



# LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## *REGULAR MEETING MINUTES*

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**Date:** June 3, 2020  
**Time:** 6:30PM  
**Location:** Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93837964582?pwd=K1NPLzFENjRKT0gwMnkvY1BESWZUdz09>

Meeting ID: 938 3796 4582

Password: June

### 1. SALUTE TO FLAG

### 2. ROLL CALL

On a roll call at 6:41 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

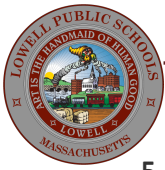
**3.1.** Remote Participation: This Meeting Is Being Held Remotely In Accordance With The Governor Of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions Of The Open Meeting Law G.L. C. 30A, Section 20.

**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. PERMISSION TO ENTER

**4.1.** Permission to Enter: June 3, 2020

**Mr. Hoey made a motion to approve the Permission to Enter; seconded by Mr. Dillon. 7 yeas  
APPROVED**



## **5. MINUTES**

5.1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Lowell School Committee of May 20, 2020

**Mr. Hoey made a motion to approve and place on file the Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Lowell School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, May 20, 2020; seconded by Ms. Clark. 7 yeas APPROVED**

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **6.1. FY21 Budget Session**

Gen Parasole registered and spoke to the Committee about the FY21 Budget.

Superintendent Boyd addressed the Committee and stated the following:

“During our last meeting, the School Committee provided guidance to proceed with a 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget following the recommendation of the City. Following that guidance, tonight’s budget session, as well as Monday’s hearing, were scheduled to enable the community to hear the Committee’s discussion and provide input on the budget for July 2020.

A month to month budget for the school district is truly unprecedented. So much so that state law actually only indicates adoption of an “annual” budget within the requirements for budget hearings. Thus, it’s important to emphasize for our staff and community that the budget being contemplated tonight essentially adds a 13<sup>th</sup> month to the FY20 budget – it will not establish a resource base for next year and it cannot be multiplied out 12 times to create an annual budget.

Tonight, the Committee will hear options for how we can proceed toward Monday’s final meeting on the 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget for July 2020, but those options are limited. There are two to be precise. And Ms. Turner will take the Committee through them at the end of tonight’s presentation. She will also share several options that are at the Committee’s disposal for balancing an annual budget if further cuts are needed, assuming a scenario of level funding. Those options, when shared, will also specify the level of risk that we’ve assessed. We worked to develop as many cost cutting options for the Committee as possible that minimize the need for layoffs, but none of the options are without risk and none of the options comes with complete certainty.

Just Friday, we learned the state’s anticipated revenue shortfall for FY21 has ballooned from a forecasted \$4.4 billion deficit to over \$6 billion. Absent a federal stimulus package, the Committee may very well have to consider every one of the cost cutting options in tonight’s presentation plus additional options that are perhaps even less desirable. We started this budgeting process prior to COVID-19 with a community-wide strategic planning process and the expectation that we would finally have additional money to invest in the classroom via the Student Opportunity Act. We heard from teachers of the importance of further investment in resources to improve school climate, support students who demonstrate at-risk behaviors and assist teachers with additional professional development. Thank you to UTL for sharing the results of that survey.



We heard from students of the importance of our equity agenda, ensuring that we further diversify our staff to better reflect the student population and that we engage in system-wide professional learning around Culturally and Linguistically Sustaining Practices. Thank you to the students at Lowell High School who took a leadership role in the central office training that was provided in the fall. We heard from our linguistically diverse communities of the need for greater translation services and more equitable access to district resources, raising the important need for us to provide every family with school information in their home language. We heard from principals and parents on our school-site councils of the need to not confuse autonomy with neglect and to ensure that we had a strategic approach to school-based autonomy that enabled an effective balance between school-based decision-making and centralized support. We've heard from you as committee members as well - as you have each conducted your own community listening tours.

Mayor Leahy has reminded us that resources must be in place to ensure that every building is clean and safe, Committee Member Doherty has emphasized the importance of mental health supports, Committee member Hoey has emphasized special education, Committee Member Dillon has highlighted the importance of expanding and improving our athletic programs, Committee member Descoteaux has shared the importance of increasing access to the arts, Committee member Clark has articulated the importance of building out our data infrastructure and Committee Member Martin has reminded us to make sure that as we continue the process of improvement, we continue to build on the many things that have worked effectively in the past.

Our first budget plan, which we began developing in anticipation of an April 1 deadline for the student opportunity act, operationalized all of that feedback in a way that would have propelled our schools forward into year 1 of a rather ambitious, yet realistic five-year strategic plan. But now we find ourselves in a different, previously unfathomable reality, one that has us planning for multiple scenarios for the fall without complete certainty when school buildings will reopen, and one that requires planning for significant reductions in state aid that could necessitate draconian cuts. While the budget balancing options tonight include some options that are less desirable than any of us would like to even have to contemplate, they are the best options among a series of bad possibilities. And unfortunately, we may need to bring even more cuts to the Committee in the future to balance whatever our budget turns out to be. But no budget option will ever be brought forward that doesn't prioritize the needs of each and every one of our 14,434 students, and with each analysis, as we did with tonight's presentation, we will always weigh the feedback that has been shared by the community. At the end of the day, it's important for us to always remind ourselves that school will happen in the fall, in some form, and our kids don't care about budget balancing tactics – they simply desire and deserve an optimal schooling experience.

