

LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 2, 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 roll call at 6:31 p.m., members present were, namely: Ms. Delrossi, Mayor Gitschier, Mr. Lay, Ms. McFadden, Mr. Bahou and Mr. Conway. Ms. Martin was absent.

3. MINUTES

3.1. The Approval of the Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Lowell School Committee Meeting of August 19, 2026

Mr. Bahou moved to accept and place on file the minutes of the Regularly Scheduled School Committee meeting that was held on August 19, 2026; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

4. PERMISSION TO ENTER

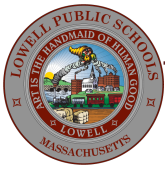
4.1. Permission to Enter – September 2, 2026

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

5. MEMORIALS

5.1. Nicholas J. Laganas, Husband of Karen Laganas, Executive Secretary for the Finance Department

5.2. David J. Gwiazda, Father of Jeffrey Gwiazda, Math Coordinator of K-12 for the Curriculum Department



6. MOTIONS

6.1. By Dominik Lay]: Ask the Superintendent for a report on the condition of each school at the opening day. If any, what needs to be done and what has been done to ensure a smooth opening day.

Superintendent Skinner stated that he was very pleased with how the first day of school went and believed it was a successful opening.

Ms. Crocker-Roberge added that two cafeterias, which could not be fully cleaned because summer school ended late, will be cleaned this Friday. She agreed that it was a successful opening.

Mr. Conway requested that the district begin testing the boilers now to avoid any issues when colder weather arrives.

Superintendent Skinner explained that the boilers are often serviced during the summer, after which the Department of Public Works (DPW) must return to reassemble them. He said he would look into the matter.

Mayor Gitschier stated that he would also check with the City Manager.

Mr. Lay moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

7. SUBCOMMITTEES

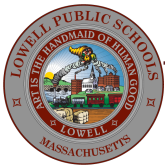
7.1. The Approval of the Minutes of the Human Resources & Labor Relations Subcommittee Meeting of August 26, 2026

Mr. Conway reported on the work of the Subcommittee in the chairperson's absence. He informed the Committee that all documents provided to the Subcommittee has been distributed to the full Committee. Mr. Conway stated that Committee members had already received a copy of the Superintendent's summative report. Superintendent Skinner has also submitted supporting documentation outlining the goals he and his administrative team have achieved over the past two years. Committee members have received all evaluation materials and are expected to return their completed evaluation documents to Dr. Hall by September 28, 2026. Dr. Hall will compile the scores and comments into a master document, which will be presented to the full Committee at the School Committee meeting on October 7, 2026.

Ms. Delrossi moved to accept the report as a report of progress; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

8 REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Bahou moved to bundle agenda items 8.1 and 8.4; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).



8.1. Career Technical Education: 6 Programs Approved for Lowell High School

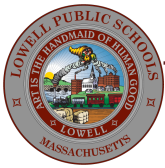
Superintendent Skinner provided a report to the Committee regarding the recent confirmation from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) that six Lowell High School programs have been granted Career Technical Education (CTE) status. These programs include Culinary Arts, Information Support Services & Networking, Multimedia and Broadcast Production, Robotics & Automation Engineering Technology, Business Technology, and Engineering Technology. Superintendent Skinner noted that this designation represents a major success for the school district and is the culmination of years of planning, program development, and coordination with DESE's Office for College, Career, and Technical Education. The designation broadens the appeal of Lowell High School to students seeking to develop valuable technical and employability skills, earn industry-recognized credentials, and explore career opportunities while still in high school. These CTE programs will provide meaningful pathways to college, apprenticeships, and the workforce, while helping students recognize the relevance and purpose of their learning. Lowell High School's CTE students will graduate not only prepared for further education, but also equipped with the knowledge, skills, confidence, and experience needed to contribute meaningfully to the community and to a changing economy.

Ms. Delrossi moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.1 through 8.7 (excluding 8.6) as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

8.2. Response to Motion (By Dominik Lay, 05/20/2026) Regarding Middle School Financial Literacy

Dr. Fox Roye, Assistant Superintendent of Academics and Instruction, informed the Committee that Lowell Public Schools (LPS) has a strong existing foundation for developing financial literacy among students in Grades 5-8 through its high-quality instructional materials (HQIM), supplemental programs, and alignment with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. LPS currently utilizes Eureka Math² for Mathematics, the Democratic Knowledge Project (DKP) for Social Studies, and OpenSciEd for Science. Collectively, these instructional materials provide meaningful opportunities for students to develop the knowledge, skills, and reasoning necessary for financial literacy. Eureka Math² provides the strongest and most direct connection, with financial concepts embedded across Grades 5-8, including saving, earning, income, rates, ratios, percentages, investments, financial modeling, and comparing costs. DKP Social Studies provides indirect to moderate connections through topics such as taxes, economic inequality, public resources, public policy, and civic and economic decision-making. OpenSciEd also offers opportunities to develop financial literacy-related skills through the exploration of costs, resources, constraints, trade-offs, efficiency, and cost-benefit analysis. Dr. Fox Roye emphasized that the existing progression within Eureka Math², in particular, provides a strong foundation upon which LPS can build a more intentional and cohesive approach to financial literacy across Grades 5-8.

