



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 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 6:30 p.m., members present were, namely: Mr. Bahou, Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi, Mayor Gitschier and Ms. McFadden. Mr. Lay arrived at 6:39 p.m. Ms. Martin was absent.

3. MINUTES

3.1. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee of February 4, 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 February 4, 2026; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Lay, Ms. Martin).

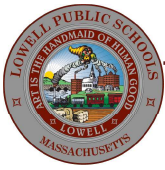
3.2. The Approval of the Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Lowell School Committee Meeting of February 4, 2026

Mr. Bahou moved to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special and Regularly Scheduled School Committee meetings that were held on February 4, 2026; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Mr. Lay, Ms. Martin).

4. PERMISSION TO ENTER

4.1. Permission to Enter - March 4, 2026

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



5. MOTIONS

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

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

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

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

6. SUBCOMMITTEES

6.1. The Approval of the Minutes of the Finance Subcommittee Meeting of February 11, 2026

Mr. Bahou, Chair of the Finance Subcommittee, informed the Committee that an MOA proposal was submitted to the City Manager and Chief Financial Officer in October 2025. The proposal was prepared using the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education's per-pupil cost calculator. Dr. Pinto informed the subcommittee that the proposal included items such as health insurance, operational expenses, and the maintenance of school facilities. He noted that a recommendation was made to hold quarterly meetings to review all related charges. It was agreed that the parties would reconvene in January after the newly elected City Council and Committee were in place. Mr. Bahou provided an update on the Governor's FY26 budget allocation. He reported that the City's projected cash contribution is \$12 million. He stated that transportation expenses are expected to increase by 6%.

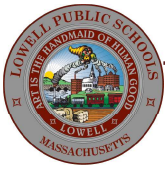
Ms. McFadden moved to accept the report as a report of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

7. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

7.1. Strategic Goals Update - LPS Culture of Continuous Improvement

Superintendent Skinner spoke about the LPS Culture of Continuous Improvement, emphasizing that data should serve as a living, dynamic tool to strengthen instruction and accelerate student learning. He noted that this work extends far beyond compliance or surface-level review. Instead, data is embedded in daily practice, with educators sharing collective responsibility for ensuring every student's success.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.7 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).



7.2. Response to Motion (By Connie Martin, 12/17/25) Regarding online safety

Mr. Conway moved to defer agenda item #7.2 until the next meeting; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.7 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

7.3. Homeschooling by Grade Levels Update

Dr. Fox Royce, Assistant Superintendent of Academics & Instruction provided a report to the Committee that informed them that grades 5-8 have the highest home homeschooling total at 73, followed by K-4 with 56 and 9-12 with 54. The middle grades form the largest group, with the youngest and oldest slightly smaller. This summary reflects the distribution of students currently participating in homeschooling across the specified grade ranges, with the greatest number of students in grades 5-8.

Mr. Bahou asked if the Committee could receive a new draft policy by May 1st or May 15th.

Mr. Conway asked that surrounding towns and cities be included.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.7 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

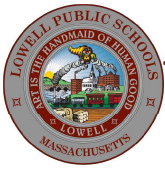
7.4. Lowell High School Construction Update

An update on the status of the Lowell High School construction project was presented to the Committee, consistent with the information previously shared at the School Building Committee meeting.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.7 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

7.5. Food and Nutrition Program Highlights

Dr. Hall, Assistant Superintendent of HR & Operations, informed the Committee that sixteen Lowell Public Schools (LPS) Food and Nutrition staff enjoyed a 3-day hands on culinary training at an offsite test kitchen in Lawrence. They had the opportunity to review and strengthen knife skills, explore the flavors of Mediterranean cuisine and workshop new breakfast and lunch specials for LPS students. Training was conducted by Aramark executive chefs, the John Stalker Institute and Project Bread. The training ended in a K-12 Culinary Cook Off where staff competed in teams to build and execute a school nutrition compliant menu. Feedback from attendees was positive, with requests for additional sessions in the future. The Cafeteria Revolving account was used to fund the professional development opportunity.



Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.7 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

7.6. FY27 Budget Process Update

Dr. Pinto, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, provided an update that informed the Committee that the budget process continues to follow the roadmap for action. A second set of budget meetings in the form of Principal-Cabinet meetings are coming up in the first week of March. School-site leaders will be reviewing the status and impacts of budget adjustments with Cabinet members. Modest reductions will have to be made across all cost centers to present a balanced budget. This will include a downward adjustment to staffing and programs at both the Central Office and school sites. An examination of all expenses is underway to elicit cost savings. The report stated that savings will ensure that we are able to reallocate dollars as necessary, confidently fund our obligations and prepare for unanticipated expenses to maintain staffing and services.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.7 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

7.7. Key Performance Indicators Report

Ms. Crocker-Roberge, the Assistant Superintendent for Schools & Leadership, provided the Key Performance Indicators Q2 report to the Committee. The report included the Quarter 2 update on the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The KPIs identified fall within four main categories:

- Academics and Student Achievement
- Safe and Welcoming Environment
- Operational Efficiency
- Family and Community Engagement

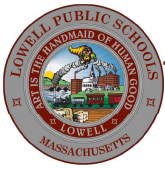
Key highlights are presented within each area with supporting tables and charts that illustrate the metrics and comparisons from the previous year. Data is also disaggregated by reporting groups where applicable.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.7 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

7.8. Home Education

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

Emma Martinez
Jasmine Gonzalez
Joyce Cedeno



Christina Martinez
Sokvanary Chery

Mr. Bahou asked for an ongoing total on each report.

Mr. Lay moved to approve Home Education; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. 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 Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, Executive Office of Education, Office for Refugees and Immigrants, and the Lowell Cultural Council.

Mr. Conway moved to approve, accept and expend the allocated FY26 awards; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin)

8.2. Budget Modification Request

Mr. Bahou moved to approve the budget modification in the amount of \$1,353,988.78; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

8.3. Contract Approval for Assistant Superintendent for School Leadership, Wendy Crocker-Roberge

Ms. Delrossi moved to approve the contract for Assistant Superintendent for School Leadership, Wendy Crocker-Roberge; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion failed 3 yeas, 3 nays (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi, Mr. Lay), 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

8.4. Contract Approval for Assistant Superintendent for Academics and Instruction, Oneida Fox Roye

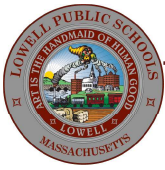
Mr. Bahou moved to approve the contract for Assistant Superintendent for Academics and Instruction, Oneida Fox Roye; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion failed 3 yeas, 3 nays (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi, Mr. Lay), 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

8.5. Contract Approval for Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services, Alice Brown-Legrand

Ms. McFadden moved to approve the contract for Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services, Alice Brown-Legrand; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion failed 3 yeas, 3 nays (Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi, Mr. Lay), 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

8.6. Approval of New Job Descriptions and Permission to Post

Dr. Fox Roye, Assistant Superintendent of Academics & Instruction requested that the School Committee review the following four standard Lowell Public Schools Chapter 74 Vocational Technical Education job descriptions: Robotics and Automation Engineering Technology Teacher (Grades 9-12),



Multimedia and Broadcast Production Teacher (Grades 9-12), Information Support Services and Networking Teacher (Grades 9-12), and Business Technology Teacher (Grades 9-12). These positions align with the Lowell High School Chapter 74 program admissions policy, which the Committee approved on November 19, 2025

Mr. Bahou moved to post and approve the job descriptions; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

8.7. School Calendar for SY 2026.2027

Mr. Lay moved to approve the SY2026-2027 School Calendar; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

8.8. Approval for MOU - Reimbursement Request for Foster Care Transportation

Mr. Lay moved to approve the MOU - Reimbursement Request for Foster Care Transportation; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

9. CONVENTION/CONFERENCE REQUESTS

9.1. Out of State Overnight Request LHS - Cooperstown, NY

Mr. Conway moved to bundle and approve the convention/conference requests; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

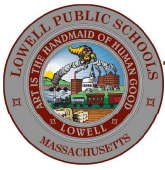
9.2. Overnight Request - MSSADA Conference Hyannis, MA

Mr. Conway moved to bundle and approve the convention/conference requests; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

10. PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL

10.1. The Members of the United Teachers of Lowell Hereby Donate five [5] Sick Leave Days to Elizabeth Baldwin Lincoln School Teacher.

Mr. Lay moved to approve the professional personnel; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).



11. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Delrossi moved to adjourn at 7:29 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Respectfully submitted,

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

LS/mes