



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 1, 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: Mayor Gitschier, Mr. Lay, Ms. McFadden, Mr. Bahou and Mr. Conway. Ms. Delrossi joined by Zoom at 6:32. Ms. Martin was absent.

3. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

3.1. Budget Public Hearing Notice

The public hearing on the budget hearing dates was held, and no individuals spoke either in favor of or in opposition to the budget hearing dates.

4. MINUTES

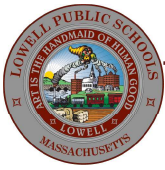
4.1. The Approval of the Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Lowell School Committee Meeting of March 18, 2026.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept and place on file the minutes of the Regularly Scheduled School Committee meeting that was held on March 18, 2026; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Ms. Martin, Ms. Delrossi).

5. PERMISSION TO ENTER

5.1. Permission to Enter - April 1, 2026

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



6. MOTIONS

6.1. [By Mayor Gitschier]: Request the minutes of the executive session for the 3 administrator's contracts be released to the public.

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

6.2. [By Dave Conway]: Request the Superintendent to give an update on the status of the tennis courts at Shedd Park, the home of L.H.S. tennis teams.

Mayor Gitschier stated that he will contact the City Manager regarding the tennis courts and expressed concern about their condition as the tennis season approaches.

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

6.3. [By Fred Bahou]: Request the Superintendent have the proper department provide a report on the district's current efforts on educating students on the efficacy of marijuana being sold in dispensaries, how it affects them, the behavioral impacts it can have & how it can become addictive.

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

6.4.[By Fred Bahou]: Have Superintendent provide update & plans on recruitment efforts to inform families & students of the benefit of attending Lowell Public schools.

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

7. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

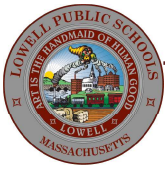
7.1. FY27 Proposed Budget

The following individuals registered to speak and shared their concerns with the Committee regarding the upcoming budget and proposed cuts. Most speakers addressed reductions in the arts department and student support services at Lowell High School. The speakers are as follows: Jordan Ferreira-Fahlberg, Alba Kuilan-Lamboy, Dominic Lebron, Eduardo Lopez, Adi Kusna, Yuthon Em, Bernardo Cordeiro, Charlotte Camacho, David Grenier, Mel Emerick, Laura Katz, Amanda Satterfield, Jared Logan, Heather Brunner and Andrea Regina.

Ms. Delrossi requested a list of positions that were created using the ESSER funds.

Mayor Gitschier asked if we were adding positions.

Superintendent Skinner stated yes.



Mayor Gitschier stated that he would like all the principals to be present at the upcoming budget hearing to explain to the Committee why the cuts were made.

Mr. Conway stated that we need to look at the outside consultants and see if savings can be made there.

Mr. Lay asked the Superintendent to produce a spreadsheet listing where the cuts are.

Ms. McFadden asked how many of the positions are non-student related.

Superintendent Skinner stated that he will provide that information to the Committee.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.3 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

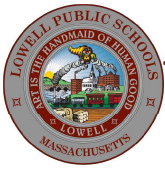
7.2. Strategic Plan Update - Safe and Welcoming Schools

Ms. Brown-LeGrand, Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services, provided a report that informed the Committee that over the past year, the district has made significant progress in establishing a comprehensive, collaborative approach to improving student attendance. The report stated that central to this work has been the development of a cross-functional Attendance Working Group, led by Heather Ganley and Drew Rosenshine, which includes district leaders, school-based staff, and community partners. This group has guided the development of a multi-tiered pilot grounded in prevention, family engagement, and positive school climate for a planned Fall 2026 roll-out. This work is grounded in a clear shift, addressing attendance not as a compliance issue, but as a systems and school climate issue rooted in fidelity of Tiered supports.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.3 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

7.3. Response To Motion (By Fred Bahou, 02/04/26) Regarding Fridays attendance of every school for SY 24-26 to present date.

Ms. Brown-LeGrand, Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services, presented a summary of student attendance data for the 2024-2025 school year, along with year-to-date data for the 2025-2026 school year. During the 2024-2025 school year, the day with the highest number of absences varied, most frequently occurring on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. However, when the final day of school (Monday, June 16, 2025) is excluded from the data, Wednesdays and Fridays emerge as the most common days with the highest absences across schools. In contrast, year-to-date data for the 2025-2026 school year shows a consistent pattern, with Wednesday identified as the day with the highest number of absences in nearly every school. The report stated that Wednesday coincides with the district's early release schedule, as well as the half day preceding Thanksgiving break. The report included detailed data, that provide a comprehensive breakdown by school and week, including daily absence totals and



identification of the highest-absence day for each week. The analysis indicates a shift in attendance patterns between the two school years, with a more consistent trend emerging in 2025-2026. In response, the district will share these findings with attendance teams and building leaders to develop targeted strategies to address absenteeism. Moving forward, planned actions include strengthening Tier I attendance support, monitor attendance data weekly to identify patterns in real time, and ensuring a coordinated and responsive approach across all buildings.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 7.1 through 7.3 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

7.4. Home Education

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

Jose Rosado

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

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Approval to Accept and Expend Allocated FY26 Awards

The grant funds provided in the report have been secured by the Lowell Public Schools through the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.

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

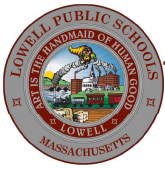
8.2. Approval to Accept Donation for Stoklosa Knowledge Bowl

The Lowell Public Schools has received a donation in the amount of \$640 from Mr. Garrett S. Thurston, facilitated through the Greater Lowell Community Foundation. These funds are designated to provide general operating support for the Kathryn Stoklosa Knowledge Bowl. The donation will be deposited into an account specifically designated for the Knowledge Bowl and will be used in accordance with its intended purpose.

Mr. Lay moved to approve and accept the donation for the Stoklosa Knowledge Bowl; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin)

8.3. Budget Modification Request

Mr. Bahou moved to approve the budget modification in the amount of \$1,800; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).



9. CONVENTION/CONFERENCE REQUESTS

9.1. Overnight Travel Request - LHS AFJROTC to Devens, MA

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

9.2. Out of State Overnight Request - BPA Conference in Aurora, CO

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

9.3. International and Overnight Travel Request: Program Leader Training in Madrid, Spain

Mr. Conway moved to bundle and approve the convention/conference requests; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. 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 sixty [60] Sick Leave Days to Todd Zingales, Lowell High School Teacher.

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

10.2. The Members of the United Teachers of Lowell Hereby Donate thirteen [13] Sick Leave Days to Alexander Bejtlich, Pyne Arts Magnet School Teacher.

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bahou moved to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Respectfully submitted,

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

LS/mes