



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

Joint Finance & Curriculum
Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday, September 2, 2026
City Hall, Council Chamber
5:30 p.m.

Tel: (978) 674-4324
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Finance Subcommittee Members Present:	Chairperson Bahou and Mr. Conway. Ms. Martin was absent.
Curriculum Subcommittee Members Present:	Mr. Bahou and Ms. Delrossi. Chairperson Martin was absent.
School Department Personnel Present:	Dr. Pinto, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Wilkins, Director, Parent Academy Mr. Limperis, MIS Director

Chairperson Bahou called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. The following agenda items were discussed:

- Device Refresh Strategy - Google-Slides
- Apple Lease Proposal
- Apple Lease Agreement
- First American Lease Proposal
- Sample Contract for First American Lease Purchase Agreement

Chairperson Bahou opened the meeting by stating that the evening's discussion would focus on the proposed multi-year-technology lease agreement, which would cost Lowell Public Schools approximately \$3.45 million over five years. The agreement presented to the joint subcommittee would cover the district's one-to-one Chromebook program for students. Chairperson Bahou then asked Dr. Pinto to address the committee and provide an update on the agenda items. Dr. Pinto asked Ms. Wilkins to come to the podium and speak to the subcommittee about the use of these laptops with the students and teachers.

Ms. Wilkins said device access has become embedded in daily instruction, with one-to-one technology taking a different form in each classroom but serving as a component of instruction across the district. She said the district surveyed kindergarten through second-grade teachers last year, and an overwhelming majority wanted to continue using one-to-one devices. The devices also provide students with access to translation tools and text-to-speech technology, particularly benefiting students with disabilities.

Chairperson Bahou asked whether the district could afford the program and when Lowell Public Schools first adopted one-to-one devices.

Ms. Wilkins said the district began providing devices to students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. DelRossi asked about GoGuardian.

Ms. Wilkins said the software had been evaluated.

Mr. Limperis then addressed the subcommittee, saying teacher devices would be MacBook Neos costing approximately \$800 each. He also spoke about AppleCare+, which provides two free repairs annually. He stated that teachers have been using their current district devices for nearly seven years, and Apple stops providing software updates after seven years, making the devices more vulnerable to security issues. Delaying the replacement, he said, could ultimately cost the district an additional \$20 to \$30 per device.

Mr. Conway raised concerns about both the cost of the devices and the amount of time adolescents spend in front of screens, pointing to research he said increasingly shows negative effects. He asked Superintendent Skinner whether the district had explored outside funding, noting that the district had previously reached out to community members and companies for financial support. In the past, he said, the district had raised nearly \$5 million and should continue looking for creative ways to fund the program.

Superintendent Skinner said the district has access to millions of dollars in outside funding and already makes use of those resources.

Chairperson Bahou asked Mr. Limperis why the district preferred Apple devices over lower-cost alternatives, such as Lenovo and Dell Chromebooks that also would support the teachers.

Mr. Limperis said the Chromebooks have a digital chip that cost more than those used in Apple devices. He reiterated that Apple devices cost approximately \$800, while Lenovo and Dell Chromebooks can cost as much as \$900.

Chairperson Bahou said he would like the Finance Subcommittee to meet again and requested that a spreadsheet be prepared comparing the costs of leasing and purchasing Apple devices with those of Chromebook alternatives. He also requested an inventory of the district's current devices, including their type and age.

Ms. DelRossi asked that they include a breakdown of staff devices and the number of Chromebooks currently deployed.

Mr. Conway moved to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 3 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Delrossi).

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Pinto, Assistant Superintendent of
Finance for Liam Skinner, Superintendent

DP/mes