



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date:	March 16, 2022
Time:	6:30PM
Location:	City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA 01852

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 an Email to the Superintendent Indicating the Agenda Item, a Phone Number and Email Address so we Can Provide a Zoom Link to Access the Meeting. Email Address is mpalazzo@Lowell.k12.Ma.us. If no Access to Email You May Contact us at 978-674-4324. All Requests Must Be Submitted Before 2:00 PM on the Day of Meeting.

1. SALUTE TO FLAG

2. ROLL CALL

On a roll call at 6:46 p.m., members present were, namely: Ms. Doherty, Mr. Lay, Ms. Martin, Ms. Thompson, Mayor Chau, Ms. Delrossi and Mr. Descoteaux.

3. MINUTES

3.1. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee of Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee that was held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 and the Special and Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meetings that was held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 7 yeas APPROVED

3.2. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee of Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee that was held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 and the Special and Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meetings that was held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 7 yeas APPROVED



3.3. Approval of the Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee that was held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 and the Special and Regularly Scheduled School Committee Meetings that was held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 7 yeas APPROVED

4. PERMISSION TO ENTER

4.1. Permission to Enter: March 16, 2022

Ms. Delrossi made a motion to approve the Permission to Enter; seconded by Ms. Thompson. 7 yeas APPROVED

4.2. Permission to Enter: NRT Bus, Inc. (January 12, 2022 or February 14, 2022 Proposal)

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve Option 1 for NRT Bus, Inc.; seconded by Ms. Thompson. 7 yeas APPROVED

5. MOTIONS

Ms. Martin made a motion to suspend the rules to take items 5.6 and 5.10 out of order; seconded by Ms. Thompson. 7 yeas APPROVED

5.1. [By Dominik Hok Lay]: Request the Superintendent provide a status update on translation services for FY22 and an analysis of the level of services required within the FY23 budget to ensure equitable language access for all LPS families.

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

5.2. [By Andy Descoteaux and Dominik Lay]: Request the superintendent explore a funding mechanism to allocate up to \$300 in additional flexible spending for each LPS teacher to purchase classroom supplies prior to the start of the school year to be included as part of the FY23 budget.

Ms. Delrossi stated that teachers used to receive \$250 to be used at the Lakeshore store, but is unsure of when it stopped.

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

5.3. [By Andy Descoteaux]: Request a meeting of the Arts and Athletics subcommittee to discuss the citywide mural project being coordinated by Project Learn and opportunities for involvement of LPS schools.

Mr. Descoteaux made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Thompson. 7 yeas APPROVED



5.4. [By Jackie Doherty]: Request the Superintendent provide information on the Family Resource Center re the vendor, scope, timeline, and process for the third party FRC Audit. Also, per the School Assignment Update report of Feb. 10, please provide details on the timeline re the 96 K-12 students in the FRC category, including date registration initiated, date attending school, and reasons not enrolled and/or attending.

The report addressing this motion is under communications. Ms. Doherty's additional questions were answered and she then withdrew the above motion.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Ms. Martin. WITHDRAWN

5.5. [By Jackie Doherty]: Request the Superintendent explore and report back to the committee the possibility of instituting Paraprofessional Behavior Specialist roles with certification and additional training/compensation through the Lowell Academy.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 7 yeas APPROVED

5.6. [By Stacey Thompson]: Motion for the Superintendent to supply the School Committee with a typical timeframe from the opening of a discrimination, racism, bullying or intimidation complaint until the investigation is opened. This will be to include what it means to have an investigation open, additionally who gets involved at both a school and administration level.

Ms. Oum registered and spoke on this agenda item.

It was suggested that this be make a budget priority and to provide a budget and a budget breakdown to the Committee.

Ms. Thompson made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

5.7. [By Stacey Thompson]: Motion to have an appropriate representative (UTL or HR) give a presentation to the School Committee around their processes for equitable and diverse hiring processes in the district, to include what has already been done and is enacted, successes and timelines moving forward. Additionally, the size of the team working toward this specific initiative would be identified for the Committee.

