



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUDGET HEARING MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 15, 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 6:48 p.m., members present were, namely: Ms. McFadden, Mr. Bahou, Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi, Mayor Gitschier and Mr. Lay. Ms. Martin was absent.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1. Public Budget Hearing

Genevieve Parasole, Kristy Paolillo, Jaythen Lozada, Dominic Lebron, Sharon Crowley, Aiden Collins, Lyndsay Roy, Melanie Mangion, Caitlin Buxton, Monica Lundberg, Emily Johnson, Serenity Meas, Susan Uvani, Joy Flanders and Chris Romero all spoke to express their concerns about the proposed position cuts outlined in the upcoming budget.

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1410: Finance & Operations

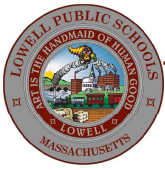
\$7,305,283

Mr. Bahou noted a significant increase in the computer hardware budget and suggested that potential reductions be considered in that area.

Superintendent Skinner responded that he will review the matter.

Dr. Pinto explained that the increase reflects the need to refresh a substantial amount of equipment, including Chromebooks, whiteboards, and other technology.

Mr. Bahou moved to reduce line #54 Computer Hardware by \$300,000; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 1 nay (Ms. McFadden), 1 absent (Ms. Martin).



Mr. Lay moved to reduce line #50 Recruitment/Advertising by \$75,000; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion failed with 2 yeas, 4 nays (Ms. McFadden, Mr. Bahou, Mr. Conway, Mayor Gitschier), 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Mr. Lay moved to reduce line #57 Photo Copier by \$500,000; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion was withdrawn.

Mayor Gitschier questioned the need for two additional part-time computer technicians given the investment in new equipment.

Mayor Gitschier moved to reduce 2 Computer Part-time Technicians by \$52,416; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 1 present (Mr. Conway), 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Mr. Bahou moved to reduce line #55 Computer Software by \$200,000; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion failed with 3 yeas, 3 nays (Ms. McFadden, Mayor Gitschier, Mr. Lay), 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Ms. McFadden moved to remove the Director of Technology position from Abeyance; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Mr. Bahou moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$6,952,867; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

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2110: Instructional Leadership

\$3,644,379

The Fine Arts Chair position has been reinstated in the budget and is reflected in the bottom-line total.

Mr. Bahou moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$3,792,273; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Ms. McFadden requested a legal opinion from the City Solicitor on whether the Committee has the authority to add positions to the budget; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

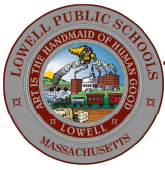
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23XX: Teaching Staff

\$115,410,851

Further information and justification were requested regarding the proposed reductions to MLL teaching positions.

Ms. McFadden moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$115,410,851; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion failed with 2 yeas, 4 nays (Mr. Bahou, Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi, Mr. Lay), 1 absent (Ms. Martin).



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

Ms. McFadden moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$37,802,043; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 5 yeas, 1 nay (Mr. Lay), 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

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

Mr. Conway requested that the vote on this line be deferred until the Committee receives the Solicitor's ruling.

Mr. Bahou moved to approve the bottom line figure of \$12,744,623; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion was withdrawn.

Ms. McFadden moved to skip page 23; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

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Suspense Account \$946,622

Mr. Lay moved to approve the bottom line figure of \$946,622; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion was withdrawn.

Mr. Lay moved to skip page 32; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

3.2. The full FY27 Proposed Budget can be found at:
<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1775667372/lowellpublicsd/ccevqo6umowogtwtyiw9/FY27ProposedBudget.pdf>

4. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McFadden moved to recess at 9:24 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