Lowell Public School Committee

Special Meeting Agenda

Date: July 23, 2020
Time: 6:30PM
Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA 01852

1. **SALUTE TO FLAG**

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

3.1. Communication Remote Participation:

Members of the Public May View The Meeting Via LTC And Those Wishing To Speak Regarding A Specific Agenda Item Shall Register To Speak In Advance Of The Meeting By Sending Email To the Superintendent Indicating The Agenda Item And A Phone Number To Call So That You May Be Tele-Conferenced In To The Meeting. Email Address Is mpalazzo@lowell.k12.ma.us If No Access to Email You May Contact at 978-674-4324.

4. **MEMORIALS**

4.1. Kenneth Trott, Greenhalge School Senior Custodian.

4.2. Steve Botto, Shedd Park Director Of Player Development And Assistant Coach.

4.3. Gail M. [Quattrochi] Bonin, Sister Of Executive Secretary For The Special Education Department, Cheryl O'Brien.

5. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

5.1. Continue Planning For A Safe Return To School In The Fall

Documents:

PLANNING FOR A SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL PRESENTATION FOR SC MEETING 7-23-20 (1).PDF

6. ADJOURNMENT

Lowell Public Schools

Planning for a Safe Return to School in the Fall

School Committee Update - July 23, 2020

LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Agenda

- What are families saying?
- How do we ensure proper social distancing on campuses?
- How do we maintain safe transport to and from school?
- How can we maximize air quality within classrooms?
- What personal protective equipment will be required to minimize spread?
- What's the proper frequency for deep cleaning of buildings?
- Should we reconsider our previously approved first day of school?
- Do we have an update on the budget?
- What are next steps between now and day 1?

What are families saying?

- LPS sent a survey to families asking for feedback on some of the options the district is considering putting into place for the upcoming school year. The survey was available from June 26-July 8. A total of 2,442 responded to the survey.
- Additional feedback has been provided by the English Learner Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and the Special Education PAC during separate virtual discussions.
- We will continue gathering input over the next week during a series of virtual community forums.

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What are families saying?

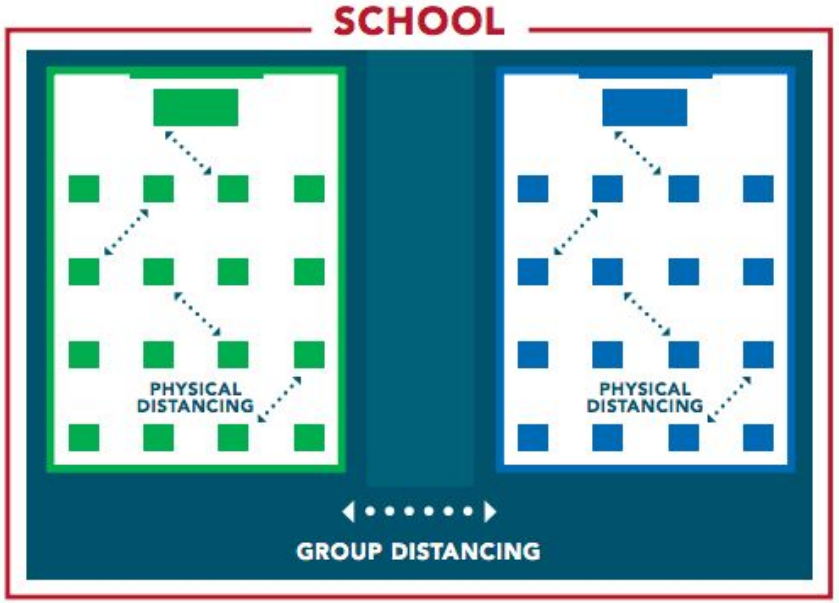
Key takeaways from survey and listening sessions:

- 74.9% - My children want to return to school.
  - 73.9% indicate their child wants to participate in extracurricular activities.
- 70.8% - If my child's school is open in the fall I plan to send them to school.
  - This doesn't necessarily mean families want to go back to school, but logistically may have no other option.
- 68.2% - Allow families to choose either in-person school or remote school and for LPS to offer both
  - Families need to clearly understand what each option entails in order to make a final decision. This includes policies on school transfers and assignments between in-person and online schooling options.

LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

How do we ensure proper social distancing on campuses?

