

LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 6, 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, Mr. Lay, Ms. Martin (on Zoom) and Ms. McFadden.

3. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

3.1. Public Hearing Inter-District School Choice Program

This was withdrawn and will appear on the May 20, 2026, School Committee agenda.

Mr. Bahou moved to suspend the rules to take agenda item # 10.3. Final FY27 Approval for Budget out of order; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

Ms. McFadden moved to suspend the rules to move forward from item #10.3; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

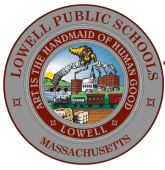
3.2. Spotlight on Excellence - Acera EI in the Lowell Public Schools: building STEAM

The Spotlight on Excellence highlighted Acera EI's partnership with Lowell Public Schools in promoting attendance through STEAM initiatives. Mr. Anderson, Principal of the McAuliffe School, and Mr. Morneau, Assistant Principal of the STEM Academy, addressed the Committee and shared improvements in attendance, as well as strong participation at their respective STEAM nights.

4. MINUTES

4.1. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee of April 1, 2026.

Ms. McFadden moved to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special and Regularly Scheduled School Committee meetings that were held on April 1, 2026, April 8, 2026, April 15, 2026 and April 22, 2026 ; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 7 yeas.



4.2. The Approval of the Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Lowell School Committee Meeting of April 1, 2026.

Ms. McFadden moved to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special and Regularly Scheduled School Committee meetings that were held on April 1, 2026, April 8, 2026, April 15, 2026 and April 22, 2026 ; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

4.3. The Approval of the Minutes of the Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes April 8, 2026

Ms. McFadden moved to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special and Regularly Scheduled School Committee meetings that were held on April 1, 2026, April 8, 2026, April 15, 2026 and April 22, 2026 ; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

4.4. The Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee of April 15, 2026

Ms. McFadden moved to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special and Regularly Scheduled School Committee meetings that were held on April 1, 2026, April 8, 2026, April 15, 2026 and April 22, 2026 ; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

4.5. The Approval of the Minutes of the Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2026

Ms. McFadden moved to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special and Regularly Scheduled School Committee meetings that were held on April 1, 2026, April 8, 2026, April 15, 2026 and April 22, 2026 ; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

4.6. The Approval of the Minutes of the Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2026

Ms. McFadden moved to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special and Regularly Scheduled School Committee meetings that were held on April 1, 2026, April 8, 2026, April 15, 2026 and April 22, 2026 ; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

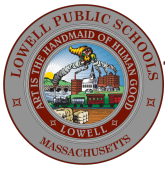
5. PERMISSION TO ENTER

5.1. Permission to Enter - May 6, 2026

Mr. Bahou moved to approve the Permission to Enter; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

6. MEMORIALS

6.1. **Doris Calex**, Mother of Andres Lopez Teacher at the Robinson School and Carlos Lopez Teacher at the STEM Academy Rogers School.



6.2. Maryann Dolloff is the mother of Karen Flynn, who works as a paraprofessional at the Robinson School. She has two grandsons: Emile Beaudry, also a paraprofessional at the Robinson School, and Jacob Flynn, who is a tutor there. Additionally, she has one granddaughter, Haley Flynn, who is a teacher at the Murkland School, and two daughters-in-law: Deidre Haley, the House Dean at LHS, and Kristine Haley, a teacher at Greenhalge School. Moreover, she has two sons: Paul Haley, a Member of the Lowell High School Athletic Hall of Fame, and his brother, John Haley, a Lowell High School Distinguished Alumni.

7. MOTIONS

7.1. [By Danielle McFadden]: Request the Superintendent develop (or refine) a district-wide policy and standardized procedures for School Site Councils, consistent with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 59C and DESE requirements. The policy should ensure consistent compliance across all schools, including the establishment of clear accountability measures and periodic reporting to the School Committee.

Mr. Bahou requested that the Committee be informed of upcoming School Site Council meetings so members may have the opportunity to attend.

