in two school districts and applies to a third districts through school choice, which district of residence is the sending district?**

Both districts of residence are sending districts and the school choice tuition is split between the two districts.

**Transition between Schools**

**34. Does a student who attends an elementary or K-8 school district through school choice have an automatic right to progress with resident students to a regional high school?**

No. Effective beginning with fiscal year 2020, school year 2019-20, a school choice student admitted to an elementary or K-8 district does not have a right to attend high school in a regional school district, including a regional vocational technical district. Because regional school districts are districts separate from municipal school districts, those districts separately determine whether to participate in school choice and, if so, into which schools, grades, and programs it will admit students through school choice.<sup>12</sup> If the regional school district operating the high school participates in school choice, a non-resident student may seek to attend the regional high school through school choice under G.L. c. 76, § 12B.

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<sup>12</sup> Municipalities, as opposed to school districts, are the members of regional school districts. G.L. c. 71, §15.

**Note:** This is a change from the Department’s prior interpretation of the school choice statute, which advised that a non-resident student admitted through school choice had an automatic right to progress to a separate regional school district for later grades. In changing its interpretation, the Department carefully examined the plain language of the statute. Recognizing this shift, students currently admitted to or attending an elementary or K-8 district through school choice will continue to have an automatic right to attend through graduation from the regional school district, consistent with our past guidance. For future students who may seek admission through school choice, the Department now requires municipal school districts to provide clear, written notice that they will not have an automatic right to progress to the regional school district for later grades. This change takes effect starting with students admitted for fiscal year 2020, school year 2019-20.

Example

Student 1 lives in District A and, beginning in fiscal year 2020, attends school in District B through school choice. District B is a municipal school district and offers grades K-8. Municipality B, the municipality in which District B is located, is a member of a regional school district, District C, for grades 9-12. Student 1 does not have an automatic right to attend high school in District C. Student 1, however, may be able to attend high school in District C if District C participates in school choice and has seats available.

**35. How does the right to attend a school choice district through high school graduation apply to a district that tuitions out students in higher grades to a school district that is not a school choice district?**

Under G.L. c. 71, § 6, school committees of towns not maintaining a high school enter into tuition agreements for students to attend high school. The general premise of school choice is that a receiving district must treat a school choice student in the same way it treats a resident student. Therefore, the receiving district must tuition school choice students to high school in the same manner as it tuitions resident students. The high school into which students are tuitioned will charge the tuition for all students it receives to the K-8 district, including students who were attending the K-8 district through school choice. The K-8 district includes school choice students on its school choice reports and receives the school choice tuition from the students’ communities of residence.

Example

Student 1 lives in District A and attends school in District B through school choice. District B is a municipal school district and offers grades K-8. Municipality B is not a member of a regional school district. District B, therefore, tuitions its students into District C for high school. Student 1

has a right to attend high school in District C in the same manner as students who reside in District B. District C will receive the agreed-upon tuition from District B, and District B will receive school choice tuition from District A.

### **Transportation and Other Tuition Arrangements**

#### **36. Must a school choice district provide transportation to non-resident students with disabilities?**

Students who participate in the school choice program do not receive transportation services unless those services are included in a student's IEP. Specialized transportation is considered a "related service" under state and federal laws regarding special education and, if needed, should be included on the student's IEP. The receiving district would provide this transportation and the sending district would reimburse the receiving district for the cost of providing this service under G.L. c. 76, §12B(f).

#### **37. May a school committee accept students from another school district on a tuition basis apart from school choice?**

Yes. The school choice law does not affect G.L. c. 76 § 12, which states that

[a]ny child, with the consent of the school committee of the town where he resides, may attend, at the expense of said town, the public schools of another town, upon such terms as may be fixed by the two committees.

In addition, other statutes, including [G.L. c. 71B, § 4](#) (special education), and [G.L. c. 74, § 7](#) (non-resident vocational technical education),<sup>13</sup> explicitly provide additional means for certain students to attend the schools in communities in which they do not live. School choice under G.L. c. 76, § 12B, is a separate program and does not affect these statutes.

