



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Henry J. Mroz Administration Office
155 Merrimack Street
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852

Erik Gitschier
Mayor and Chairperson

David Conway
Vice-Chairperson

Fred Bahou
Eileen Delrossi
Dominik Lay
Connie A. Martin
Danielle McFadden

Curriculum & Instruction
Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, May 28, 2026
Mayor's Reception Room, City Hall
5:30 p.m.

Tel: (978) 674-4324
Fax: (978) 937-7609

Subcommittee Members Present:

Chairperson Martin, Mr. Bahou and Ms. Delrossi

School Department Personnel Present:

Dr. Fox Roye, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Crocker-Roberge, Assistant Superintendent

Chairperson Martin called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. The following agenda items were discussed:

1. Strategic Plan Initiatives – Literacy and Lesson Plans Update
2. (By Eileen Delrossi): Request the Superintendent to update the School Committee on how the implementation of the new reading program is progressing.
3. Key Performance Indicators Report Q3

Chairperson Martin opened the meeting, stating that the focus of the evening's discussion would be on the new reading program and asked Dr. Fox Roye for a quick overview.

Dr. Fox Roye provided an overview of the evaluation of literacy instruction across 47 K–8 classrooms using the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) PRISM observation tool. Findings showed notable improvements in text quality and the use of evidence-based instructional practices between the initial and follow-up visits. The data were drawn from 35 observations in grades K–4 and 12 observations in grades 5–8, focusing on foundational skills, complex texts, and writing instruction.

Dr. Fox Roye also provided an overview of the district's efforts to improve literacy outcomes. She explained that a landscape analysis conducted by TNTP indicated that implementation across the Lowell Public Schools is progressing well, with evidence demonstrating positive results. The analysis also identified student groups that continue to show growth and progress in literacy learning. Dr. Fox Roye noted that the district is implementing the ARC K–4 curriculum in our schools. Currently, five schools have adopted the ARC Foundational Skills curriculum, while the remaining schools chose to delay implementation until the following year. The schools currently implementing ARC are the McAuliffe School, Murkland School, Moody School, Pyne Arts School, and Shaughnessy Elementary School.

Dale Burns, Barbara Burgess, Joy Flanders, Jill Buchanan and Mickie Dumond read a statement for Diane McLain informing the subcommittee that they all have concerns around the literacy program and the implementation and lack of professional development around this. Speakers acknowledged that they have not had the ARC Foundational Skills curriculum implemented in their schools used

Ms. Delrossi asked how the schools were selected to participate in the implementation process.

Dr. Fox Roye explained that approximately 20 staff members participated in the curriculum review and audit process. Classroom observations were conducted in partnership with Attuned, and the curriculum review process narrowed six programs to three finalists: ARC, EL Education, and CKLA. Approximately, 150 educators from grades K–8 reviewed the programs and provided feedback. Following the review process, 460 educators voted on the top three options, with ARC receiving the majority of votes for elementary implementation, while the middle schools selected EL Education. The team then forwarded its recommendation to Superintendent Skinner.

Mr. Bahou asked how implementation is progressing.

Dr. Fox Roye reported that TNTP received PRISM funding and conducted classroom walkthroughs across the district. Based on their observations, TNTP indicated that implementation is progressing strongly and that educators are effectively implementing the curriculum. She noted that additional professional development opportunities will be provided to support staff. To date, TNTP has observed 47 classrooms. Currently, ARC Foundational Skills is being implemented in five schools, while the remaining schools continue to use Letterland or Foundations until implementation begins at their sites.

Mr. Bahou thanked the teachers for their commitment and dedication. He noted that the state identified a need for changes in literacy instruction within the district and that approximately 450 teachers participated in the curriculum selection process, ultimately choosing ARC. He acknowledged that at this time we would be moving forward with the ARC Foundational Skills, as well as acknowledging the grant funding the district received to support implementation and emphasized the importance of ongoing professional development to ensure successful implementation.

Ms. Martin thanked everyone for their work and stated that the Committee would take the information under advisement. Ms. Martin added that she has heard concerns regarding the need for a stronger professional development plan and emphasized the importance of

continuing to support educators throughout the implementation process. She noted that an additional subcommittee meeting would be scheduled in the future to continue the discussion around professional development.

Ms. Delrossi moved to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 3 yeas.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Fox Roye", is written over the typed name.

Dr. Fox Roye, Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum & Instruction
for Liam Skinner, Superintendent

OFR/mes