Ms. McFadden moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

7.2. [By Eileen DelRossi]: Request superintendent to report on and explain how the LHS enrollment counselor will be able to share his/her knowledge of the process if they are moved to the Daley school to work as a guidance counselor.

Rose Mendonca spoke to express her concern about the proposed cuts in the guidance department at Lowell High School.

Ms. Delrossi moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

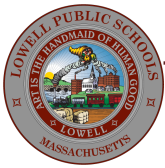
7.3. [By Eileen DelRossi]: Request the superintendent to report on how many if any schools in Lowell do the pledge of allegiance during morning announcements.

Ms. Delrossi moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

8. SUBCOMMITTEES

8.1. The Approval of the Minutes of School Improvement & Performance Management Subcommittee Meeting of March 25, 2026

Mr. Bahou, Chair of the School Improvement & Performance Management Subcommittee, informed the Committee that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) does not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences; however, the district does when proper documentation is



provided. He reported that over the past three years, chronic absenteeism has decreased significantly while the daily attendance rate has increased. Mr. Bahou also noted that the district has implemented measures to help sustain continued success in improving attendance rates.

Ms. McFadden moved to accept the report as a report of progress; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

9. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

9.1. Strategic Plan Initiatives - Literacy and Lesson Plans

Ms. Martin moved to send agenda item # 9.1. Strategic Plan Initiatives - Literacy and Lesson Plans to a Curriculum & Instruction subcommittee for further discussion; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 9.1 through 9.5 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

9.2. Response to Motion (By Eileen DelRossi, 12/17/25) Regarding School Site Council Notes

Dr. Pinto, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, provided a report to the Committee regarding the district's School Site Council (SSC) webpages. The report stated that when the district transitioned to its new website platform on December 5, 2025, school staff were temporarily unable to add or modify content. Access to the new platform, along with training for school-based content editors, was subsequently provided in January and February. In preparation for the FY27 budget season, the district conducted an audit of SSC webpages across all schools. The audit reviewed whether SSC pages included member lists, meeting dates, agendas, minutes, and budget information. To further support school leaders and provide families and community members with accessible information, LPS Finance populated all school websites with budget information from the FY26 school budget workbooks and embedded a "Budget Basics for SSC and Community Members" video within a dedicated SSC budget folder. Dr. Pinto reported that comprehensive SSC information has now been posted on most school websites and is readily accessible to the public.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 9.1 through 9.5 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

9.3. FY26 Quarter 3 (Q3) Summary Budget Report

Dr. Pinto, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, provided the Committee with a summary of the FY26 Quarter 3 (Q3) Budget Report for Lowell Public Schools for the period ending March 31, 2026. The report highlighted several key considerations as the district moves into the final quarter of the fiscal year. The report stated that in response to recent public discussions regarding school-level financial reporting, the format and presentation of the report were updated to more closely reflect MUNIS output. These changes were made to provide greater clarity and transparency, while also aligning the report more closely with the structure and presentation used in the district's budget book. As reflected in the attached Q3 report, overall spending trends across major functional areas are generally in line with expectations for this stage of the fiscal year. Many departments are tracking between



approximately 60% and 75% expended, which is consistent with third-quarter benchmarks. Dr. Pinto noted that a significant portion of the remaining budget has already been committed or projected.

Mr. Bahou expressed concern regarding the large balances that still remain in several line items at this point in the fiscal year.

Mayor Gitschier also raised concerns about prior-year expenses and questioned why those funds had not been fully expended.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 9.1 through 9.5 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

9.4. FY26 Quarter 3 Grants Report

Dr. Pinto, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, provided the Committee with a grant spending update that reflects best practices in public sector financial management and reinforces the district's commitment to transparency and accountability. The report stated that grants often carry specific compliance requirements and targeted purposes, and that clear reporting helps ensure funds are used as intended while allowing for timely course corrections when necessary. The report included an attachment providing a financial summary of each grant, including amounts expended to date, funds encumbered, and remaining balances available to be spent. The report stated that all grant coordinators overseeing grants with end dates of June 30, 2026, have been notified that all funds must be fully expended or encumbered prior to that date. A second attachment included a brief description of each grant, along with its respective start and end dates, for reference.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 9.1 through 9.5 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

