



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 6, 2019
Time: 6:30PM
Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA 01852

1. SALUTE TO FLAG

2. ROLL CALL

On a roll call at 6:32 p.m., members present were, namely: Ms. Martin, Mayor Samaras, Mr. Descoteaux, Ms. Doherty and Mr. Hoey. Mr. Lay and Mr. Nutter were absent.

3. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

3.I. Spotlight on Excellence- Middlesex Partnership For Youth “Be A Voice, Not An Echo”

The Spotlight on Excellence recognized Middle School student Mariah Frazier who received an honorable mention in the Middle School Division of the Poster Project and Lowell High School student Emily Rios who received an honorable mention in the High School Division of the Poster Project. Margie Daniels, Executive Director of Middlesex Partnerships for Youth and Anthony Pierantozzi, President of the Board were on hand to award both students.

3.II. Appointment of Jeannine M. Durkin as Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Martin made a motion to defer agenda item #3.II. Appointment of Jeannine M. Durkin as Superintendent of Schools, item #5.I. Approval of Contract for Jeannine M. Durkin as Superintendent and agenda item #9.II. Election of Jeannine M. Durkin as Secretary to the Lowell School Committee to the next Lowell School Committee meeting; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 5 yeas, 2 absent APPROVED

4. MINUTES

4.I. Minutes: Approval of the Minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, February 13, 2019

Mr. Descoteaux made a motion to accept and place on file the minutes from the February 13, 2019 Lowell School Committee Meeting and the minutes from the Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee on February 25, 2019; seconded by Ms. Martin. 5 yeas, 2 absent APPROVED



4.II. Minutes: Special Meeting Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee of Monday, February 25, 2019.

Mr. Descoteaux made a motion to accept and place on file the minutes from the February 13, 2019 Lowell School Committee Meeting and the minutes from the Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee on February 25, 2019; seconded by Ms. Martin. 5 years, 2 absent APPROVED

5. PERMISSION TO ENTER

5.I. Approval of Contract for Jeannine M. Durkin as Superintendent

Ms. Martin made a motion to defer agenda item #3.II. Appointment of Jeannine M. Durkin as Superintendent of Schools, item #5.I. Approval of Contract for Jeannine M. Durkin as Superintendent and agenda item #9.II. Election of Jeannine M. Durkin as Secretary to the Lowell School Committee to the next Lowell School Committee meeting; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 5 years, 2 absent APPROVED

5.II. Permission to Enter: March 6, 2019

Mr. Hoey made a motion to approve the Permission to Enter; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 5 years, 2 absent APPROVED

6. MEMORIALS

6.I. Memorial-Sopheak

Puthiraksmeay 'Raksmeay' Sopheak, sister of Panhayuth Sopheak, Morey School student

7. MOTIONS

7.I. **[By Dominik Hok Lay And Robert Hoey]:** Move to change the time allowed for speakers from 3 minutes to 5 minutes at all school-related meetings.

Ms. Doherty made a friendly amendment to refer this to a Policy Subcommittee.

Mr. Lay made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 5 years, 2 absent APPROVED

7.II. **[By Connie Martin]:** Request that the Administration prepare a report on the current Pre-School and Kindergarten admission policies and address any potential for offering readiness assessments for students not meeting the established birthday deadlines.

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 5 years, 2 absent APPROVED



8. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

8.I. McKinney-Vento Report

Rosa Segarra-Morales, District Support Specialist and Homeless Liaison provided an update to the Committee that informed them of the current number of homeless students in the Lowell Public Schools as defined by the McKinney-Vento Act. The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless students as students who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence due to economic hardship, loss of housing or similar reason. As of March 1, 2019, there are 825 actively enrolled students in the Lowell Public Schools who are homeless.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I through 8.VII as reports of progress; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 5 yeas, 2 absent APPROVED

8.II. English Learners

Phala Chea, Coordinator of English Language Education Program informed the Committee that as of March 1, 2019, the district has identified 3,648 (25%) as English Learners. Approximately 50% of English Learners (ELs) are in middle school and high school. The racial makeup of ELs includes:

- 5% African American Black
- 46% Asian
- 37% Hispanic
- 11% White

The most common language spoken by ELs is as follows:

- 37% Spanish
- 31% Khmer
- 8% Portuguese
- 24% Low Incidence Languages

Ms. Doherty made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I through 8.VII as reports of progress; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 5 yeas, 2 absent APPROVED

8.III. Business Office Update

Billie Jo Turner, Assistant Superintendent of Finance provided an update to the Committee regarding finance and operations. She informed them that the Creegan Studio's Telvue server crashed and is not repairable due to the age of the equipment. The replacement cost is \$117,000.00 and a memo has been sent to the City Council requesting assistance with this cost. Assistant Superintendent Turner updated her projections for the sick leave buyback, transportation and out of district tuition. She informed them that the Chief Human Resources Officer position has been posted.