- 6-feet social distancing between students at all times



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Student Capacity By School

School	Address	City	Main Telephone #	2019/2020 Enrollment	Number of Conventional Sized Classrooms	Estimated Number of Students per Conventional Classroom @ 6 Feet	Estimated Student Capacity at 6' Distancing Conventional Classrooms	Estimated Student Capacity at 6' Distancing Break-Out/Lab Fixtured Classrooms	Number of Break-Out/or Lab Fixtured Sized Classrooms	Number of Students per Break-Out Classroom @ 6 Feet	Total Estimated Student Capacity/ School	% of SY19/20 Enrollment That Can Be On Campus w/ 6' Social Distancing
Adult Ed	408 Merrimack St, 01854	Lowell	978-458-9007									
Bailey	174 Cambell Dr., 01851	Lowell	978-937-7644	481	21	12	252	15	3	5	267	55.51%
Bartlett	79 Wannalancit St., 01854	Lowell	978-937-8968	486	25	13	325	27	9	3	352	72.43%
Butler	1140 Gorham St., 01852	Lowell	978-937-8973	566	20	12	240	32	8	4	272	48.06%
Cardinal O'Connell	21 Carter St., 01852	Lowell	978-446-7000	119	8	7	56	2	1	2	58	48.74%
Daley	150 Fleming St., 01851	Lowell	978-937-8981	690	24	15	360	10	2	5	370	53.62%
Day School	60 Carlisle St., 01824	Lowell	978-674-2405	55							0	0.00%
Greenhalge	149 Ennell St. 01850	Lowell	978-937-7670	496	22	12	264	30	10	3	294	59.27%
Laura Lee	235 Powell St., 01851	Lowell	978-937-7655	26	6	4	24	0	0	0	24	92.31%
Leblanc	58 Sycamore St., 01852	Lowell	978-970-5467	30	8	12	96	9	3	3	105	350.00%
Malloy	125 Smith St., 01851	Lowell	978-970-3318	62	11	7	77	0	0	0	77	124.19%
Lincoln	300 Chelmsford St., 01851	Lowell	978-937-2846	504	27	12	324	16	4	4	340	67.46%
LHS -	50 Fr. Morrissette Blvd., 01852	Lowell	978-937-8900	3004	164	12	1968	190	38	5	2158	71.84%
Mc Auliffe	570 Beacon St., 01850	Lowell	978-937-2838	505	22	12	264	36	12	3	300	59.41%

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Mc Avinnue	131 Mammoth Rd, 01854	Lowell	978-937-2871	488	27	12	324	51	17	3	375	76.84%
Moody	158 Rogers St., 01852	Lowell	978-937-7673	237	13	12	156	9	3	3	165	69.62%
Morey	130 Pine St., 01851	Lowell	978-937-7662	507	24	12	288	24	8	3	312	61.54%
Murkland	350 Adams St., 01854	Lowell	978-937-2826	496	24	12	288	15	5	3	303	61.09%
Pawtucketville	425 West Meadow Rd., 01854	Lowell	978-937-7667	504	30	12	360	27	9	3	387	76.79%
Pyne /Arts	145 Boylston St., 01852	Lowell	978-937-7639	519	32	12	384	30	10	3	414	79.77%
Reilly	115 Douglas Rd., 01852	Lowell	978-937-7652	494	23	12	276	21	7	3	297	60.12%
Riverside	73 Woburn St., 01852	Lowell	978-453-1115	46	8	7	56	0	0	0	56	121.74%
Robinson	110 June St., 01854	Lowell	978-937-8974	665	38	25	950	27	9	3	977	149.92%
Shaughnessy	1158 Gorham St., 01852	Lowell	978-937-7657	486	23	12	276	9	3	3	285	58.64%
Stem Academy	43 Highland St., 01854	Lowell	978-674-4331	845	33	14	462	69	23	3	531	62.84%
Stoklosa	560 Broadway St., 01854	Lowell	978-275-6330	670	36	10	360	24	8	3	384	57.31%
Sullivan	150 Draper St., 01852	Lowell	978-937-8993	682	31	11	341	36	12	3	377	55.28%
Wang	365 West meadow Rd., 01854	Lowell	978-937-7683	710	31	11	341	39	13	3	380	53.52%
Washington	795 Wilder St., 01851	Lowell	978-937-7635	254	17	12	204	27	9	3	231	90.94%

