



**LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
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Salah E. Khelfaoui, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

February 28, 2018

City Manager Murphy  
Lowell City Hall  
375 Merrimack Street  
Lowell, MA 01852

Dear City Manager Murphy,

I have reviewed your letter of February 22, 2018 that reflects a proposed cut of 2.75 million dollars in the City's cash contribution towards the FY2019 school budget. Your proposed \$15,700,000 total cash contribution includes \$9,000,000 towards transportation and \$500,000 towards adult education. The balance of \$6,200,000 will go towards the FY2019 school operating budget that reflects a net decrease of \$2,750,000 from the FY2018 city net cash contribution. This level of reduction in funding would necessitate the school department to make significant cuts to its workforce. Within the next ten days, the school department would have to identify critical positions to eliminate that would adversely impact teaching and learning within the City. Based on current contracts, the School Committee would have to immediately undertake bargaining with its unions in order to discuss the impact of these staff reductions.

On behalf of Lowell Public Schools faculty, staff, and students; I respectfully request that you maintain the net cash contribution from FY2018 of \$8,970,000. I'd like to reiterate that your current recommendation to eliminate 2.75 million to the school department for FY2019 will significantly impact teaching and learning and have a detrimental effect on the future of our students.

I look forward to further discussions on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Salah E. Khelfaoui, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Mayor William J. Samaras and members of the Lowell City Council  
Conor Baldwin, Chief Financial Officer  
Gary Frisch, School Business Administrator