



Lowell Public School Committee

Special Meeting Agenda

Date: July 23, 2020
Time: 6:30PM
Location: City Council Chamber, 375
Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor,
Lowell, MA 01852

1. **SALUTE TO FLAG**

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

3.1. Communication Remote Participation:

Members of the Public May View The Meeting Via LTC And Those Wishing To Speak Regarding A Specific Agenda Item Shall Register To Speak In Advance Of The Meeting By Sending Email To the Superintendent Indicating The Agenda Item And A Phone Number To Call So That You May Be Tele-Conferenced In To The Meeting. Email Address Is mpalazzo@lowell.k12.ma.us If No Access to Email You May Contact at 978-674-4324.

4. **MEMORIALS**

- 4.1. Kenneth Trott, Greenhalge School Senior Custodian.
- 4.2. Steve Botto, Shedd Park Director Of Player Development And Assistant Coach.
- 4.3. Gail M. [Quattrochi] Bonin, Sister Of Executive Secretary For The Special Education Department, Cheryl O'Brien.

5. **REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

5.1. Continue Planning For A Safe Return To School In The Fall

Documents:

[PLANNING FOR A SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL IN THE FALL \(1\).PDF](#)

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

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Lowell Public Schools

Planning for a Safe Return to School in the Fall

School Committee Update - July 23, 2020



LOWELL

PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Agenda

- What are families saying?
- How do we ensure proper social distancing on campuses?
- How do we maintain safe transport to and from school?
- How can we maximize air quality within classrooms?
- What personal protective equipment will be required to minimize spread?
- What's the proper frequency for deep cleaning of buildings?
- Should we reconsider our previously approved first day of school?
- Do we have an update on the budget?
- What are next steps between now and day 1?





What are families saying?

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- ❑ LPS sent a survey to families asking for feedback on some of the options the district is considering putting into place for the upcoming school year. The survey was available from June 26-July 8. A total of 2,442 responded to the survey.
 - ❑ Additional feedback has been provided by the English Learner Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and the Special Education PAC during separate virtual discussions.
 - ❑ We will continue gathering input over the next week during a series of virtual community forums.





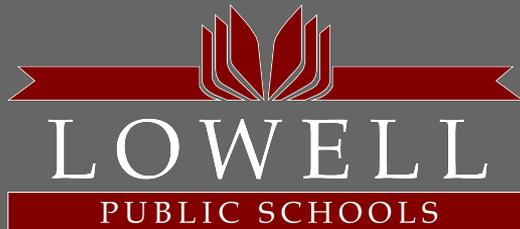
What are families saying?

Key takeaways from survey and listening sessions:

- 74.9% - My children want to return to school.
 - 73.9% indicate their child wants to participate in extracurricular activities.

- 70.8% - If my child's school is open in the fall I plan to send them to school.
 - This doesn't necessarily mean families want to go back to school, but logistically may have no other option.

- 68.2% - Allow families to choose either in-person school or remote school and for LPS to offer both
 - Families need to clearly understand what each option entails in order to make a final decision. This includes policies on school transfers and assignments between in-person and online schooling options.





How do we ensure proper social distancing on campuses?

- Building capacity at 6-foot distance
- Online cohort options with pros/cons
 - A/B Cohorts
 - Monday & Tuesday/Thursday & Friday
 - Wednesday sanitizing day
 - Early learners and vulnerable populations on campus/others remote
 - Students with Individual Education Plans
 - EL learners
 - Pre-K
 - Family choice
- Virtual school planning update and forecasted costs
 - Working with the DESE
 - Developing virtual school guidelines and requirements





How do we maintain safe transport to and from school?

Transportation: prior standard vs. new standard

- 66 buses used last year for general busing
 - 2019/2020: 52 middle-schoolers per bus or 77 elementary students per bus
 - 2020/2021: 13 kids per bus per current standards
 - Would need over 200 buses
 - Cannot acquire that many buses
- Even if that many buses were available, busing is not the recommended option in this environment.
- The Family Resource Center is currently conducting a review of school assignments outside of a walkable route per state guidelines.





OPTIONS

- School assignment options to maximize safety and social distancing on school buses (pros/cons of each)
 - Neighborhood schools
 - Walkable routes
 - Family choice





How can we maximize air quality within classrooms?

- Harvard standard
- Projected costs to meet Harvard standard
 - Filters (which filters have not been changed-assessment ongoing)
 - Windows (which windows do not open- assessment ongoing)
 - Air purifiers (cost: \$320,000 for 970 air purifiers)



What personal protective equipment will be required to minimize spread?

Anticipated needs

- Hand sanitizer
- Hand washing
- Sanitizing wipes
- Masks
- Gowns
- Face shields
- Gloves
- Fogging schedule within building/classrooms (already acquired fogger for each school)

Cost - \$1.6 million approximately. See details on following slides.
12-week requirements were provided to State in June.