#### **38. May a school committee charge tuition for out-of-state residents?**

Yes. School choice law under G.L. c. 76, § 12B, does not affect [G.L. c. 71, § 6A](#), which allows city, town, and regional school districts to admit non-Massachusetts residents on a tuition basis. That statute also allows school committees to vote to waive the tuition for such students.

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<sup>13</sup> Inter-district school choice under G.L. c. 76, § 12B, is separate and distinct from the nonresident student tuition process under G.L. c. 74 and 603 CMR 4.00. There are significant differences between the two programs. Additional information regarding the nonresident tuition process may be found at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/cte/admissions/>.

**ATTACHMENT: G.L. c. 76, § 12B**

Section 12B. (a) As used in this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

"Above foundation reimbursement amount", (i) for fiscal year nineteen hundred and ninety-four, fifty percent of the net losses due to the provisions of this section; provided, however, that if the amount lost by said district pursuant to subsection (f) is greater than two percent of the total school budget of said district, the amount of said reimbursement shall be equal to seventy-five percent of the net losses due to the provisions of this section; (ii) beginning in fiscal year nineteen hundred and ninety-five, twenty-five percent of the net losses due to the provisions of this section.

"Receiving district", any city, town or regional school district within the commonwealth in which a child does not reside, but in which that child attends public school under the provisions of this section.

"Sending district", any city, town or regional school district within the commonwealth in which a child resides, but in which that child does not attend public school under the provisions of this section.

"State school choice limit", in fiscal year nineteen hundred and ninety-four, one percent of the total number of students attending public schools in the commonwealth; in fiscal year nineteen hundred and ninety-five, one and one-half percent of the total number of students attending public schools in the commonwealth; in fiscal year nineteen hundred and ninety-six, one and three-quarters percent of the total number of students attending public schools in the commonwealth; in fiscal year nineteen hundred and ninety-seven and thereafter, two percent of the total number of students attending public schools in the commonwealth; provided, however, that students enrolled under the program for the elimination of racial imbalance as provided in section twelve A shall not be counted toward these limits.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of section twelve, or any other special or general law to the contrary, any child may attend a public school, in a city or town where he does not reside; provided, however, that the receiving district shall be paid by the commonwealth a tuition rate as established in subsection (f).

(c) Not later than May first of every year, the school committee of each city, town or regional school district shall submit a report to the department stating:

(1) The capacity of each school in said city, town or regional school district for the following academic year.

(2) The number of students expected to attend each school in said city, town or regional school district in the following academic year.

(3) The number of students attending said school district under the terms of this section in the prior school year and the number of those students who are expected no longer to be attending said school district in the next school year.

(4) The number of additional seats therefore available to non-resident students reduced by the number of students enrolled under the program for the elimination of racial imbalance as provided in section twelve A, in said charter school or each school in said city, town or regional school district. The board may require every district to update this report in whatever manner is required to effectuate the objectives of this section.

(d) Each city, town or regional school district shall enroll non-resident students at the school of such non-resident student's choice; provided, however, that such receiving district has seats available as stated in said report; provided, however, that this obligation to enroll non-resident students shall not apply to a district for a school year in which its school committee, prior to June first, after a public hearing, adopts a resolution withdrawing from said obligation, for the school year beginning the following September. Any such resolution of a school committee shall state the reasons therefor, and such resolution with said reasons shall be filed with the department of education; provided, however, that said department shall have no power to review any such decision by a school committee. If the city, town or regional school district operates an intra-district choice plan, non-resident students may apply for schools on the same basis as resident students, but the intra-district choice plan may give preference to resident students in assigning students to schools.

