



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUDGET HEARING MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 22, 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 5:01 p.m., members present were, namely: Ms. Martin (on Zoom), Ms. McFadden, Mr. Bahou, Mr. Conway, Mayor Gitschier and Mr. Lay. Ms. Delrossi arrived at 5:40 p.m. on Zoom.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1. The full FY27 Proposed Budget can be found at:

[HTTPS://RESOURCES.FINALSITE.NET/IMAGES/V1775667372/LOWELLPUBLICSD/CCEVQO6UMOWOGTWTYIW9/FY27PROPOSEDBUDGET.PDF](https://resources.finalsite.net/images/V1775667372/LOWELLPUBLICSD/CCEVQO6UMOWOGTWTYIW9/FY27PROPOSEDBUDGET.PDF)

3.2. Public Budget Hearing (Continued)

Colby Callery, Joy Flanders, Paige Picos, Monical Melo Ernest, Sophie Williamson, Tami Marshall, Greg Limperis, Marianne Dumont and Andrea Regina all spoke to express their concerns about the proposed position cuts outlined in the upcoming budget.

Page 18 & 19

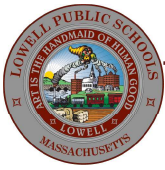
23XX: Teaching Staff

\$115,611,745

Ms. McFadden requested a review of the enrollment at the Greenhalge School and to ensure the school is given greater consideration during next year's enrollment process.

Ms. Martin moved to move the vote; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

Mr. Lay moved to approve the bottom-line figure of \$115,611,745; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 nay (Mr. Lay).



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27 & 28: Guidance Counselors & Testing

\$12,744,623

Mr. Bahou questioned the decision to reduce the remaining 2 clerk scheduler positions.

Superintendent Skinner explained that the cuts were recommended by the Head of School.

Mr. Bahou also asked about reductions in guidance counselors and the current staffing levels.

Superintendent Skinner stated that one position is being eliminated, reducing the total from 15 to 14 guidance counselors.

Mr. Bahou moved not to cut the 2 remaining clerk schedulers; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

Mr. Bahou moved to skip page 23; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

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Suspense Account

\$946,622

Mayor Gitschier moved to reinstate the 2 computer technician positions; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. 7 yeas.

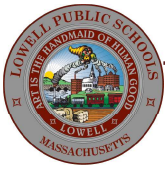
Mr. Bahou asked the Superintendent to consider restoring the Loeper and Director of Technology positions to the budget. He also inquired about the responsibilities currently handled by the Director of Technology and who would assume those duties going forward.

Superintendent Skinner stated that all budget decisions have been difficult. He stated that Dr. Pinto will assume some of the Director of Technology's responsibilities and added that the following positions could be reinstated using funds currently in the Suspense Account:

- 2 Clerk Schedulers
- 3 Student Support Specialists
- 1 Director of Technology

Ms. McFadden moved to skip page 32; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

Superintendent Skinner will report back to the Committee at the May 6th meeting with an updated budget for final approval.



3.2. The full FY27 Proposed Budget can be found at:

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1775667372/lowellpublicsd/ccevqo6umowogtwtyiw9/FY27ProposedBudget.pdf>

4. MOTIONS

4.1. [By Mayor Gitschier]: Request the Superintendent update next year's budget with stated outcomes, graph, charts, and goals.

Mayor Gitschier moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

4.2. [By Fred Bahou]: A motion to reconsider Technology Funding for School Year 2026-2027 School Budget.

The motion was withdrawn.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McFadden moved to adjourn at 6:54 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

Respectfully submitted,

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

LS/mes