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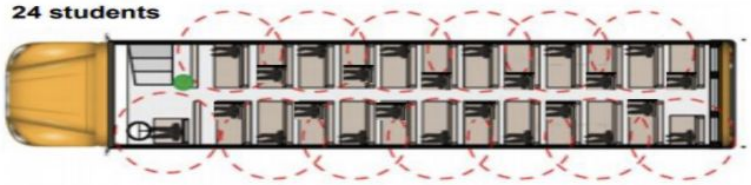
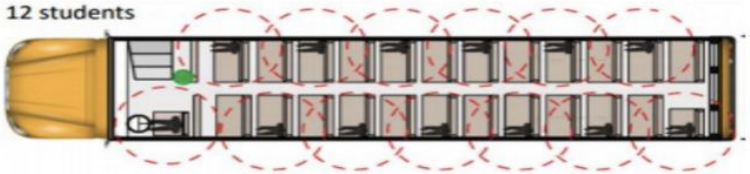
Totals				14627	748	316	9316	775	226	79	10091	68.99%

- Conventional Classrooms were set up with all student desks facing forward with the minimum **SIX** foot distance shown in the DESE illustration to maximize the capacity.
- Many classrooms (particularly in the very young grades)currently seat the students at tables closer than the three foot requirement and facing each other.- For this estimate, removing those tables and using student desks that are forward facing and meet the distance requirement is assumed. If the current fixtures remain and proper social distancing is met, there is a significant drop in capacity in those classrooms
- Due to the very specific uses of the Adult Ed and Day School, their capacity was not included in this estimate.
- Options for schools at capacity: DESE approved online school for parents/guardians to choose for the 20-21 school year.

How do we maintain safe transport to and from school?





- 66 buses used last year for general busing
- 2019/2020: 52 middle-schoolers per bus or
  77 elementary students per bus
- 2020/2021: 13 kids per bus per current CDC standards
  -Would need over 200 buses
  -Cannot acquire that many buses

Can we maximize safety and limit the risk of exposure and spread on school busses by reducing the need for bus transportation?

Which statement best describes transportation to school for your child?

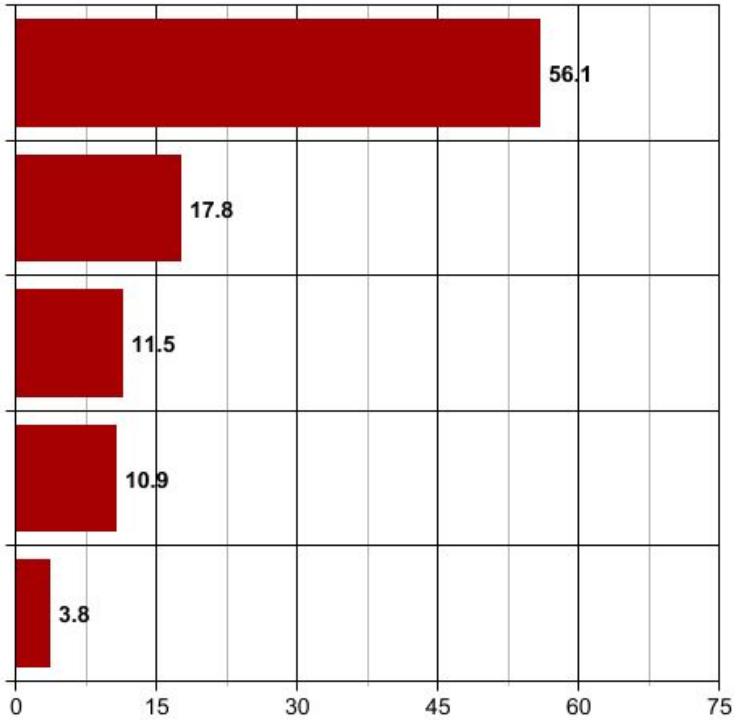
56.1% - Families already bring my child to school (walking or driving).

17.8% - Families feel safe sending their child on the bus if there was social distancing in place.

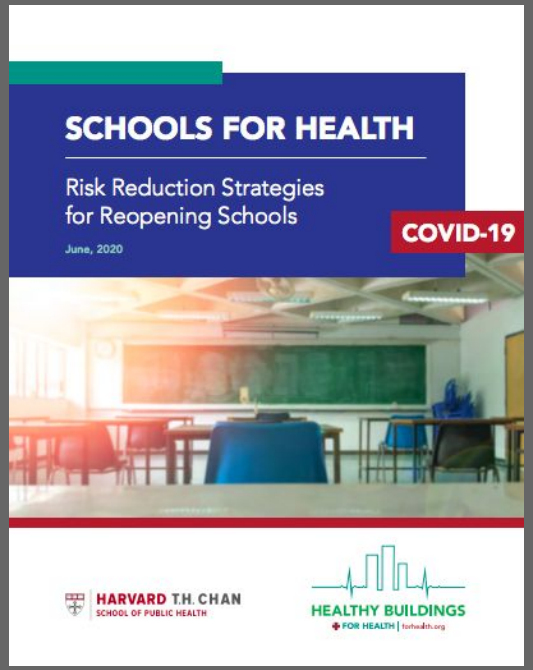
11.5% - Families do not feel comfortable sending their child on the bus, but would provide transportation to and from school.

