



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 2, 2019
Time: 6:30PM
Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA 01852

1. SALUTE TO FLAG

2. ROLL CALL

On a roll call at 6:32 p.m., all members were present, namely: Mr. Lay, Ms. Martin, Mr. Nutter, Mayor Samaras, Mr. Descoteaux, Ms. Doherty and Mr. Hoey.

3. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

3.I. Spotlight on Excellence – Summer Reading Program

The Spotlight on Excellence presentation featured the twelfth year of the Grades K – 8 Summer Reading Program. The following list recognizes the school and invited students who were the lucky drawing winners of a \$20.00 gift certificate to the Barnes and Noble Bookstore:

Bailey School: Ethan Gauthier, Camilla Meas, Lillian You
Bartlett School: Nawaf Al-Mantafji, Anikah Heak, Esteban Sanchez
Butler School: Reton Chim, Amelia Horn, Cesar Valdez
Daley School: Efrain Herring, Julie Oum, Sara Skaff
Greenhalge School: Abdul Ahmed, Shams Ahmed, Victoria Espinosa
Laura Lee: Matthew Pacheco, Brooke Shaughnessy
Lincoln School: Molica Lin, Irene Nop, Madelyn Prom
McAuliffe School: Audrey Baker, Emma Giuffre, Marina Soto
McAvinnue School: Jayla Hernandez, Ryan Ma, Pitou Sem
Moody School: Harleigh Risoldi, Misha Santiago, Michael White
Morey School: Gabriela Otero, Lucas St. Onge, Serenity Sihakamphong,
Murkland School: J'Leisany Mangual Figueroa, Rosemary Mfum, Camila Ponce
Pawtucketville School: Lorraine Muribu, Vivian Straker, Cesario Walsh
Pyne/Arts School: Mason Anderson, Alex Delgado, Denisse Nieves
Reilly School: Grace Jones, Mairin Monaghan, Talin Sann
Robinson School: Leah Lamontagne, Zachary Medina, Say May Paw
Shaughnessy School: Kevin Samon, Rijenny Sar, Andrea Villalobos
STEM Academy @ Rogers: Julianna Kouy, Tamara Nguyen, Damilare Omoyeni
Stoklosa School: Mohammad Ahmad Ali, Edna Bonsu, Jaydin Kariuki
Sullivan School: Stephanie Davila, Finnegan Gilday, Kyra Ly-Lavigne
Wang School: Luke Boissonneault, Emma Hernandez, Enrique Antonio Raudales
Washington School: Miranda Heng, Isiah Powell, Yalaxy Sanchez



4. MINUTES

4.I. Approval of the Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Lowell School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Ms. Doherty made a motion to accept and place on file the minutes from the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of September 18, 2019; seconded by Mr. Nutter. 7 yeas APPROVED

5. PERMISSION TO ENTER

5.I. Permission to Enter: October 2, 2019

Mr. Nutter made a motion to remove the Ricoh USA, Inc. contract from the Permission to Enter and to approve the remaining contracts; seconded by Ms. Martin. 7 yeas APPROVED

6. MOTIONS

6.I. **[By Connie Martin]:** Requesting that the Administration provides the Committee with a report on the implementation of the New Initiative relative to the Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML) Act.

Ms. Martin stated that she received information from Dr. Hall regarding the Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML) Act and how municipalities don't need to implement this at this time.

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 7 yeas APPROVED

6.II. **[By Connie Martin]:** Requesting that a meeting takes place relative to any new Curriculum Initiative throughout the District.

Ms. Martin requested that a Curriculum Subcommittee be held to discuss any new curriculum initiatives.

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 7 yeas APPROVED

6.III. **[By Gerard Nutter]:** Request report on school incidents related to contraband items brought into schools and student restraint by staff in relation to (1) compliance with district policy and (2) maintaining the safety of students and staff.

Mr. Nutter made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 7 yeas APPROVED

6.IV. **[By Gerard Nutter]:** Request Administration to provide update on Television Mobile Studio Van, studio equipment and staffing.

Mr. Nutter made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED



6.V. [By Gerard Nutter]: Request Administration work with City, Lowell Police and Shelter to address homeless living on South Common especially South Street near pool area sidewalk. Several parents have reached out to express concerns with students who walk. Also request Administration to update Committee on Parking issues and classroom / restroom concerns at the Stem Academy including an update on debris found outside the school that may contain asbestos.

Mr. Nutter made a motion to approve; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED

6.VI. [By Jackie Doherty]: Request the Superintendent collaborate with the Citywide Family Council to develop and implement a training/educational program for School Site Council members in preparation for school-based budgeting in Spring 2020.

