



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 6, 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 6:31 p.m., all members were present, namely: Mayor Samaras, Mr. Descoteaux, Ms. Doherty, Mr. Hoey, Mr. Lay, Ms. Martin and Mr. Nutter.

3. MINUTES

3.I. Approval of the of the Regularly Scheduled Lowell School Committee Meeting of Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Mr. Hoey made a motion to accept and place on file the minutes from the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of October 16, 2019; seconded by Mr. Lay. 7 yeas APPROVED

4. PERMISSION TO ENTER

4.I. Permission to Enter: November 6, 2019

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve the Permission to Enter; seconded by Mr. Nutter. 7 yeas APPROVED

5. MEMORIALS

5.I. Kenneth J. Anderson, Former Billerica Wrestler And A Three-Time State Champion.



6. MOTIONS

6.I. [By Gerard Nutter And Andy Descoteaux]: Request School Committee vote to direct ALL PEG funding be used to update TV Studio Equipment and NOT on Personal salaries.

Several members of the Committee requested with the approval of the makers of the motion to include providing a report that addresses possibly being able to add additional staff. Ms. Turner, Chief Financial Officer added that the City will be giving the School Department \$75,000 from the PEG funding this year for upgrades.

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

6.II. [By Gerard Nutter]: Request Update from Administration on plans to alleviate additional transportation cost caused by the change in hours at the Collegiate Charter School of Lowell.

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

6.III. [By Gerard Nutter]: Request Update from Administration on status of C.E.P. program (Community Eligibility Provision) specifically if Gov't funding will continue/possible cuts and date when we have to reapply.

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

6.IV. [By Andy Descoteaux]: Request the Superintendent provide the Committee with an update on the process of MSBA school repairs.

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

6.V. [By Jackie Doherty]: Request the Superintendent provide the committee with a plan to support the Citywide Family Council efforts to engage parents that includes regular access to school leadership, designated school contacts, assistance in promoting CFC events directly to families, school site councils, advisory councils, and parent-teacher organizations, as well as other suggestions to collaborate with CFC in support of family-school engagement.

Beth Tritathi registered to speak and spoke to the Committee regarding the above motion.

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



7. SUBCOMMITTEES

7.I. Policy Subcommittee Meeting: Report and Approval of the Meeting of Wednesday, October 16, 2019 [Gerard Nutter, Chairperson]

Mr. Nutter, Chairperson of the Policy Subcommittee informed the Committee that the following agenda items were discussed:

1. Inoculation of Students Policy Revision - JLCB
2. Equity & Engagement Gap Draft Policy
3. Staff Code of Conduct Policy Revision – GBEB
4. Outstanding Motions on Policies

Superintendent Boyd and Ms. Phillips, Chief Equity and Engagement Officer spoke to the Subcommittee about the following agenda items and will come back to the Committee with updated policies for their approval.

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

8. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

8.I. Renaissance Network – Update

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. The schools in the Renaissance Network are as follows: Greenhalge, Lowell High School, Bartlett, Butler, Robinson, Stoklosa and Sullivan. Dr. Guillory stated that instructional rounds have been launched and it's a process for educators to work together, examining instructional practices to improve student achievement.

Mr. Hoey made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I, 8.III and 8.IV as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Martin. 7 yeas APPROVED

8.II. National Science Foundation Grant Award

Robin Desmond, Chief Academic Officer informed the Committee that Lowell Public Schools will begin a partnership with the University of Massachusetts Lowell Professor, and Computer Science Department Associate Dean, Fred Martin to develop and implement a lasting, culturally responsive digital literacy and computer science curriculum for the district's middle schools. There is a research component required through the grant which has been reviewed and needs approval from the Committee.

Mr. Descoteaux made a motion to approve the UMASS Lowell Research Proposal; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED



8.III. Budget Update

Ms. Turner, Chief Financial Officer provided an update to the Committee and informed them that Lowell Public Schools managed to stay within the FY18/19 budget despite being forced to modify through the year due to underfunded accounts. The update also included a memo outlining Lowell Public Schools process for funding non-publics. She concluded her report speaking about Fair Student Funding and informing the Committee that two (2) proposals were opened and will be awarded by the end of this week (w/e 11/9/19) and the contract process will begin.