(e) Not later than the first day of July, each city, town or regional school district shall each year submit a non-resident attendance report to the board and to the state treasurer, certifying the number of non-resident applicants for each available seat in each school, the disposition of their applications, how many of said applicants will be attending the district in the next school year, the identity of the sending districts for those students, the annual amount of tuition for each such child and the total tuition owed to the district based on full or partial attendance, itemized by the amount attributable to each city or town of residence. The board may review said certification to determine that the amount of the individual tuition charged for each child is in accordance with the provisions of this section and shall inform the state treasurer of any errors. The department may also, on a post-audit basis, verify the admission and attendance of the number of children certified by each school district. In addition to the foregoing, all said districts shall, on October first and April first, report to the board and certify to the state treasurer accurate and up to date reports of all the information required in the non-resident attendance report. If the total number of students admitted to receiving districts pursuant to this section is greater than the state school choice limit, the board shall notify all districts that no more students may be accepted pursuant to this section.

(f) For each student enrolling in a receiving district, there shall be a school choice tuition amount. Said tuition amount shall be equal to seventy-five percent of the actual per pupil spending amount in the receiving district for such education as is required by such non-resident student, but not more than five thousand dollars; provided, however, that for

special education students whose tuition amount shall remain the expense per student for such type of education as is required by such non-resident student. The state treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to deduct said school choice tuition amount from the total education aid, as defined in chapter seventy, of said student's sending district, prior to the distribution of said aid and to deposit said aid in the School Choice Tuition Trust Fund established by section twelve C. In the case of a child residing in a municipality which belongs to a regional school district, the school choice tuition amount shall be deducted from said chapter seventy education aid of the school district appropriate to the grade level of the child. If, in a single district, the total of all such deductions exceeds the total of said education aid, this excess amount shall be deducted from other aid appropriated to the city or town. If, in a single district, the total of all such deductions exceeds the total state aid appropriated, the commonwealth shall appropriate this excess amount; provided, however, that if said district has exempted itself from the provisions of chapter seventy by accepting section fourteen of said chapter, the commonwealth shall assess said district for said excess amount.

(g) The state treasurer is further directed to disburse to the receiving district, from the School Choice Tuition Trust Fund established by section twelve C, an amount equal to each student's school choice tuition as defined in subsection (f); provided, however, that each public school district which admits children under the provisions of this section shall certify to the state treasurer the number of such children attending its public schools, the city or town of residence of each such child, the annual amount of tuition for each such child and the total tuition owed to the district based on full or partial attendance, itemized by the amount attributable to each city or town of residence; and, provided further, that such certification shall be made on October first of each year and April first of each year. Each school district submitting a certification to the state treasurer shall also submit a copy of said certification to the department of education. Said department may review said certification to determine that the amount of the individual tuition charged for each child is in accordance with the provisions of this section and shall inform the state treasurer of any errors. The department may also, on a post-audit basis, verify the admission and attendance of the number of children certified by each school district.

(h) There shall be a parent information system established, maintained and developed by the board of education to disseminate to parents detailed and comparable information about each school system participating in the school choice program, so-called, which shall include, but not be limited to, information on special programs offered by the school, philosophy of the school, number of spaces available, transportation plans, class sizes, teacher/student ratios, and data and information on school performance that indicate its quality. Said information shall include the school profiles, so-called, developed pursuant to section one B of chapter sixty-nine. The board may include information regarding regional choice initiatives as deemed appropriate. The system shall have as its primary goal to ensure that all parents have an equal opportunity to participate in the program of interdistrict choice. The board of education, when disseminating this information shall encourage the parent and student to make at least one visit to the school of choice as part of the application procedure.