10.9% - If transportation is not an option, families would prefer remote learning.

3.8% - Indicated that if transportation is not an option and their child had a school within walking distance, they would prefer to switch that school.



**Based on 2,061 responses*



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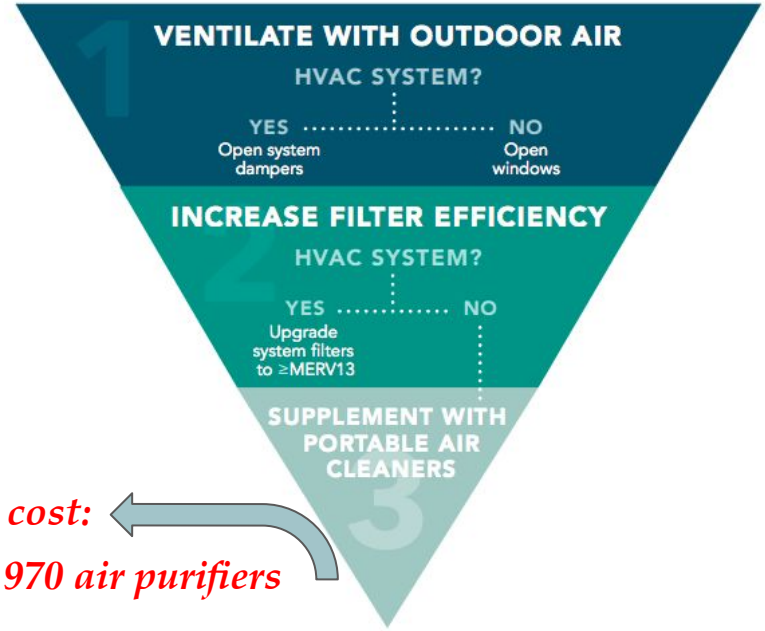
How can we maximize air quality within classrooms?



Air purifiers cost:

$320,000 for 970 air purifiers

What personal protective equipment will be required to minimize spread?

Anticipated needs

- Hand sanitizer
- Hand washing
- Sanitizing wipes
- Masks
- Gowns
- Face shields
- Gloves
- Fogging schedule within building/classrooms (already acquired fogger for each school)

Cost - Approximately $1.6 million
12-week requirements were provided to State in June.

LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Budget for PPE supplies

DISPOSABLE MASKS

Initial recommended quantities per 100 individuals per group per school

Group	Quantity per 100 per group	12-week Supply at 100% Attendance	12-week Supply at 50% Attendance	12-week Supply at 25% Attendance	Assumptions	Quantity (Unit of Measure is each)	Average Price Paid	Cost Estimate
Teachers and other staff	500	6,000	3,000	1,500	5 disposable masks per week per teacher.	162,000	$ 1.02	$ 165,240.00
School nurses and health providers	1,000	12,000	6,000	3,000	10 disposable masks per week per school nurse.	12000	$ 1.02	$ 12,240.00
					TOTAL	**174000**		**$ 177,480.00**

Budget for PPE supplies

MATERIALS FOR STAFF MEMBERS WHO MAY BE IN HIGH-INTENSITY CONTACT WITH STUDENTS OR HANDLING WASTE MATERIALS

Initial recommended quantities calculated per 1 staff

(e.g. nurses, custodians, nurses, and some special education teachers and other staff)

Item	1-week. Supply for 1 Staff	12-week Supply	Assumptions	Intentionally Left Blank	Intentionally Left Blank	Quantity (Unit of Measure is each)	Average Price Paid	Cost Estimate
Disposable Nitrile Gloves	10	120	10 disposable nitrile gloves (pair) per week, per staff.			15000	$ 0.09	$ 1,350.00
Disposable Gowns	10	120	10 disposable gowns per week, per staff.			15000	$ 10.49	$ 157,350.00
Eye Protection	2	n/a	2 re-usable eye protection per staff total.			250	$ 10.89	$ 2,722.50
Face Shields	2	n/a	2 reusable face shields per staff total.			250	$ 4.30	$ 1,075.00
Waste Disposal Medium	1	n/a	1 unit per staff total.			0		$ -
N-95 Ventilating Masks* Note: N-95 masks are recommended only if staff will be in contact with a suspected COVID-19 positive case and/or performing aerosol-generating procedures	10	120	10 N-95 masks per week, per staff.			250	$ 1.29	$ 322.50
					TOTAL	30750		$ 162,820.00