Mr. Hoey made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I, 8.III and 8.IV as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Martin. 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. Hoey made a motion to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.I, 8.III and 8.IV as reports of progress; seconded by Ms. Martin. 7 yeas APPROVED

8.V. Home Education

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

Lindasamerly & Danny Chin
833 Stevens Street

Crystal Nickerson
51 Eighteenth Street

Nicole & Shawn Suber
175 Walker Avenue, Unit 1

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

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.I. Appointment to Lowell Telecommunications Board

The members of the School Committee need to vote to appoint a representative to the Board of Directors of the Lowell Telecommunications Corporation to represent the Lowell School Committee.

Mr. Nutter made a motion to appoint Connie Martin to the Lowell Telecommunications Board; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 7 yeas APPROVED



9.II. Permission to Post: A/V Sound Light, And Communications Specialist

This position is for an individual with experience in stage sound and light equipment, AV tech equipment, and technical theater support in Lowell High's Irish and Burgoyne Theaters. The salary is \$17.50/hour, approximately 18 hours a week and approximately 350 hours per school year (grant funded).

Ms. Doherty made a motion to Post: A/V Sound Light, And Communications Specialist; seconded by Mr. Hoey. 7 yeas APPROVED

9.III. 1st Reading and Vote on Equity & Engagement Policy

Mr. Hoey made a motion to have the 1st Reading of the Equity & Engagement Policy and to return to the Committee with changes for approval at a later date; seconded by Ms. Doherty. 7 yeas APPROVED

10. CONVENTION/CONFERENCE REQUESTS

10.I. Out of State and Overnight Travel Request: Washington, D.C. The 8th grade Wang School students, along with teacher/chaperones Kathy Clark, Matthew Palmer and Alison Kuzara to travel to Washington D.C. from Tuesday, May 26 through Friday, May 29, 2020. Fundraising activities will be held throughout the school year to defray the cost of the trip [\$742/per student] for all participating students. No substitute teachers are needed.

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

10.II. Out of State and Overnight Travel Request: Arlington, VA Permission for Career Academy Engagement Center staff member Lauren Campion and Dorothy Louise, to attend the annual Promise Neighborhood/Full Service Community Schools Director's Meeting. The conference to take place from Wednesday, November 13, 2018 through Friday, November 15, 2019 in Arlington, VA. The cost of the conference will not exceed \$2,326.94 and will be funded by Full Service Community School grant (1674). No substitute teacher is needed.

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

10.III. In State Overnight Travel Request: Framingham, MA Head of School Marianne Busted, request permission for Lowell High School Business Professional Advisor, Jill Taylor along with 15 students to attend the State Leadership Conference in Framingham, MA from Saturday, February 29, 2020 through Monday, March 2, 2020. Students will miss 1 day of school. The total cost of \$460.00 will be paid by the LHS Individual School Budget.

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



10.IV. Out of Country and Overnight Travel Request: LHS Germany And Austria Head of School

Marianne Busted, requests permission for twenty four [24] students and four [4] chaperones all Lowell High staff to travel to Germany during school vacation of April 16-24, 2021. Students will miss one day of school on April 16, 2021. The cost of the substitutes in the amount of \$330 will be paid by LHS individual school budget. Each student traveling will incur the total cost of \$3,514.00.

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

11. PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL

11.I. UTL-Sick Leave

The Members of the United Teachers of Lowell hereby donate sixty [60] sick leave days to Jennifer McDonald, Butler School teacher.

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

Mr. Hoey invited the public to the Mayor's Holiday Fest for Homeless Youth to support CTI's new youth services program on December 12, 2019 at the Zorba Room. The tickets are \$20.00 each and Mr. Hoey stated that if anyone would like to buy a ticket he will be selling them for the event.

Mr. Nutter stated that we should invite the newly elected School Committee members to the remaining School Committee meetings. The new School Committee members will be sworn in on January 6, 2020.



12. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hoey made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Descoteaux. 7 yeas APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,

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

JDB/mes