Ms. Thompson made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

5.8. [By Stacey Thompson]: Motion to have a compilation of enrichment programs currently staffed and operational, as well as a listing of scholarship opportunities, supplied to the School Committee as they serve to bridge the socioeconomic, racial and ethnic diversity gaps. These opportunities should be clearly identifiable for students at all three district/schooling levels.

Ms. Thompson made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED



5.9. [By Stacey Thompson]: Motion to open dialogue with City Council in their effort to design and install signage at school playgrounds and city parks to provide for equitable experiences for neuro-diverse and nonverbal youth.

Ms. Doherty requested that the focus should be on the schools that need this.

Ms. Thompson made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 7 yeas APPROVED

5.10. [By Connie Martin]: Request the Administration provide an update on the implementation of the Aramark reporting portal and a sample of what the committee can expect to receive in terms of feedback on complaint resolution.

Ms. Charbonnier and Mr. Loeung registered and spoke on this agenda item.

Ms. Martin added that during budget deliberations perhaps more money can be allocated towards lunches.

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED

Ms. Doherty made a motion to suspend the rules to add a motion that she sent in, but was not included on the agenda that reads as follows:

Ms. Doherty made a motion that requested the Superintendent provide a report on furniture needs and costs for replacement by school (such as cafeteria tables, lockers, desks, etc.) and to send it to the Facilities Subcommittee; seconded by Ms. Martin. 7 yeas APPROVED

6. SUBCOMMITTEES

6.1. Finance Subcommittee: Report of the Meeting of Wednesday, February 23, 2022 [Dominik H. Lay, Chairperson]

Mr. Lay, Chairman of the Finance Subcommittee informed the Committee that the following agenda items were discussed at the subcommittee meeting:

- Budget to Actuals for FY21/22
- Revolving Account Balances YTD
- Grant Revenue YTD
- FY22/23 Revenue Projections/Comparison
- State Budget Cycle
- Update on Governor's numbers/Ch70
- Foundation Budget by DESE
- Changes due to Student Opportunity Act

Mr. Lay stated that two previous Subcommittee meetings that were scheduled were cancelled due to the City Solicitor not being able to attend to discuss the water bills.



Mr. Lay made a motion to accept the report as a report of progress; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 7 yeas APPROVED

Mr. Lay made a motion to not have any future Finance Subcommittee meetings to discuss the water bill issue; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

7. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

7.1. COVID-19 Update

Dr. Hall, Chief Operating Officer provided the Committee with a report that gave them a COVID-19 Data monitoring update that included Lowell Public Schools COVID positive cases, Pool Testing Participation and Testing Services (symptomatic testing, “test and stay” and routine COVID Pooled testing). The report also included the number of requested at-home test kits.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to have a COVID-19 update on the agenda only when needed moving forward; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

Ms. Doherty made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.4 as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Martin. 7 yeas APPROVED

7.2. Budget Update

Ms. Turner, Chief Financial Officer provided a report to the Committee that included the following topics:

- FY23 Total Budget Landscape and Budget Development Timeline
- School Based Budget Allocations
- Community Feedback and Overall Steps

The report gave a month to month breakdown of the following action needed:

- January - update CBA, health and other contractual known increases and wait for the Governor’s numbers, review grants and revolving account balances to determine a tentative overall budget amount to start process with. - DONE
- February - update with programmatic changes and determine a proposed SBB amount including FSF pool and supplements. Two (2) budget summits are held to update School Site Councils on the budget process. - DONE
- March 2, we distribute the SBB amount to schools using weights, baselines and transition policies. On March 7th, we deliver allocations and workbooks to schools to work with School Site Councils from March 7th to March 22nd to translate QIP into fiscal plan.
- March 22 - April 1st Schools present their budget to central office team to ensure that all curriculum, regulations, guardrails, finances and grant criteria have been met.