(i) Subject to appropriation, the board of education shall develop and administer a school choice transportation reimbursement program for the purpose of providing reimbursement for the transportation of pupils enrolled under the provisions of this section. Pupils eligible for said reimbursement must be eligible to receive free or reduced cost lunches under eligibility guidelines promulgated by the federal government under 42 USC section 1758. The board may limit said reimbursement to a yearly amount. The types of transportation to be reimbursed pursuant to said program shall include, but need not be limited to, the following: (1) transportation by school buses provided by the sending or receiving district; (2) transportation provided by the parent or guardian of the child; (3) transportation provided by public transportation. All eligible pupils who attend a school district contiguous to the school district of residence of such pupil shall be eligible for said reimbursement. If cost-effective transportation alternatives exist for pupils who attend districts not contiguous to the school districts of residence of such pupil, the board may provide a transportation reimbursement. Said reimbursements may be paid to the district in which the pupil is enrolled, the district of residence of the student, or the parent, guardian or person acting as guardian of the student; provided, however, that said district or parent provide documentation of the transportation expenditure. The board of education shall promulgate regulations for the program to be placed on file with the joint committee on education, arts and humanities of the general court. The board of education shall disseminate information to parents and school systems detailing the availability of said transportation reimbursements. A full description of said school choice transportation reimbursement program shall be submitted to the house and senate committees on ways and means and shall not become effective until ninety days after said submission. Notwithstanding the second paragraph of section one, nothing in this section shall confer upon any student attending a private school any right to transportation or reimbursement therefor.

(j) School committees may establish terms for accepting non-resident students; provided, however, that if the number of non-resident students applying for acceptance to said district exceeds the number of available seats, said school committee shall select students for admission on a random basis; provided, further, that said school committee shall conduct said random selection twice: one time prior to July first and one time prior to November first; provided, further, that no school committee shall discriminate in the admission of any child on the basis of race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need or academic performance or proficiency in the English language. The Massachusetts commission against discrimination, established by section fifty-six of chapter six, shall have jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this section; provided, however, that all students described in subsection (m) shall be entitled to remain in the receiving districts they are attending or have been accepted to attend. Any school committee that accepts non-resident students under the provisions of this section shall notify each district from which it has accepted a non-resident student of its acceptance of that student; provided, however, that a school committee may not publicly release the names of students leaving or entering a district under the provisions of this section. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this paragraph, any sibling of a student

already enrolled in the receiving district shall receive priority for admission to said district.

(k) Any child accepted to attend a public school in a community other than the one in which he resides pursuant to this section shall be permitted to remain in that school system until his high school graduation, unless there is a lack of funding of the program as authorized by said sections.

(l) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or any general or special law to the contrary, any school district which admitted children on a private tuition basis prior to June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and ninety-one may continue, on that basis, to admit any child who attended its school system prior to that date, as well as any sibling or step-sibling of such child and any foster child residing in the home of such child.

(m) Any student who, pursuant to the provisions of this section, has been attending or has been admitted to attend a public school of a city or town in which he does not reside and for whom the commonwealth has been paying tuition or, in the case of a student recently admitted, would be required to pay tuition in the coming year, shall be deemed to be a student admitted pursuant to paragraph (j), and shall be subject to all of the provisions of this section; provided, however, that said students shall be allowed to remain in said school notwithstanding any determination of capacity or decision by the receiving district to withdraw made pursuant to this section.

(n) Subject to appropriation, any sending district for which the provisions of subsection (f) result in a reduction in state aid shall be eligible to apply for a school choice reimbursement from the commonwealth. If net school spending in a sending district is greater than said foundation budget as defined in chapter seventy, the amount of said reimbursement shall be the above foundation reimbursement amount for that fiscal year. If net school spending in a sending district is less than said foundation budget, the amount of said reimbursement shall be equal to one hundred percent of the positive difference, if any, between (i) the amount transferred pursuant to subsection (f), and (ii) the product of the number of students leaving the sending district and the average per pupil expenditure in the sending district for such education as is required by such nonresident student, for the period the child shall attend; provided, however, that if any district has exempted itself from the provisions of said chapter seventy by accepting section fourteen of said chapter seventy, the district shall be ineligible for a reimbursement under this subsection; provided, further, that if any district in which net school spending is greater than the foundation budget becomes a sending district for the first time in fiscal year nineteen hundred and ninety-five or any year thereafter, the reimbursement amount for that district in the first year that it is a sending district shall be the fiscal year nineteen hundred and ninety-four reimbursement amount; the reimbursement amount for the district in its second year as a sending district shall be the fiscal year nineteen hundred and ninety-five reimbursement amount. Said reimbursement application shall be submitted to the department of education on or before October first of each year together with an educational corrective action plan containing information, recommendations and suggestions relative to: (1) areas needing improvement within the school system of the