The following people registered and spoke on this motion:

Nicole Bernier
Beth Tripatia

Ms. Doherty made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 7 yeas APPROVED

7. SUBCOMMITTEES

7.I. Policy Subcommittee Meeting: Report and Approval of the Meeting of Thursday, September 19, 2019 [Gerard Nutter, Chairperson]

Mr. Nutter, Chairperson of the Policy Subcommittee spoke to the Committee about the Homeless Students Enrollment Policy Revision and the Opportunities for Children in Foster Care Policy which appears under the new business portion of the agenda for approval. He also informed the Committee that the administration has brought forward a part time temporary strategic advisor job description under the new business portion of the agenda as well that needs approval. The monies to fund this position were previously voted on.

Mr. Descoteaux made a motion to accept the report as a report of progress; seconded by Mr. Lay. 7 yeas APPROVED

8. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

8.I. Superintendent's Entry and Transition: Day 66 Update to the Community

Superintendent Boyd provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee that reiterated the district's Core Beliefs and 100-Day Entry Goals. The PowerPoint highlighted the Superintendent's listening and learning session with employees, local bargaining unit representatives, community based and non-profit leaders as well as visits to schools and classrooms. He spoke about public interviews, presentations and forums he has attended as well as local board and committee participation. He also spoke about the



central office reorganization, multi-year strategic plan and the district's zero-based FY20 budget adjustment. He concluded his presentation speaking about the following four (4) goals:

- Improve academics and student achievement at every school site
- Improve operational efficiency across the system
- Ensure that every school is safe and welcoming to every student and every family, every day
- Increase community engagement and empower families as partners in the educational process

[Superintendent's Entry and Transition: Day 66 Update to the Community PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Mr. Lay made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I and 8.IV as reports of progress; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

8.II. Update on Site-Based Budgeting and Fair Student Funding

Dr. Guillory, Chief Schools Officer provided an update to the Committee that showed the process and the timeline of site-based budgeting. Dr. Guillory provided an allocation update that showed the resources provided and the status at the following schools: Bailey, Bartlett, Greenhalge, Lowell High School, McAuliffe, McAvinnue, Pyne/Arts, Career Academy, Shaughnessy, STEM, Stoklosa, and Sullivan. He also spoke about Fair Student Funding and provided a tentative timeline for implementation of policy proposals for Fair Student Funding.

Mr. Lay made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I and 8.IV as reports of progress; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

8.III. Update on the Renaissance Network: Supporting Chronically Under Performing Schools

Dr. Guillory, Chief Schools Officer provided an update to the Committee on the Renaissance Network. He stated that the Renaissance Network is a strategy to support our under-performing schools. The schools will receive differentiated services and supports to address achievements and performance gaps and schools will be assigned to the network based on DESE accountability percentiles.

Mr. Lay made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I and 8.IV as reports of progress; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

8.IV. Report on Motions

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

Mr. Lay made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I and 7.IV as reports of progress; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED



8.V. Home Education

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

Jessica McGibbon & Manual Colon
175 Willard Street #23

Brenda Robertson
21 Calvin Street

Mr. Hoey made a motion to approve; seconded by Mr. Nutter. 7 yeas APPROVED

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.I. Launch of Strategic Planning Process

Latifah Phillips, Chief Equity and Engagement Officer provided a timeline to the Committee for approval relating to the strategic planning process for the 2019-2020 school year. The time line is as follows:

- Identify strategic planning consultant or part-time contract position by October 2019
- Conduct diagnostic analysis/current state of the district October – November 2019
- Determine framework and major components of plan (i.e. academics, community engagement, equity, operations, etc.) November 2019 – January 2020
- Develop and draft Strategic Plan January 2020 – February 2020
- Review and finalize revisions to Strategic Plan March 2020 – April 2020
- Adoption of Strategic Plan April 2020
- Adopt district budget aligned with Strategic Plan May 2020

Mr. Nutter made a motion to approve the Launch of the Strategic Planning Process; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED

9.II. Permission to Post: Part Time Temporary Strategic Advisor

Latifah Phillips, Chief Equity and Engagement Officer provided a part-time Temporary Strategic Advisory job description to the Committee for approval to post. The salary is \$1,500 - \$2,000 weekly which will be commensurate with experience. The position will not exceed \$50,000.