Regardless of the final revenue forecast, I am confident that we will be able to provide them with that so long as we continue to move forward together, as we always do, as one district, one community, one Lowell." Ms. Turner, Chief Financial Officer then proceeded to discuss the budget with the Committee page by page.

**Mr. Hoey made a motion to approve providing a 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget for the month of July 2020 for fiscal year 2021; seconded by Ms. Martin. 7 yeas APPROVED**



## 7. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

### 7.1. COVID-19 Update

Ms. Phillips, Equity and Engagement Officer provided a report to the Committee that spoke about the following:

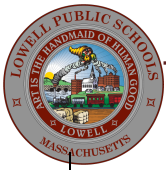
- Close of School Year
- Central Office Re-Opening
- Graduation
- Summer Programs
- Meal Service
- New School Year Planning
- Online Registration
- Contact Information

**Ms. Clark made a motion to accept the following Report of the Superintendent 7.1 as a report of progress; seconded by Mr. Dillon. 7 yeas APPROVED**

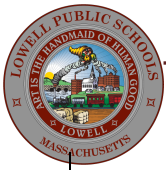
## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### 8.1. Budget Transfer

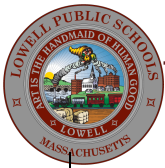
Fund	Organizational ID	Object	DESE	Amount Requested	Source of Additional Funding***			DESE	Amount (transfers only)
0010	96047103	512960	4110	0.01	0010	99320116	577615	3300	(1,575,547.53)
0010	91547103	512960	4110	0.01	0010	99348012	577615	3300	(1,600,000.00)
0010	94047103	512960	4110	0.02	0010	99341233	520703	1400	(2,721.07)
0010	98941103	512102	2200	0.03	0010	99320106	512925	2300	(5,221.45)
0010	92547103	512960	4110	0.04	0010	91510106	512958	2300	(8,691.75)
0010	99032003	512903	2600	0.24	0010	98010106	512958	2300	(5,341.00)
0010	99312606	577615	2300	0.29	0010	98810606	512958	2300	(3,524.00)
0010	95041103	512101	2200	13.10	0010	95410106	512958	2300	(983.24)
0010	99030502	512122	3520	15.92	0010	93010106	512958	2300	(319.84)
0010	99010708	512112	2100	130.84	0010	92047103	512960	4110	(8,953.56)
0010	99347103	513101	4000	135.00	0010	95047103	512960	4110	(5,239.29)
0010	92710103	512958	2300	165.00	0010	99041403	512915	4000	(19,700.51)
0010	99028004	512903	2300	375.00	0010	98310606	512903	2300	(39,804.69)



0010	98710609	512903	2300	406.12	0010	93610106	512903	2300	(28,396.72)
0010	98710603	512903	2300	406.90	0010	99010719	512903	2300	(18,303.70)
0010	99339004	512142	3100	569.82	0010	99010709	512903	2300	(14,831.37)
0010	99340303	563601	5200	604.00	0010	91210103	512903	2300	(13,626.90)
0010	98710619	512903	2300	668.10	0010	98311503	512903	2300	(9,860.25)
0010	99341206	512149	1200	702.71	0010	98510603	512903	2300	(9,273.40)
0010	99341206	512147	1200	741.35	0010	91813003	512903	2300	(7,810.15)
0010	99341206	512148	1200	741.35	0010	94010803	512903	2300	(6,248.12)
0010	99341212	570701	1200	782.97	0010	92010103	512903	2300	(4,522.42)
0010	98010903	512903	2300	796.47	0010	99011506	512903	2300	(3,654.00)
0010	91941103	512902	2200	845.34	0010	92712903	512903	2300	(2,938.49)
0010	93041103	512902	2200	845.34	0010	99011606	512903	2300	(2,535.33)
0010	91241103	512902	2200	854.39	0010	91510803	512903	2300	(2,414.48)
0010	95541103	512902	2200	854.39	0010	95010103	512903	2300	(1,732.00)
0010	98941103	512101	2200	956.40	0010	98810603	512903	2300	(1,731.40)
0010	91210106	512903	2300	999.84	0010	98813003	512903	2300	(1,597.32)
0010	99031003	512115	3500	1,064.32	0010	99013403	512903	2300	(992.88)
0010	98941103	512902	2200	1,176.96	0010	98412603	512903	2300	(866.30)
0010	99328105	530002	3300	1,250.00	0010	98410606	512903	2300	(866.05)
0010	99036003	512103	2500	1,402.04	0010	94010106	512903	2300	(865.70)
0010	94041103	512902	2200	1,690.68	0010	98912003	512903	2300	(865.70)
0010	93641103	512902	2200	1,708.80	0010	98612003	512903	2300	(865.70)
0010	95041103	512902	2200	1,708.80	0010	97510103	512903	2300	(865.70)
0010	99010712	512958	2300	1,783.56	0010	99012006	512903	2300	(865.70)
0010	98910603	512903	2300	1,842.96	0010	90110106	512903	2300	(821.08)
0010	93510106	512903	2300	1,842.96	0010	99212003	512903	2300	(821.08)