applicant; (2) methods of improvement to be employed; (3) goals and objectives of said improvement; (4) evaluation and control methods to be used; (5) personnel to be engaged in such improvement; (6) results intended to be accomplished within one year from the date of application; and (7) methods of increasing parental involvement to be employed; provided, however, that any community or regional school district that has a previously approved plan need not refile said plan; and, provided further, that approval of said plan by said board shall act as a condition precedent to the distribution of said reimbursement to the applicant community or regional school district. Under no circumstances shall the total amount expended pursuant to subsections (h) and (i) and to reimburse sending districts pursuant to this paragraph, be greater than twenty million dollars. If, in any year, the total amount that would be required to reimburse said cities at said rates would be greater than twenty million dollars, then the reimbursement rates shall be reduced proportionately to those rates at which the total cost does not exceed twenty million dollars.

(o) The commonwealth and the school committee of any town may accept funds from the federal government for the purposes of this section. Any amounts received by the school committee of any town from the federal government, from the commonwealth or from a charitable foundation or private institution shall be deposited with the treasurer of such town and held as a separate account, and may be expended by said school committee without further appropriation, notwithstanding the provisions of section fifty-three of chapter forty-four. Whenever such funds are received after the submission of the annual school budget, all or any portion thereof may be expended by the school committee without further appropriation, but shall be accounted for in the next annual school budget.

If the student attends the public schools of another town and it is anticipated that the student shall need the services of a private day or residential school, an individual education plan team meeting shall be convened by the school district in which the child is attending school. The school district in which the student attends school shall notify the school district where the student resides of the team meeting at least five school days prior to the meeting. Personnel from the district in which the child resides shall be allowed to participate in the team meeting concerning future placement of the child.



## Grading And Promotion Policies During Health Crisis

To: School Committee Members

From: Joel D. Boyd, Ed.D Superintendent

Date: April 13, 2020

Re: Grading and Promotion Policies During Covid-19 Public Health Crisis

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*Request for action, pursuant to Policy BGF of the Lowell School Committee, to suspend all Lowell School Committee Policies and relevant provisions of the Lowell Public Schools Parent & Student Handbooks, including but not limited to School Committee Policies IKE and IKE-R, authorizing the Superintendent to direct all Lowell Public Schools teachers to assess student work completed via remote learning instruction via a credit/no credit system and to make other accommodations as necessary with regard to student grading, promotion and recognition for the duration of the ongoing public health emergency, consistent with the recommendation of the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education.*

On March 26, 2020 the [Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education issued recommendations](#) to all public school districts regarding how student work should be assessed during the course of the current public health crisis. The transition to remote learning instruction has required an abrupt, multi-faceted and unprecedented shift in how we operationalize the delivery of academic content to our students. While the remote learning methodologies currently being employed by our dedicated staff are by no means ideal, we are continuing to provide high-quality learning experiences to all LPS students in ways that should instill a great deal of pride throughout the Lowell community. The teachers, school leaders, and staff at each of our schools have my continued gratitude, as do the parents and family members who are supporting our students under these very trying circumstances.

In order to continue to support our students across all grade levels, it is imperative that we modify the manner in which we evaluate and assess student work. Our traditional system of grading student work on a 0-100 scale is simply impossible to implement in ways that are either equitable or practicable given the circumstances under which that work is being disseminated by educators and completed by students. Consistent with Commissioner Riley's March 26<sup>th</sup> recommendation, we are seeking your authorization via the suspension of School Committee Policies IKE and IKE-R (and the associated provisions of the Student and Parent Handbooks) to immediately transition our grading regimen to a

credit/no credit assessment system. Importantly, and again consistent with DESE's guidance, we will continue to emphasize the importance of providing meaningful and substantive feedback on all school work to students and families. Through our robust and continuous effort to sustain an ongoing dialogue with our LPS families, we intend to mitigate to the greatest extent possible the disruption this situation has caused to our students.