Mr. Hoey made a motion to approve the Permission to Post: Part Time Temporary Strategic Advisor; seconded by Ms. Martin. 7 yeas APPROVED

9.III. Homeless Students Enrollment Policy Revision

Mr. Nutter made a motion to approve the Homeless Students Enrollment Policy Revision; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED



9.IV. 1st Reading and Vote on Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care Policy

Ms. Doherty made a motion to approve the 1st Reading and Vote on Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care Policy; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

9.V. Team Up Playworks Service Approval

Dr. Guillory, Chief Schools Officer informed the Committee that Playworks is a nonprofit organization that believes in the power of play to bring out the best in every child. Playworks helps schools, districts, youth programs, and other organizations make the most of recess through on-site staffing, consultative support, and professional development. Playworks worked with two (2) Lowell Public Schools last spring in a one (1) week trial. This year, Playworks has secured philanthropic funding to offer four (4) schools the opportunity to engage in this program as a one (1) year pilot.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to approve the Team Up Playworks Service; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 7 yeas APPROVED

9.VI. Approval of UMASS Lowell Research Proposal

Mr. Schlichtman, Coordinator of Research, Testing and Assessment recommended approval of the UMASS Lowell Research Proposal for Stephanie Selvaggio. Ms. Selvaggio is an academic chair at Lowell High School and is proposing to invite four (4) middle school science teachers to participate in professional development focused on Claim Evidence Reasoning (CER).

Mr. Hoey made a motion to take and approve both UMASS Lowell Research Proposals; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED

9.VII. Approval of a Second UMASS Lowell Research Proposal

Mr. Schlichtman, Coordinator of Research, Testing and Assessment recommended approval of the UMASS Lowell Research Proposal for Jill Lang. Ms. Lang is the Director at the Freshman Academy and proposes to invite Freshman Academy staff to complete the Color-Blind Racial Attitudes Scale, a self-report questionnaire with twenty (20) items measuring racial attitudes.

Mr. Hoey made a motion to take and approve both UMASS Lowell Research Proposals; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED



10. CONVENTION/CONFERENCE REQUESTS

10.I. Pyne Arts Out Of State And Overnight Travel Request: Pyne Arts Magnet School social studies teacher Michael Neagle respectfully requests to attend the National Association of State Boards of Education Annual Conference to be held in Omaha, NE on Thursday, Oct. 17 and Friday, Oct. 18. Mr. Neagle was recently selected as the first ever Massachusetts Civic Engagement Champion (CEC) by the NASBE, in partnership with MA DESE. As one of four recipients nationwide, Mr. Neagle will be honored at their annual conference and speak about the importance of civic education at the middle school level and his work in Lowell Public Schools. The funding source for the conference is the NASBE, and 2 days of substitute teachers will be paid from district professional development funds.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to take and approve all four (4) convention/conference requests together; seconded by Mr. Nutter. 7 yeas APPROVED

10.II. LHS Out Of State And Overnight Travel Request: Permission for LT. Col Eileen Ironfield, MSgt Kevin Casilli, Grecia Aybar, Luis Morales, Christine Burke and the AFJROTC Drill Team to travel to the drill competition in Mexico, NY, on October 18, 2019 and will return Saturday, October 19, 2019 around midnight. This trip will be funded using a combination of AFJROTC funds, student fund-raising, and student contribution. Total cost is approximately \$6,000.00. The cost of two substitutes in the amount of \$220 will be paid by LHS individual school budget.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to take and approve all four (4) convention/conference requests together; seconded by Mr. Nutter. 7 yeas APPROVED

10.III. Greenhalge School Out Of State Travel Request: Permission for Kayla Moschetti to attend the Get Your Teach On conference to be held in on Uncasville, Connecticut on October 15, 2019. The cost of one substitute in the amount of \$110 will be paid by Greenhalge individual school budget.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to take and approve all four (4) convention/conference requests together; seconded by Mr. Nutter. 7 yeas APPROVED

10.IV. Robinson School Out Of State Travel Request: Permission for seven and eight graders to travel to Jeffrey, N.H. to climb Mount Monadnock on October 7, 2019 and October 11, 2019. There is money budgeted within the school grant to cover the transportation cost. The cost of eight substitute teachers in the amount of \$840.00 will be paid by the school individual budget.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to take and approve all four (4) convention/conference requests together; seconded by Mr. Nutter. 7 yeas APPROVED



11. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Nutter made a motion to adjourn at 8:26 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Lay. 7 yeas APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,

**Joel D. Boyd, Ed.D., Superintendent and
Secretary to the Lowell School Committee**

JDB/mes