Budget for PPE supplies

DISPOSABLE MASKS								
<i>Initial recommended quantities per 100 individuals per group per school</i>								
Group	Quantity per 100 per group	12-week Supply at 100% Attendance	12-week Supply at 50% Attendance	12-week Supply at 25% Attendance	Assumptions	Quantity (Unit of Measure is each)	Average Price Paid	Cost Estimate
Teachers and other staff	500	6,000	3,000	1,500	5 disposable masks per week per teacher.	162,000	\$ 1.02	\$ 165,240.00
School nurses and health providers	1,000	12,000	6,000	3,000	10 disposable masks per week per school nurse.	12000	\$ 1.02	\$ 12,240.00
TOTAL						174000		\$ 177,480.00





Budget for PPE supplies

MATERIALS FOR STAFF MEMBERS WHO MAY BE IN HIGH-INTENSITY CONTACT WITH STUDENTS OR HANDLING WASTE MATERIALS

Initial recommended quantities calculated per 1 staff

(e.g. nurses, custodians, nurses, and some special education teachers and other staff)

Item	1-week Supply for 1 Staff	12-week Supply	Assumptions	Intentionally Left Blank	Intentionally Left Blank	Quantity (Unit of Measure is each)	Average Price Paid	Cost Estimate
Disposable Nitrile Gloves	10	120	10 disposable nitrile gloves (pair) per week, per staff.			15000	\$ 0.09	\$ 1,350.00
Disposable Gowns	10	120	10 disposable gowns per week, per staff.			15000	\$ 10.49	\$ 157,350.00
Eye Protection	2	n/a	2 re-usable eye protection per staff total.			250	\$ 10.89	\$ 2,722.50
Face Shields	2	n/a	2 reusable face shields per staff total.			250	\$ 4.30	\$ 1,075.00
Waste Disposal Medium	1	n/a	1 unit per staff total.			0		\$ -
N-95 Ventilating Masks* <small>Note: N-95 masks are recommended only if staff will be in contact with a suspected COVID-19 positive case and/or performing aerosol-generating procedures</small>	10	120	10 N-95 masks per week, per staff.			250	\$ 1.29	\$ 322.50

*KN-95 Ventilating Masks can be substituted for N-95 masks if they have been tested for filtration effectiveness (MDPH Comprehensive Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guidance, May 21, 2020)

TOTAL **30750** **\$ 162,820.00**



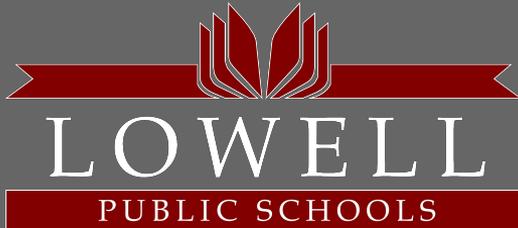
Budget for PPE supplies

BUILDING SUPPLIES								
	1-week Supply for one building	12-week. Supply at 100% Attendance	12-week Supply at 50% Attendance	Assumptions	Intentionally Left Blank	Quantity (Unit of Measure is each)	Average Price Paid	Cost Estimate
Hand Sanitizer	1/3 gallon/ classroom	4 gallons/classroom	2 gallons/classroom	1/3 gallon of hand sanitizer per classroom, per week at 100% attendance.		2000	\$ 55.85	\$ 111,700.00
Disposable Nitrile Gloves	20	240	240	20 disposable nitrile gloves (pair) per week, per custodial staff member at 100% attendance.		6000	\$ 0.09	\$ 540.00
Waste Disposal Medium	1	n/a	n/a	1 disposal medium per school building.		236		\$ -
					TOTAL	8236		\$ 112,240.00



What's the proper frequency for deep cleaning of buildings?

- Anticipated needs:
 - Cleaning will occur on a daily basis
 - Fogging and disinfecting will occur on a daily basis
- Projected costs:
 - \$3,500 for each school day in increased cleaning supplies and disinfectants
 - Would be ideal to restore a custodian to each school (25 x \$60,000= \$1.5 million cost)





Should we reconsider our previously approved first day of school?

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- Instructional requirements
 - Current day one
 - Snow day/remote option
 - Vacation considerations
 - Options for new day one
 - Options for influenza season





Update on the Budget

Chapter 70

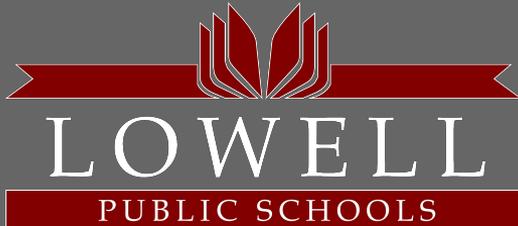
- State still forecasting a \$6- \$7 billion revenue shortfall.
- 1/12th budgets have been approved for August.
- Level service funding has been recommended but highly unlikely.

Grants

- Federal allocations have been released (\$7.2 million) and applications are underway
- Cares Act/ESSER funds application was submitted for \$4.2 million
- CvRF School Reopening grant (PPE @ \$225/student) released (\$3.2 million)
- Remote Learning Tech Essentials grant - application submitted (\$2.1 million)

1/12th

- Causes challenges so we recommend waiting until June 29 (\$14.9 approved by the City)





Next Steps

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- Continue community conversations up to **approval of reopening plans** for each scenario in advance of **required July 31 submission to DESE**
 - **Finalize, publish and communicate reopening plan** for September by the **week of August 3rd**, including any required revisions to policies for transportation and school assignment
 - Notify and **support families** through school choices based on final September opening plan





Next Steps

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- Finalize and submit all available grant applications for COVID and **develop an annual budget** once state revenue figures are released, including all required costs of reopening plan
 - Develop MOAs with unions, lift hiring freeze and **meet all staffing requirements** based on approved reopening plan
 - **Train all staff** and develop **orientation sessions for students and families**





Questions?

1. Are there additional ways to involve families and community members within the planning process that should be considered?
2. Is there additional information that would be helpful in advance of approving the three reopening scenario plans by July 31?
3. Is there additional information that would be helpful in advance of approving the 1 final plan for the fall by the first week of August?