*KN-95 Ventilating Masks can be substituted for N-95 masks if they have been tested for filtration effectiveness (MDPH Comprehensive Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guidance, May 21, 2020)

Budget for PPE supplies

BUILDING SUPPLIES

	1-week Supply for one building	12-week. Supply at 100% Attendance	12-week Supply at 50% Attendance	Assumptions	Intentionally Left Blank	Quantity (Unit of Measure is each)	Average Price Paid	Cost Estimate
Hand Sanitizer	1/3 gallon/ classroom	4 gallons/classroom	2 gallons/classroom	1/3 gallon of hand sanitizer per classroom, per week at 100% attendance.		2000	$ 55.85	$ 111,700.00
Disposable Nitrile Gloves	20	240	240	20 disposable nitrile gloves (pair) per week, per custodial staff member at 100% attendance.		6000	$ 0.09	$ 540.00
Waste Disposal Medium	1	n/a	n/a	1 disposal medium per school building.		236		$ -
					TOTAL	**8236**		**$ 112,240.00**

What's the proper frequency for deep cleaning of buildings?

Cleaning Frequency	Examples
Daily	• Classroom desks, tables, and chairs • Shared spaces
Multiple times per day	• Door handles • Light switches • Handrails • Drinking fountains • Sink handles • Restroom surfaces • Cafeteria surfaces • Elevator buttons
Between uses	• Toys, games, art supplies, instructional materials • Keyboards, phones, printers, copy machines • Seats on bus

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Should we reconsider our previously approved first day of school?

Senario I with current DESE approved 180 day schedule.

	Total Days Scheduled	Total Days Required	Adjusted Start Date
Instructional Days for Students	180		September 2
Eliminate Built- in Snow Days (move to remote learning on snow days)	-5	0	September 9
Eliminate Election Day	-1	0	September 10
Eliminate February Vacation	-5	+1 (President's Day)	September 15
Eliminate Good Friday	-1	0	September 16
Eliminate April Vacation	-5	+1 (Patriot's Day)	September 21

Senario II with possible DESE approved 177 day schedule.

	Total Days Scheduled	Total Days Required	Adjusted Start Date
Instructional Days for Students	177 (Proposed adjusted timeline)		September 8
Eliminate Built- in Snow Days (move to remote learning on snow days)	-5	0	September 15
Eliminate Election Day	-1	0	September 16
Eliminate February Vacation	-5	+1 (President's Day)	September 22
Eliminate Good Friday	-1	0	September 23
Eliminate April Vacation	-5	+1 (Patriot's Day)	September 29

** Current last day of school is scheduled for June 17, 2021. This date could be moved to June 30, 2021, creating 10 additional days to be utilized in the scenarios listed above.*

Update on the Budget

Chapter 70

- State still forecasting a $6- $7 billion revenue shortfall.
- 1/12th budgets have been approved for August.
- Level service funding has been recommended but highly unlikely.

Grants

- Federal allocations have been released ($7.2 million) and applications are underway
- Cares Act/ESSER funds application was submitted for $4.2 million
- CvRF School Reopening grant (PPE @ $225/student) released ($3.2 million)
- Remote Learning Tech Essentials grant - application submitted ($2.1 million)

1/12th Continuation Budget for August

- Level funding for August 2020 was authorized by Governor Baker
- Causes challenges so we recommend waiting until June 29 ($14.9 approved by the City)

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Next Steps

- Continue community conversations up to **approval of reopening plans** for each scenario in advance of **required July 31 submission to DESE**
- **Finalize, publish and communicate reopening plan** for September by the **week of August 3rd**, including any required revisions to policies for transportation and school assignment
- Notify and **support families** through school choices based on final September opening plan

CURRENTLY, THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE HAS FULL AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S SCHOOL RE-OPENING PLAN

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Next Steps

- Finalize and submit all available grant applications for COVID and **develop an annual budget** once state revenue figures are released, including all required costs of reopening plan
- Develop MOAs with unions, lift hiring freeze and **meet all staffing requirements** based on approved reopening plan
- **Train all staff** and develop **orientation sessions for students** and families

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Questions?

1. Are there additional ways to involve families and community members within the planning process that should be considered?

2. Is there additional information that would be helpful in advance of approving the three reopening scenario plans by July 31?

3. Is there additional information that would be helpful in advance of approving the 1 final plan for the fall by the first week of August?

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