While the conversion of our grading system to a credit/no credit system will allow us to provide educational services in a manner consistent with our principles of equity to which we have legal and moral obligations, it will create a need to accommodate a variety of other challenges related to grade promotion, GPA calculation at Lowell High School, summer school eligibility, and student activity participation. It will also affect various student recognition programs contemplated by existing School Committee Policies and Handbook provisions governing LPS academics, including determinations of LHS valedictorian and salutatorian, honor roll inclusion, and eligibility for both the National Honor Society and certain scholarships. Should this body grant the requested policy suspension and authorization, we will make accommodations as necessary given the extenuating circumstances, communicate to the greater LPS community regularly, and return as needed to seek additional guidance from the School Committee should we arrive at any unanticipated decision points in the coming weeks and months.

Thank you for your consideration.

Superintendent of Schools-Lowell Public Schools- Lowell, MA  
2019-2020 School Year Calendar

Monday, August 26, 2019	Orientation Day – Staff Only
Tuesday, August 27, 2019	First Day of School – Grades 1-12
Friday, August 30, 2019	No School Labor Day Recess
Monday, September 2, 2019 *	No School – Labor Day
Tuesday, September 3, 2019	Schools Re-Open along with Prekindergarten & Kindergarten Classes Beginning
<b>Wednesday, September 18, 2019</b>	<b>Wednesday - ½ Day Early Release for grades PreK-12</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 24, 2019</b>	<b>No School - Municipal Primary Election</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 9, 2019</b>	<b>Wednesday - ½ Day Early Release for grades PreK-12</b>
Monday, October 14, 2019 *	No School – Columbus Day
Tuesday, November 5, 2019	No School for Students -Election Day -Professional Day for Staff
Monday, November 11, 2019 *	No School - Veterans’ Day Observed
<b>Wednesday, November 27, 2019</b>	<b>Early Dismissal – Thanksgiving Recess</b>
Thursday, November 28, 2019 *	No School - Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 29, 2019 *	No School – Thanksgiving Recess
Monday, December 2, 2019	Schools Re-Open
<b>Wednesday, December 11, 2019</b>	<b>Wednesday -½ Day Early Release for grades PreK-12</b>
Friday, December 20, 2019	Holiday Vacation Begins at the Close of Day
Tuesday, December 24, 2019 *	Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 25, 2019 *	Christmas Day [Holiday Break: Monday, December 23rd – Wednesday, January 1, 2020]
Wednesday, January 1, 2020 *	New Years Day
Thursday, January 2, 2020	Schools Re-Open
<b>Wednesday, January 8, 2020</b>	<b>Wednesday - ½ Day Early Release for grades PreK-12</b>
Monday, January 20, 2020 *	No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
<b>Wednesday, February 12, 2020</b>	<b>Wednesday - ½ Day Early Release for grades PreK-12</b>
Friday, February 14, 2020	Mid-Winter Vacation Begins at the Close of School
Monday, February 17, 2020 *	President’s Day -[Mid-Winter Vacation: Monday, February 17 – Friday, February 21, 2020]
Monday, February 24, 2020	Monday - Schools Re-Open
<b>Tuesday, March 3, 2020</b>	<b>No School – Presidential Primary Election</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 11, 2020</b>	<b>Wednesday - ½ Day Early Release for grades PreK-12</b>
Friday, April 10, 2020 *	No School – Good Friday
Friday, April 17, 2020	Spring Vacation Begins at the Close of School
Monday, April 20, 2020 *	Patriot’s Day - [Spring Break: Monday, April 20th – Friday, April 24, 2020]
Monday, April 27, 2020	Schools Re-Open
<b>Wednesday, May 6, 2020</b>	<b>Wednesday - ½ Day Early Release for grades PreK-12</b>
Monday, May 25, 2020 *	No School – Memorial Day
<b>June 2020 (TBD)</b> Will be on the last day of School	<b>Thursday - ½ Day Early Release for grades PreK-12</b>
<b>Monday, June 15, 2020</b>	180 <sup>th</sup> School Day
<b>Monday, June 22, 2020</b>	185 <sup>th</sup> School Day [Includes five (5) Snow Days]

