



Pledge of Allegiance in School

To: Lowell School Committee

From: Jeannine M. Durkin, Acting Superintendent

Date: April 8, 2019

This report is provided in response to the following motion made by School Committee Member Andre Descoteaux during the April 3, 2019 School Committee Meeting:

"Ask the Superintendent to check with all Principals to verify if all classroom teachers are reciting the Pledge of Allegiance every day, as required by Massachusetts General Law."

On Friday, April 5, 2019, all staff were reminded that Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Section 69 requires that "each teacher at the commencement of the first class of each day in all grades in all public schools shall lead the class in a group recitation of the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag".

To ensure that this occurs, I have asked all school administrators including the Head of School, all Principals, Assistant Principals and Coordinators to facilitate the recitation of the pledge in their respective schools via morning announcements. I have also reminded administrators that no student or staff member is required to recite the pledge, and that it is the right of a student or staff member to abstain without explanation or sanction as specified in recent case law.