0010	99325003	512134	2300	1,842.96	0010	98610603	512903	2300	(820.92)
0010	93547103	512960	4110	2,242.23	0010	99013106	512903	2300	(662.56)
0010	93012903	512903	2300	2,550.00	0010	98410603	512903	2300	(662.28)
0010	92541105	512902	2200	2,563.21	0010	98711003	512903	2300	(661.92)
0010	92741103	512902	2200	2,590.44	0010	93612803	512903	2300	(661.92)
0010	95441103	512902	2200	2,590.47	0010	98312003	512903	2300	(661.92)
0010	97541103	512902	2200	2,590.47	0010	98510606	512903	2300	(553.85)
0010	90241103	512902	2200	2,634.84	0010	98310103	512903	2300	(501.37)
0010	92041103	512102	2200	2,768.48	0010	90212803	512903	2300	(100.00)
0010	91541103	512902	2200	2,863.55	0010	99347103	512906	4000	(1,430.77)
0010	91810103	512903	2300	3,000.00	0010	99310301	512907	5100	(28,151.00)
0010	99247103	512960	4110	3,323.56	0010	99341403	512910	3100	(10,019.67)
0010	99341215	512920	1400	5,272.10	0010	99010707	512914	2100	(4,911.04)
0010	93047103	512960	4110	5,302.53	0010	99320106	512137	2300	(2,208.40)
0010	95547103	512960	4110	6,113.96	0010	99341232	512140	1400	(2,106.94)
0010	98647103	512960	4110	6,239.92	0010	99341215	512143	1400	(1,708.51)
0010	99041103	512902	2200	6,880.65	0010	99341215	512150	1400	(1,446.15)
0010	98310606	512958	2300	7,076.70	0010	99341230	512151	1400	(1,858.47)
0010	98547103	512960	4110	7,331.14	0010	99341230	512152	1400	(980.77)
0010	97547103	512960	4110	7,560.81	0010	99310008	512155	2350	(3,269.24)
0010	93610103	512958	2300	8,112.30	0010	99339004	512157	3100	(1,076.92)
0010	99324103	512131	2300	8,649.55	0010	99347103	512158	4000	(1,269.23)
0010	91510107	512301	2300	8,880.00	0010	99300004	512159	2100	(2,024.15)
0010	93610103	512903	2300	9,509.06	0010	99311203	512120	2450	(1,633.52)
0010	99035006	512902	2700	9,539.31	0010	99310451	512135	2800	(16,320.74)
0010	99310103	512401	2300	9,675.00	0010	99228103	512135	2800	(7,294.48)



0010	93647103	512960	4110	9,976.92	0010	98841103	512101	2200	(1,321.80)
0010	93610106	512958	2300	10,011.20	0010	93041103	512101	2200	(724.42)
0010	92747103	512960	4110	11,438.92	0010	93641103	512101	2200	(707.31)
0010	98447103	512960	4110	11,790.38	0010	98441103	512101	2200	(689.91)
0010	99320106	512104	2300	12,502.87	0010	96041109	512101	2200	(676.28)
0010	91247103	512960	4110	12,585.34	0010	97541103	512101	2200	(642.06)
0010	90247103	512960	4110	12,679.79	0010	98041103	512101	2200	(640.32)
0010	98347103	512960	4110	12,830.61	0010	98341103	512101	2200	(535.34)
0010	98847103	512960	4110	13,145.54	0010	94041103	512101	2200	(522.87)
0010	98947103	512960	4110	13,441.66	0010	98641103	512101	2200	(511.85)
0010	98747103	512960	4110	13,740.06	0010	98841103	512102	2200	(0.03)
0010	99310450	512135	2800	14,498.89	0010	99335551	512104	2800	(533.95)
0010	91510103	512903	2300	14,500.55	0010	99035003	512105	2700	(12,362.45)
0010	99047103	512960	4000	14,595.05	0010	99300004	512110	2100	(36,935.59)
0010	90147103	512960	4110	14,673.60	0010	99012806	512110	2300	(450.00)
0010	98310903	512903	2300	26,900.77	0010	99210609	512110	2100	(329.15)
0010	99010712	512903	2300	36,367.35	0010	92510603	512110	2000	(319.29)
0010	99311204	541000	2450	288,372.75					
0010	99320115	575333	2300	2,855,281.69					

Budget  
Adjustment -  
Shifting funds to  
expend the  
budget

3,565,119.24

(3,565,119.24)

**Ms. Doherty made a motion to approve the budget transfer of \$3,565,119.24; seconded by Ms. Martin  
7 yeas APPROVED**



## 9. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Clark made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Dillon. 7 yeas APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,

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

JDB/mes