Ms. Delrossi moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.1 through 8.7 (excluding 8.6) as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).



8.3. Enhanced Safety Recommendations

Mr. Bahou moved to send agenda items 8.3. Enhanced Safety Recommendations to an Executive Session due to the confidential nature of the report; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

Ms. Delrossi moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.1 through 8.7 (excluding 8.6) as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

8.4. Financial Literacy Update

Dr. Fox Royce, Assistant Superintendent of Academics and Instruction, informed the Committee that, in response to the School Committee's recommendation to expand extended learning opportunities for students, the Lowell Public Schools Special Programs Department has strengthened its financial literacy programming through the district's Explore & Expand initiative. This year, Lowell Public Schools was awarded a \$6,900 Financial Education Innovation Fund Grant through the Massachusetts State Treasurer's Office of Economic Empowerment to support financial literacy programming for Lowell High School Career Academy students. Through partnerships with Community Teamwork and Project LEARN, students participate in hands-on learning experiences designed to build practical financial knowledge and prepare them for postsecondary education, careers, and adult life. At the Community Teamwork Financial Education Center, students engage in two interactive financial education sessions focused on budgeting, banking, credit, income management, and financial decision-making, including a real-world budgeting simulation. Students also explore workforce readiness and entrepreneurship, helping them connect financial literacy skills to future career pathways. In partnership with Project LEARN, Career Academy students participate in career development workshops addressing career exploration, personality and career alignment, and time and stress management, further supporting their preparation for successful transitions to college, careers, and independent adulthood.

Ms. Delrossi moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.1 through 8.7 (excluding 8.6) as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

8.5. Report on Motions

Superintendent Skinner provided the Committee with an updated report on the status of outstanding motions and asked the Committee if they had any concerns or questions.

Ms. McFadden stated that M210 is not complete and would like it to remain open.

Ms. Delrossi moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.1 through 8.7 (excluding 8.6) as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).



8.6. Home Education

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

Shaylee Araujo
Clarivel Marin De Dragas
Joyce Cedenio
Victoria Lee
Ariadne Oliveria

Mr. Bahou moved to approve Home Education; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

8.7. Superintendent Evaluation: Discussion of Process and Timeline

This was discussed during the HR & Operations Subcommittee report. Mayor Gitschier asked the Committee if there were any questions or concerns regarding the proposed timeline. All Committee members indicated that they were comfortable with the timeline.

Ms. Delrossi moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.1 through 8.7 (excluding 8.6) as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Bahou).

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. Approval to Accept and Expend Allocated FY27 Awards

These grant funds have been secured by the Lowell Public Schools through the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

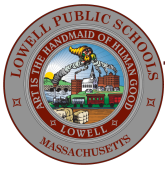
Mr. Bahou to approve, accept and expend the allocated FY27 awards; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

9.2. Letter of Approval for Accepting Donation to Daley School

The Lowell Public Schools periodically receives monetary donations from individuals, community organizations, and businesses intended to support student programs, activities, and school-based initiatives. Donation details are as follows:

- Ten Thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to cover the cost of 8th grade yearbooks, school culture t-shirts for all students, student attendance recognitions, and student social competency recognitions.
- Five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for supplies associated with after school activities.
- Five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for the benefit of the 7th grade team.

Ms. Delrossi moved to accept the donation for the Daley School in the amount of \$20,000; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).



9.3. Budget Modification Request

Mr. Bahou moved to approve the budget modification in the amount of \$10,000; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

9.4. MOA - Continuous Rate of Pay for Paraprofessionals Serving as Substitute Teacher

Dr. Hall presented an MOA to the Committee that would continue the existing rate of pay for paraprofessionals serving as substitute teachers. This rate of pay has been in effect since 2022.

Ms. Delrossi moved to approve the MOA for the continuous rate of pay for paraprofessionals serving as a substitute teacher; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).

10. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McFadden moved to adjourn at 7:15 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