- April/May After each school's budget has been approved, all budgets are merged into overall budget document to ensure balancing. During April, forums are held to share the draft overall comprehensive plan/budget with the parents, teachers, community and partners.
- May 4th - budget is presented to SC in final draft format Public hearings are held May 18th- anticipated day of approval Shared with City Council for approval.

Ms. Turner stated that the next steps are:

- Teacher, Parent, Student, and Community Forums
- Finance Subcommittee Meetings
- School Committee Presentations
- Public Budget Hearings
- Provide Budget Book to the School Committee

Ms. Doherty made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.4 as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Martin. 7 yeas APPROVED

7.3. Family Leadership Institute

Ms. Martin made a motion to refer the Family Leadership Institute report to the Family & Community Engagement Subcommittee for further discussion; seconded by Ms. Thompson. 7 yeas APPROVED

7.4. Enrollment Report

Ms. Phillips, Equity & Engagement Officer provided a report to the Committee that stated that as of Thursday, March 10, there are 14,417 students attending Lowell Public Schools. The report stated that following the district's standard format, the March 10th enrollment report includes other categories of enrollment that the district is responsible for monitoring, placing and/or supporting such as home schooled students, out of district student placements, community pre-K student program placements, and students referred for special education program evaluation, as well as students in the Family Resource Center category awaiting school assignment. When combining all of these categories together, the total enrollment on the March enrollment report adds up to 15,276. As of Thursday morning, March 10th, the total number of K-12 students in the FRC category was 125. Additionally, sixty-two (62) pre-K students remain on the waitlist and one (1) remains in the EC other category which adds up to a total of 188 in the FRC category. On this date, of the 125 K-12 students in the FRC category, twenty-two (22) students have been provided an assignment and are ready to attend school. Of the remaining 103 students, sixty-two (62) students are awaiting medical clearance, thirty-four (34) are recent registrants needing to submit required documentation, six (6) are English Learner students who need to complete their scheduled language testing, and one (1) student has confirmed moving out of Lowell before completing enrollment.



Ms. Doherty asked to please include in future reports when they entered and where they're moving forward.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.4 as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Martin. 7 yeas APPROVED

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. 2022-2023 School Calendar

The 2022-2023 School Calendar was tabled.

8.2. Consideration of MOA for Recruitment Stipends

Dr. Hall, Labor Counselor provided a report to the Committee and requested that the MOA that was presented to the Committee for discussion be approved. He stated that the HR department is planning on attending several job fairs both virtually and in-person over the next several months. He stated that they plan on focusing more recruiting efforts in areas which are traditionally the hardest to fill. He stated that these stipends are intended to compensate individuals who will be designated to directly engage soon to be graduates at college recruitment fairs and to recruit veteran teachers already working in other school districts.

Ms. Martin stated that presently we have money set aside, but she expects to be receiving a full budget on this.

Mr. Descoteaux made a motion to approve the MOA for Recruitment Stipends; seconded by Ms. Thompson. 7 yeas APPROVED

8.3. Permission to Post: Director Mental Health/Behavior/SEL

This position is grant-funded. This position will be affiliated with LSAA.

Mr. Descoteaux asked how long the grant was for.

Ms. Desmond stated that it was for up to three (3) years.

Ms. Delrossi stated that we need more boots on the ground and that we need to get students more resources.

Mr. Lay made a motion to post the Director of Mental Health/Behavior/SEL; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED



8.4. Permission to Post: Mental Health/Behavior/SEL District Support Specialist District-Wide

This position is grant-funded. This position will be affiliated with LSAA.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to post the Mental Health/Behavior/SEL District Support Specialist District-Wide; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

8.5. Budget Transfer

Ms. Delrossi made a motion to approve the budget transfer of \$1,726,121.26; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

8.6. Vote-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for the John J. Shaughnessy Elementary School Under the Accelerated Repair Program