9.5. Key Performance Indicators Report Quarter 3

Ms. Delrossi moved to send agenda item # 9.5. Key Performance Indicators Report Quarter 3 to a Curriculum & Instruction subcommittee for further discussion; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

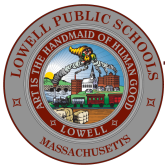
Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 9.1 through 9.5 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

9.6. Home Education

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

Shannah Howe
Laura Mimms
Thanhly SOn

Mr. Conway moved to approve Home Education; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 7 yeas.



10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1. 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.

Mr. Lay moved to approve, accept and expend the allocated FY26 awards; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

10.2. Approval to Accept Donation for Lowell High School

A donation to Lowell High School from Barr Foundation in the amount of \$1,000 was received for hosting a recent site visit for members of the Foundation. The visit provided an opportunity for Foundation representatives to observe how the Portrait of a Graduate Grant is helping to transform high school learning experiences.

Ms. Delrossi moved to approve and accept the donation for Lowell High School; the motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

10.3. Final FY27 Approval for Budget

Michelle Rhoads, Ada Song, Damion Gomes-Stamas, and Mike Benito-Tapia spoke to express concerns regarding the proposed position reductions outlined in the upcoming budget, particularly those related to mental health supports. The speakers emphasized their belief that additional student support services are needed.

Mr. Bahou asked why the three Student Support Specialist positions were proposed for elimination.

Superintendent Skinner stated that it was his understanding that three positions were proposed to be cut and that three positions were expected to be restored.

Mayor Gitschier asked how much it would cost to restore the three positions.

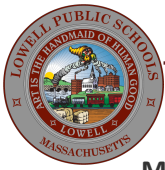
Superintendent Skinner responded that the estimated cost would be approximately \$400,000.

Mayor Gitschier moved to decrease funding in line #40 in the amount of \$52,000 (2 Part-time Technicians), line #4 \$100,000 (MGL C44 S64 Outstand prior year expenses) and line # 5 \$248,000 (Budget Reconciliation); the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

The vote for the final FY27 Budget will be held on Monday, May 11, 2026.

11. CONVENTION/CONFERENCE REQUESTS

11.1. Out of State Overnight Request - Sullivan Middle School to Washington, DC



Ms. Delrossi moved to bundle and approve the convention/conference requests; the motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

11.2. Out of State Overnight Request - National Community Schools in Long Beach, CA

Ms. Delrossi moved to bundle and approve the convention/conference requests; the motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

12. COMMUNICATIONS

12.1. Lowell High School Graduation SY2026 Information

Mr. Conway moved to bundle and accept the communications and to place them on file; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

12.2. Abisi Adult Education Graduation SY26 Information

Mr. Conway moved to bundle and accept the communications and to place them on file; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

13. PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL

13.1. The Members of the United Teachers of Lowell Hereby Donate fifteen [15] Sick Leave Days to Alexandra Bejtlich Pyne/Arts School Teacher.

Mr. Conway moved to bundle and approve the professional personnel; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

13.2. The Members of the United Teachers of Lowell Hereby Donate one [1] Sick Leave Days to Tanya Pontes, Reilly School Teacher.

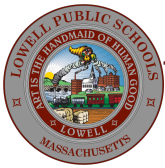
Mr. Conway moved to bundle and approve the professional personnel; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

13.3. The Members of the United Teachers of Lowell Hereby Donate forty [40] Sick Leave Days to Gina Tonelli, McAuliffe Elementary School Teacher.

Mr. Conway moved to bundle and approve the professional personnel; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 7 yeas.

13.4. The Members of the Lowell School Administrators Association of Lowell Hereby Donate twenty-nine [29] Sick Leave Days to School Psychologist Martina Schueler.

Mr. Conway moved to bundle and approve the professional personnel; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 7 yeas.



14. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Martin moved to adjourn at 8:11 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