



# Lowell City Council

## *Finance SC with School Finance SC Minutes*

Michael Q. Geary  
City Clerk

**Date:** May 3, 2022  
**Time:** 5:30 PM  
**Location:** Council Chamber, City Hall / Zoom(Hybrid)

### **PRESENT:**

Present on Roll Call were C. Scott, C. Gitschier, C. Robinson, SC Lay, SC Doherty. Also present C. Drinkwater, M. Chau, Conor Baldwin (CFO), C. Yem, C. Nuon, C. Rourke, Billy Jo Turner (School), Supt. Joel Boyd (School), Manager Golden, Jr. and Kelly Oakes (Auditor)

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

C. Scott called the meeting to order noting those in attendance and the purpose of meeting.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

Mr. Baldwin provided presentation to the body which defined Net School Spending as including administrative fees; health services; school security; operation/maintenance of facilities; employee benefits; non-employee insurance; and debt service. Mr. Baldwin noted the two methods of calculation as standard deduction or the MOU signed by parties and indicated that MOU currently used is most beneficial to the schools. Mr. Baldwin noted there is a dispute resolution process which has not been used often since the MOU was initiated. Mr. Baldwin provided historical contribution chart as well as community comparison chart. Supt. Boyd noted he had his own report to the School Committee which indicate more money is due to schools and that agreements should be updated to ensure more funding to the schools. C. Gitschier noted that hopefully agreement can be reached via conversations between the parties. SC Doherty noted costs of education rises so more cash is needed to schools in addition to any maintenance of effort calculations. SC Doherty noted more cash is needed to increase staffing. SC Lay noted they have a foundation budget and are in need for added cash from the City. C. Robinson noted costs have risen across the board and there is a need for a centralized department to assist where we need to be on both sides. Supt. Boyd noted the MOU is not useful to schools and should no longer be followed. Mr. Turner noted as enrollment increases so do costs. C. Gitschier noted challenges on City side and that tax base



does not grow quickly and taxpayers need protection so teams must have discussions. SC Doherty indicated if no agreement then cuts will happen.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion** to adjourn this portion of meeting by C. Gitschier, seconded by C. Robinson. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk

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