She also informed them that Aramark was the sole bidder and has been awarded the Food Service bid. She concluded her report speaking about raising the minimum wage in the district to \$12.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I through 8.VII as reports of progress; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 5 yeas, 2 absent APPROVED

8.IV. Response to Mayor Samaras' Motion of 01/16/19 Regarding Portrait of Governor Benjamin Butler

Robin Desmond, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment provided a report regarding the portrait of Governor Benjamin Butler. Robert DeLossa, Lowell High School History Department Chair informed the Committee that Stephen Stowell, Administrator of the Lowell Historic Board gave approval of the testimonial that was submitted. Mr. DeLossa then read the testimonial to the Committee. Mr. DeLossa will attend the upcoming City Council meeting to get their approval.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I through 8.VII as reports of progress; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 5 yeas, 2 absent APPROVED

8.V. Healthy Shenanigans

Matthew Stahl, Principal of the Wang School provided a report to the Committee that informed that Acting Superintendent Durkin and Sharon Lagasse, Aramark, General Manager were interested in finding ways to get the district staff active in some healthy activities during the school day through the Health & Wellness Committee. They combined their efforts with the district's current "Shenanigans", which are activities designed between schools to help build community among and within our schools. As a result, a weight loss competition and step competition took place over six (6) weeks in the district. The results were 850 pounds lost and 66,930,765 steps taken which equals 29,000 miles.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I through 8.VII as reports of progress; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 5 yeas, 2 absent APPROVED

8.VI. Requested Additional Information

Ingrid Markman, District Social Worker provided the Committee with additional information on 51As. The additional information included Mobile Crisis Evaluations, Crisis Evaluations (Ambulance), Crisis Evaluations (ER by Parent), 51As Filed and Hospitalizations. The data was collected from November 27, 2017 through February 2, 2018 and September 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I through 8.VII as reports of progress; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 5 yeas, 2 absent APPROVED



8.VII. Report on Motions

Acting Superintendent Jeannine Durkin provided the monthly report on the status of outstanding motions and asked the Committee if they had any concerns or questions. Mr. Descoteaux requested that motion titled "Subcommittee by Vote of the Full Committee" under the Superintendent's portion of the report be removed. Ms. Martin stated that she believed that motion titled "Docket 101 or Education PROMISE Act" under the Superintendent's portion of the agenda was completed.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I through 8.VII as reports of progress; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 5 years, 2 absent APPROVED

8.VIII. Enrollment Figures

The district enrollment report provided to the Committee showed the breakdown by school and grade through March 1, 2019.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I through 8.VII as reports of progress; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 5 years, 2 absent APPROVED

8.IX. Home Education

Acting Superintendent Durkin recommended that the following parents/guardians be allowed to home educate their child:

Stacy Crew
256 Market Street #301B

Virginia Holly McIlwain
163 Pleasant Street, Apt. 2

Joanna Torres
6 Pine Hill Street

Ms. Doherty made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 5 years, 2 absent APPROVED

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.I. Revised FY19/20 Recommended Budget Calendar

Mr. Hoey made a motion to approve the Revised FY19/20 Recommended Budget Calendar; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 5 years, 2 absent APPROVED

9.II. Election of Jeannine M. Durkin as Secretary to the Lowell School Committee

Ms. Martin made a motion to defer agenda item #3.II. Appointment of Jeannine M. Durkin as Superintendent of Schools, item #5.I. Approval of Contract for Jeannine M. Durkin as Superintendent and agenda item #9.II. Election of Jeannine M. Durkin as Secretary to the Lowell School Committee to the next Lowell School Committee meeting; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 6 years, 1 absent APPROVED