Revised & Approved by the Lowell School Committee at their meeting of Wednesday, September 4, 2019

\* Central Administration, Family Resource Center

Number of School Days Per Month			
August	3	January	21
September	19	February	15
October	22	March	21
November	17	April	16
December	15	May	20
		June	11



Superintendent of Schools-Lowell Public Schools- Lowell, MA  
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Monday, February 17, 2020 *	President’s Day -[Mid-Winter Vacation: Monday, February 17 – Friday, February 21, 2020]
Monday, February 24, 2020	Monday - Schools Re-Open
Tuesday, March 3, 2020	No School – Presidential Primary Election
<b>Wednesday, March 11, 2020</b>	<b>Wednesday - ½ Day Early Release for grades PreK-12</b>
Friday, April 10, 2020 *	No School – Good Friday
Friday, April 17, 2020	Spring Vacation Begins at the Close of School
<b>Monday, April 20, 2020 *</b>	Patriot’s Day only <b>April Vacation CANCELLED</b>
<b>Wednesday, May 6, 2020</b>	<b>Wednesday - ½ Day Early Release for grades PreK-12</b>
Monday, May 25, 2020 *	No School – Memorial Day
<b>June 2020 (TBD)</b> Will be on the last day of School	<b>Thursday - ½ Day Early Release for grades PreK-12</b>
Monday, June 15, 2020	180 <sup>th</sup> School Day
<b>Friday, June 19, 2020</b>	185 <sup>th</sup> School Day [DESE is requiring 185 completed school days]

Revised & Approved by the Lowell School Committee at their meeting of  
**Wednesday, April 15, 2020**

\* Central Administration, Family Resource Center

August	3	January	21
September	19	February	15
October	22	March	21
November	17	<b>April</b>	<b>20</b>
December	15	May	20
		June	<b>14</b>





**United Teachers of Lowell**

**AFTMA/AFT/AFL-CIO  
LOCAL 495**

**169 Merrimack St.**

**Lowell, MA 01852**

**Tel: 978.937.9039**

**Fax: 978.937.9544**

**Email: [utl@utlowell495.org](mailto:utl@utlowell495.org)**

March 30, 2020

Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent  
Lowell Public Schools  
155 Merrimack Street  
Lowell, MA 01852

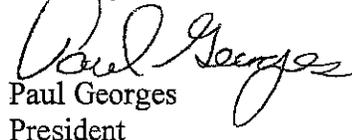
Dear Superintendent Boyd:

The members of the United Teachers of Lowell hereby request to donate sick leave days to the following member:

Julie Bannerman, Teacher	Stoklosa Middle School	34 days
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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Paul Georges  
President

PG:ng

xc: Deb Jarvis

Minerva Palazzo

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF - UNIT "A" OF THE LOWELL SCHOOL DEPARTMENT, WISH TO DONATE ONE OR MORE OF OUR ACCUMULATED SICK LEAVE DAYS TO JULIE BANNERMAN A TEACHER AT THE STOKLOSA MIDDLE SCHOOL.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>NO. OF DAYS</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>
Michaela Horne	1	Stoklosa
George Harding	2	Stoklosa
Carol Bouchard	5	Stoklosa
Therese Allard	2	Stoklosa
Cheryl Brunel	5	Stoklosa
Mike Shupe	2	Stoklosa
TRACI MENDES	1	STOKLOSA
Lisa Russell	5	Stoklosa
Ann Carpenter	4	Stoklosa
Terri Decker-Kilmartin	5	Pyne
Estelle Chaput	1	Stoklosa
Phil Connors	1	Stoklosa
Kyle Dolliver	1	Stoklosa
Michael Moretti	1	Stoklosa