Ms. Doherty made a motion to bundle and approve items # 8.6 through 8.16 (Votes-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for John J. Shaughnessy Elementary School, Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, Bartlett Community Partnership School, J. Benjamin F. Butler Middle School, Cardinal O'Connell Early Learning Center, Henry J. Robinson Middle School, Fredrick T. Greenhalge Elementary School, Joseph A. McAvinnue Elementary School, James S. Daley Middle School, Charlotte M. Murkland Elementary, and the STEM Academy at the Rogers School, under the Accelerated Repair Program; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

8.7. Vote-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for the Abraham Lincoln Elementary School Under the Accelerated Repair Program

Ms. Doherty made a motion to bundle and approve items # 8.6 through 8.16 (Votes-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for John J. Shaughnessy Elementary School, Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, Bartlett Community Partnership School, J. Benjamin F. Butler Middle School, Cardinal O'Connell Early Learning Center, Henry J. Robinson Middle School, Fredrick T. Greenhalge Elementary School, Joseph A. McAvinnue Elementary School, James S. Daley Middle School, Charlotte M. Murkland Elementary, and the STEM Academy at the Rogers School, under the Accelerated Repair Program; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

8.8. Vote-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for the Bartlett Community Partnership School Under the Accelerated Repair Program

Ms. Doherty made a motion to bundle and approve items # 8.6 through 8.16 (Votes-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for John J. Shaughnessy Elementary School, Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, Bartlett Community Partnership School, J. Benjamin F. Butler Middle School, Cardinal O'Connell Early Learning Center, Henry J. Robinson Middle School, Fredrick T. Greenhalge Elementary School, Joseph A. McAvinnue Elementary School, James S. Daley Middle School, Charlotte M. Murkland Elementary, and the STEM Academy at the Rogers School, under the Accelerated Repair Program; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED



8.9. Vote-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for the Benjamin F. Butler Middle School Under the Accelerated Repair Program

Ms. Doherty made a motion to bundle and approve items # 8.6 through 8.16 (Votes-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for John J. Shaughnessy Elementary School, Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, Bartlett Community Partnership School, J. Benjamin F. Butler Middle School, Cardinal O'Connell Early Learning Center, Henry J. Robinson Middle School, Fredrick T. Greenhalge Elementary School, Joseph A. McAvinnue Elementary School, James S. Daley Middle School, Charlotte M. Murkland Elementary, and the STEM Academy at the Rogers School, under the Accelerated Repair Program; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

8.10. Vote-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for the Cardinal O'Connell Early Learning Center Under the Accelerated Repair Program

Ms. Doherty made a motion to bundle and approve items # 8.6 through 8.16 (Votes-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for John J. Shaughnessy Elementary School, Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, Bartlett Community Partnership School, J. Benjamin F. Butler Middle School, Cardinal O'Connell Early Learning Center, Henry J. Robinson Middle School, Fredrick T. Greenhalge Elementary School, Joseph A. McAvinnue Elementary School, James S. Daley Middle School, Charlotte M. Murkland Elementary, and the STEM Academy at the Rogers School, under the Accelerated Repair Program; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

8.11. Vote-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for the Henry J. Robinson Middle School Under the Accelerated Repair Program

Ms. Doherty made a motion to bundle and approve items # 8.6 through 8.16 (Votes-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for John J. Shaughnessy Elementary School, Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, Bartlett Community Partnership School, J. Benjamin F. Butler Middle School, Cardinal O'Connell Early Learning Center, Henry J. Robinson Middle School, Fredrick T. Greenhalge Elementary School, Joseph A. McAvinnue Elementary School, James S. Daley Middle School, Charlotte M. Murkland Elementary, and the STEM Academy at the Rogers School, under the Accelerated Repair Program; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

8.12. Vote-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for the Fredrick T. Greenhalge Elementary School Under the Accelerated Repair Program