9.III. Budget Transfer

Department:		SCHOOLS				
TRANSFER TO:						
Account #				Description	Amount	
Org.	Object	Project	DESE Function			
99341215	513001		1400	Overtime - Clerical	\$ 3,722.06	
99037050	530002		2350	LHS SA - Prof Dev	\$ 15,000.00	
92010112	544400		2300	Lincoln SA - General Supplies	\$ 9,800.00	
98410612	544400		2300	Butler SA - General Supplies	\$ 1,800.00	
98437031	530002		2350	Butler SA - Prof Dev	\$ 872.04	
99340303	563601		5200	Student Accident Insurance	\$ 780.75	
99341306	530002		1100	SC - Contracted Services	\$ 10,000.00	
				TOTAL	\$ 41,974.85	
TRANSFER FROM:						
Account #				Description	Amount	
Org.	Object	Project	DESE Function			
99348006	530002		3300	Transportation - Contracted Svc	\$ 3,191.61	
99348009	544400		3300	Transportation - Supplies	\$ 530.45	
99010718	544400		2300	LHS SA - General Supplies	\$ 15,000.00	
92037020	530002		2350	Lincoln SA - Prof Dev	\$ 9,800.00	
98441106	530002		2200	Butler Other Exp	\$ 1,800.00	
98441112	512111		2250	Student Body Activities	\$ 872.04	
99310006	575268		5300	Modular Classroom Rental	\$ 556.04	
99310303	530103		2100	Pre-Employment Physicals	\$ 224.71	
99341224	570100		1400	Program & Analytical Svcs	\$ 10,000.00	
				TOTAL	\$ 41,974.85	

Reason for transfer: Adjustments to expend the budget

Mr. Hoey made a motion to approve the budget transfer of \$41,974.85; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 5 years, 2 absent APPROVED



9.IV. Minimum Wage Increase-Cafe Workers

Billie Jo Turner, Assistant Superintendent of Finance informed the Committee that on January 1, 2019, the minimum wage in Massachusetts increased to \$12 an hour. According to the Department of Labor Standards (“Applicability of M.G.L. c. 151 to Town Employees”), legislative intent excludes state employees from the state’s minimum wage statute which extends to employees of municipalities as well. Conor Baldwin, the City CFO, stated that though we are not required to do so, we could “affirmatively elect to increase wages.”

Mr. Hoey made a motion to approve increasing the minimum wage to \$12 an hour; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 5 yeas, 2 absent APPROVED

9.V. Vote to Accept Grant Award of \$1,000 Grant Award to Lowell STEM Club

Robin Desmond, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment informed the Committee that the Greater Lowell Community Foundation has committed funds in support of the Lowell Public Schools STEM Club pending acceptance by the Lowell School Committee. The funds will be used to help support students who participate in the Science and Engineering Fair as part of the STEM Club.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to accept the Grant Award of \$1,000 to Lowell STEM Club; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 5 yeas, 2 absent APPROVED

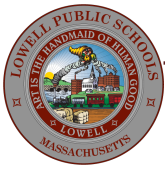
9.VI. Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative

Lisa Van Thiel, Early Childhood Coordinator provided a report to the Committee informing them that the Early Childhood Department received notification of an award for the Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative Fund Code 515. The funds will be used to hire a Data Analyst and an Assistant Early Childhood Coordinator.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to approve and post the Data Analyst job description; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 4 yeas, 3 absent APPROVED

Mr. Hoey made a motion to approve and post the Assistant Early Childhood Coordinator job description; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 4 yeas, 3 absent APPROVED

Mr. Descoteaux made a motion to approve the MOU for the Assistant Early Childhood Coordinator; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 4 yeas, 3 absent APPROVED



10. CONVENTION/CONFERENCE REQUESTS

10.I. Conference-Newell

Permission for Melissa Newell, Coordinator of Language Arts & Literacy K-12, to attend the MRA (Massachusetts Reading Association's) Annual Reading Conference in Quincy, MA on April 3rd and 4th 2019. The cost to attend the workshop of \$380.00 will be funded by the Title 1 Account. The total cost for the hotel for 2 nights at the conference location, mileage and meals for a total of \$450 will be paid by Title 1. No substitute is needed.

Mr. Hoey made a motion to take and approve both convention/conference requests together; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 5 yeas, 2 absent APPROVED

10.II. LHS- Varsity Basketball Team Trip To New York

Lowell High Varsity Basketball Programs to participate in an overnight National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York from May 11 through May 12, 2019. The trip will be supervised by Head Coaches Dan Graham and assistant coaches, Mark Rurak, Cam Roper and Kyle Swenson. The cost of the trip including transportation, entry fees, meals and lodging will be approximately \$5,500.00 paid for by the Lowell High School Baseball Parent Boosters.

Mr. Hoey made a motion to take and approve both convention/conference requests together; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 5 yeas, 2 absent APPROVED

11. PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL

11.I. UTL - Donated Sick Days

The Members of the United Teachers of Lowell Hereby Donate fourteen [14] Sick Leave Days to Patricia Teague Daley School Paraprofessional.

Mr. Hoey made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 5 yeas, 2 absent APPROVED

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION



13. ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. Descoteaux made a motion to adjourn at 7:58 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 5 yeas, 2 absent
APPROVED**

Respectfully submitted,

**Jeannine M. Durkin, Acting Superintendent and
Acting Secretary to the Lowell School Committee**

JMD/mes