



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUDGET HEARING MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 8, 2026

Time: 5:00PM

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 5:05 p.m., members present were, namely: Ms. McFadden, Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi and Mayor Gitschier. Mr. Bahou arrived at 5:06 p.m. Mr. Lay joined by Zoom at 5:07 p.m. Ms. Martin was absent.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1. Public Budget Hearing

Jake Ploof, Alejandro Bonilla, Jessica O'Hearn, Paul Georges, Chris Romero, Winston Kyi, Darcie Boyer, Rachel Leggeri, and Amanda Satterfield all spoke to express their concerns about the proposed position cuts outlined in the upcoming budget.

Mr. Conway moved to vote for the Action of Necessity, because the School Committee will be voting for their own-bottom line figure; the motion was seconded Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 2 absent (Ms. Martin, Mr. Lay)

Page 12

1110: School Committee

Total amount for approval

\$1,678,441

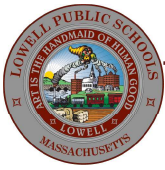
Mr. Bahou moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$1,678,441; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Page 13

1200: Superintendent

\$1,312,974

Mr. Bahou moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$1,312,974; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).



Page 14 & 15

1410: Finance & Operations

\$7,305,283

Mr. Bahou requested to receive actuals on clerical overtime.

Ms. Dupont verbally provided the actuals from the last several years.

Mr. Conway requested a report on how many positions were on grants and have since been put on the general fund budget.

Mr. Bahou also requested information on the cost of computer hardware/internet.

Dr. Pinto stated that he will provide the information requested.

Ms. Delrossi moved to have the Director of Technology position be held in Abeyance; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Mr. Bahou moved to skip pages 14 & 15; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Page 16

2110: Instructional Leadership

\$3,644,379

Ms. McFadden moved to skip page 16; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Page 17

22xx: Principals/School Leadership

\$12,384,573

Mr. Conway moved to transfer \$746,622 (LHS Student Support Specialist) to the Suspense Account; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

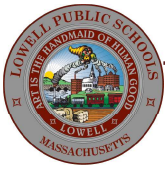
Mr. Bahou moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$11,637,951; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Page 18 & 19

23XX: Teaching Staff

\$115,410,851

Ms. Delrossi moved to skip pages 18 & 19; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).



Page 20

23xx: Medical/Therapeutic Services \$37,802,043

Mr. Bahou moved to skip page 20; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Page 21

235x: Professional Development \$3,502,846

Ms. McFadden moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$3,502,846; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Page 22

24xx: Instructional Materials, Equipment, Tech. \$7,271,975

Mr. Bahou asked why the increase in computer hardware is so substantial.

Dr. Pinto clarified that the lease agreement is intended to support the refresh of technology products.

Ms. Brown-LeGrand added that it specifically benefits sub-separate classes, which frequently require new iPads and occasionally need replacements due to device damage.

Ms. Crocker-Roberge added that we also need a refresh on our clear touch boards.

Mayor Gitschier moved to reduce \$200,000 from contracted services; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Mr. Conway moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$7,071,975; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Page 23

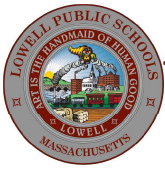
27 & 28: Guidance Counselors & Testing \$12,744,623

Ms. McFadden moved to skip page 23; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 1 nay (Mr. Conway), 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Page 24 & 25

3000: Public Services/Pupil Services \$4,424,046

Ms. McFadden moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$4,424,046; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).



Page 26

3300: Transportation \$19,178,992

Ms. McFadden moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$19,178,992; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Page 27

Aramark is informational.

Page 28 & 29

3500: Athletics & Student Activities \$1,847,022

Ms. Delrossi moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$1,847,022; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Page 30

4000: Custodial & Security Services \$10,427,009

Mr. Bahou moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$10,427,009; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Page 31

5100/5200: Employee Benefits & Retirements \$34,787,000

Ms. Delrossi moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$34,787,000; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Page 31

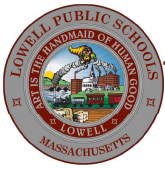
5350: Rental of Buildings \$894,356

Ms. Delrossi moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$894,356; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Page 31

7000: Capital Outlay \$950,000

Ms. McFadden moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$950,000; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).



Page 32

9000: Out of District Budget \$12,400,000

Mr. Lay moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$12,400,000; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Page 32

Suspense Account \$0

Ms. McFadden moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$946,622; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Ms. Delrossi moved to cancel the April 15th School Committee; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

4. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McFadden moved to recess at 7:59 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Respectfully submitted,

Liam Skinner, Superintendent and
Secretary to the Lowell School Committee

LS/mes