



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 4, 2026

Time: 6:30PM

Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA 01852

Members of the public can view the meeting via LTC. Those wishing to speak about a specific agenda item must register in advance by emailing the Superintendent. Please include the agenda item, as well as your phone number and email address so we can provide a Zoom link for access. The email address is skeo@lowell.k12.ma.us. If you do not have access to email, you may contact us at 978-674-4324. All requests must be submitted by 2:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

1. SALUTE TO FLAG

2. ROLL CALL

On a call at 6:36 p.m., members present were, namely: Ms. McFadden, Mr. Bahou, Mayor Gitschier, Mr. Lay and Ms. Martin. Mr. Conway and Ms. Delrossi were absent.

3. MINUTES

3.1. The Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee of January 21, 2025

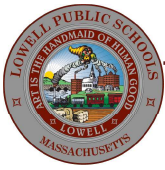
Mr. Bahou moved to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special and Regularly Scheduled School Committee meetings that were held on January 21, 2026 and January 28, 2026; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).

3.2. The Approval of the Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Lowell School Committee Meeting of January 21, 2026

Mr. Bahou moved to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special and Regularly Scheduled School Committee meetings that were held on January 21, 2026 and January 28, 2026; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).

3.3. The Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee of January 28, 2026

Mr. Bahou moved to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special and Regularly Scheduled School Committee meetings that were held on January 21, 2026 and January 28, 2026; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).



4. PERMISSION TO ENTER

4.1. Permission to Enter – February 4, 2026

Mr. Bahou moved to approve the Permission to Enter; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).

5. MOTIONS

5.1. [By Mayor Gitschier]: Request the school committee facilities subcommittee meet with the City Council facility subcommittee to discuss the creation of a facilities department.

Mr. Hoey, former School Committee member addressed the Committee and spoke in favor of this motion.

Mayor Gitschier apologized to the Committee regarding the home rule petition presented to the City Council to establish a combined facilities department. He expressed that he wants the Committee and the City Council to meet to discuss the matter and ensure they are aligned.

Several Committee members thanked the Mayor and stated that they want to meet with the Council for further discussions.

Mayor Gitschier moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).

5.2. [By Eileen DelRossi]: Request the superintendent work with the department of finance to create a step by step guide for schools receiving financial rewards.

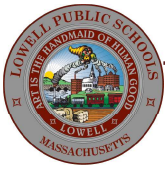
Mr. Bahou moved to defer Ms. Delrossi's motion to the next School Committee meeting; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).

5.3. [By Eileen DelRossi]: Request the superintendent update the school committee on how the implementation of the new reading program is progressing.

Mr. Bahou moved to defer Ms. Delrossi's motion to the next School Committee meeting; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).

5.4. [By Fred Bahou]: Have the Superintendent or designee provide a report on Friday attendance of every school in our district for each month of 24 - 25 and so far in 25-26 school year.

Mr. Bahou moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).



6. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

6.1. Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Crocker-Roberge, Assistant Superintendent for School Leadership, provided a Quarter 2 update to the Committee. She reported on the progress of each Year 1 initiative currently in the Design, Pilot, or Launch phase for this school year, including updated metrics and performance indicators in accordance with the established timeline. At this time, all initiatives are meeting expected completion targets for their action steps. She noted that this represents a substantial body of work in the inaugural year, laying a strong foundation for continued progress in these goal areas while building capacity and preparing schools and departments for the launch of new goals in Year 2.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 6.1 through 6.6 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).

6.2. Response to Motion (By Fred Bahou, 1/07/2026) Regarding Breakfast in Schools

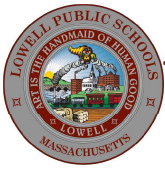
Dr. Hall, Assistant Superintendent for HR & Operations, provide an update on the Breakfast Program. The report stated that from August through December 2025 a total of 530,323 breakfasts were served over 76 service days, averaging 6,978 meals per day. Breakfast is provided through multiple service models to meet the needs of each school community.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 6.1 through 6.6 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).

6.3. Finance Updates

Dr. Pinto, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, provided an update than informed the Committee that the FY27 budget process is underway in accordance with the School Committee approved budget calendar. Budget workbooks will maintain the FY26 format, with leaders asked to identify proposed “additional investments” beyond baseline budgets. The workbooks and budget kickoff are scheduled for release next week. Core assumptions are being finalized to guide forecasting, decision-making, and risk management, using historical trends and known cost increases. Preliminary Chapter 70 figures, based on the Governor’s proposed FY27 budget, reflect a statewide increase of approximately 3.3% (\$241.8 million). Lowell Public Schools is projected to receive a 5.54% increase in Chapter 70 aid. Dr. Pinto and his team are currently analyzing the figures. All amounts remain subject to revision pending final action by the House and Senate. The Department of Elementary & Secondary Education will issue final net school spending requirements upon enactment of the FY27 state budget. At the federal level, initial proposals to consolidate Title grants have shifted to a bipartisan agreement preserving Title I–IV as separate, flat-funded programs. Several community engagement opportunities were held in January around the budget process.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 6.1 through 6.6 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).



6.4. FY26 Quarter 2 Summary Report

Dr. Pinto, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, provided a report that informed the Committee that the shows that the district is at the midpoint of the fiscal year and overall spending is tracking in line with expectations. Variances primarily reflect normal timing differences related to payroll schedules and the front-loading of certain non-salary obligations.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 6.1 through 6.6 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).

6.5. Quarterly Grants Update 2nd Quarter July 1–December 31 2025 FY26 Q2 Summary

Dr. Pinto, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, provided a report that showed the Committee the changes in spending from September to December. Dr. Pinto stated in the report that he and his team are committed to sharing quarterly spending/progress reports for both the budget and grants for transparency and accountability at mid-year.

Mr. Bahou requested another column be added so the expiration of the grant can be included.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 6.1 through 6.6 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).

6.6. Report on Motions

Superintendent Skinner provided the Committee with an updated report on the status of outstanding motions and asked the Committee if they had any concerns or questions.

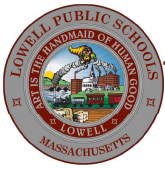
Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 6.1 through 6.6 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).

6.7. Home Education

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

Bruna Araujo

Ms. Martin moved to approve Home Education; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).



7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. Approval to Accept and Expend Allocated FY26 Awards

The grants funds provided in the report have been secured by the Lowell Public Schools through the University of Boston.

Ms. McFadden moved to approve, accept and expend the allocated FY26 awards; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).

7.2. Budget Modification Request

Mr. Lay moved to approve the budget modification in the amount of \$480,000; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).

8. CONVENTION/CONFERENCE REQUESTS

8.1. Overnight Request - MASC Annual Conference

Mr. Lay moved to approve the convention/conference requests; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).

Ms. McFadden moved to cancel the February 18, 2026 School Committee meeting due to February vacation; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).

9. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Martin moved to adjourn at 7:23 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi).

Respectfully submitted,

**Liam Skinner, Superintendent and
Secretary to the Lowell School Committee**

LS/mes