Ms. Doherty made a motion to bundle and approve items # 8.6 through 8.16 (Votes-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for John J. Shaughnessy Elementary School, Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, Bartlett Community Partnership School, J. Benjamin F. Butler Middle School, Cardinal O'Connell Early Learning Center, Henry J. Robinson Middle School, Fredrick T. Greenhalge Elementary School, Joseph A. McAvinnue Elementary School, James S. Daley Middle School, Charlotte M. Murkland Elementary, and the STEM Academy at the Rogers School, under the Accelerated Repair Program; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED



8.13. Vote-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for the Joseph A. McAvinnue Elementary School Under the Accelerated Repair Program

Ms. Doherty made a motion to bundle and approve items # 8.6 through 8.16 (Votes-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for John J. Shaughnessy Elementary School, Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, Bartlett Community Partnership School, J. Benjamin F. Butler Middle School, Cardinal O'Connell Early Learning Center, Henry J. Robinson Middle School, Fredrick T. Greenhalge Elementary School, Joseph A. McAvinnue Elementary School, James S. Daley Middle School, Charlotte M. Murkland Elementary, and the STEM Academy at the Rogers School, under the Accelerated Repair Program; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

8.14. Vote-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for the James S. Daley Middle School Under the Accelerated Repair Program

Ms. Doherty made a motion to bundle and approve items # 8.6 through 8.16 (Votes-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for John J. Shaughnessy Elementary School, Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, Bartlett Community Partnership School, J. Benjamin F. Butler Middle School, Cardinal O'Connell Early Learning Center, Henry J. Robinson Middle School, Fredrick T. Greenhalge Elementary School, Joseph A. McAvinnue Elementary School, James S. Daley Middle School, Charlotte M. Murkland Elementary, and the STEM Academy at the Rogers School, under the Accelerated Repair Program; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

8.15. Vote-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for the Charlotte M. Murkland Elementary School Under the Accelerated Repair Program

Ms. Doherty made a motion to bundle and approve items # 8.6 through 8.16 (Votes-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for John J. Shaughnessy Elementary School, Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, Bartlett Community Partnership School, J. Benjamin F. Butler Middle School, Cardinal O'Connell Early Learning Center, Henry J. Robinson Middle School, Fredrick T. Greenhalge Elementary School, Joseph A. McAvinnue Elementary School, James S. Daley Middle School, Charlotte M. Murkland Elementary, and the STEM Academy at the Rogers School, under the Accelerated Repair Program; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

8.16. Vote-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for the STEM Academy at Rogers School Under the Accelerated Repair Program

Ms. Doherty made a motion to bundle and approve items # 8.6 through 8.16 (Votes-Authorize MSBA Statement of Interest for John J. Shaughnessy Elementary School, Abraham Lincoln Elementary School, Bartlett Community Partnership School, J. Benjamin F. Butler Middle School, Cardinal O'Connell Early Learning Center, Henry J. Robinson Middle School, Fredrick T. Greenhalge Elementary School, Joseph A. McAvinnue Elementary School, James S. Daley Middle School, Charlotte M. Murkland Elementary, and the STEM Academy at the Rogers School, under the Accelerated Repair Program; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED



9. COMMUNICATIONS

9.1. Communication from the Office of Teaching & Learning Regarding LHS Graduation

Ms. Thompson made a motion to bundle and accept the communications and to place them on file; seconded by Ms. Martin. 7 yeas APPROVED

9.2. Communication from the Office of Educational Equity and Community Empowerment Regarding External Analysis of the Family Resource Center Operations

Ms. Doherty asked if the work had begun and why did it take two (2) weeks.

Ms. Phillips stated that it began on March 18, 2022. The contract wasn't ready so a purchase order was put in place. She stated it took two (2) weeks because the vendor asked for changes.

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve the budget transfer of \$114,868; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED

9.3. Communication from the Office of Educational Equity and Community Empowerment Regarding Student Placement

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve the budget transfer of \$114,868; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED



10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Descoteaux made a motion to adjourn at 8:28 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Delrossi. 7 yeas APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,

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

JDB/mes