

## June 2018

The Citywide Family Council held an information session on June 18, 2018 with an event at the Lowell Public Schools Family Resource Center. Over 30 parents and community members attended along with staff and leaders from Project Learn.

## September 2018

The Citywide Family Council hosted a 2018-2019 kick event at the Lowell Senior Center. This event was co-hosted with Project Learn and Working Cities Lowell. Over 200 community members attended and participated in small group discussions on topics. Community and family feedback was collected by Project Learn.

At this September meeting, a list of potential themes and action ideas was developed. The topics included:

- Diverse Staffing
- Family Engagement
- After Schools & Summer Program Options
- Parent University & Support for Parents of Preschool Children
- Student Experience & Student Voices
- College & Career Readiness
- Student Attendance, District Schedules and Communications
- Participatory Budgeting for FY2020.

## October 2018

The October 25, 2018 Citywide Family Council meeting was held at Lowell High School. About 15 parents and community members attended. This group discussed potential by-laws for the Citywide Family Council and reviewed the priorities identified at prior meetings. Some of the issues shared by families in attendance at this meeting included a request for broader diversity of holidays and celebrations, multilingual communication between families and schools, employment and diversity among Lowell Public School employees, dual enrollment education pathways between Lowell High School and the local colleges and relationships between parents and teachers.

Following this event, the website for the Citywide Family Council was launched and is currently housed at <https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/Page/3290>. This page will be regularly updated by staff at the Family Resource Center and will include news, agenda items and notes from all Citywide Family Council meetings.

## November 2018

The November 27, 2018 Citywide Family Council meeting was held at the Rogers STEM Academy. Over 30 families attended and participated in discussion and updates on the high school construction project and priorities for the Citywide Family Council to focus on at future events.

Families and community members who attended were also invited to join the Citywide Family Council Leadership Team.

The most popular priority identified was a proposal to develop an accessible listing of public and private options for before school, after school and summer childcare and enrichment options available in Lowell. A complete listing of the notes and ideas shared by participants is available on the Citywide Family Council website.

The meeting was facilitated by staff from the Lowell Public Schools and Project Learn.

#### Leadership Team - December 2018 and January 2018

In December 2018, the Family Resource Center and Project Learn invited parents and community members to join the Citywide Family Leadership Team. The CFC Leadership teams, supported by Project Learn and the Family Resource Center, will help to plan, run and evaluate future Citywide Family Council events.

The CFC Leadership team has met twice on December 19, 2018 and again on January 8, 2019. The CFC Leadership Team meetings have been facilitated jointly by Project Learn and staff from Great Schools Partnership. Several members of the leadership team have stepped up to take the lead on planning and running the January 24, 2019 Citywide Family Council meeting.

At the December meeting, the CFC Leadership Team reviewed a summary of feedback on the priorities identified by attendees at the November meeting.

The CFC Leadership team has reviewed the notes and feedback from prior Citywide Family Council events, identified areas of “quick wins” to help improve communication among families in Lowell and among various parent and community organizations in the city. The CFC Leadership Team is developing a one-page overview of the Lowell Public Schools for families, collecting information on the various School Councils and school-based Parent-Teacher Organizations as well as other community groups.

It was decided that there was a consistent theme of **communication** that members have identified as priority for families. Members of the leadership team allocated the next Citywide Family Council meeting to address this priority.

January 8--first meeting of the CFC leadership group

#### January 2019

January 24--January meeting held at the Cardinal O'Connell Early Childhood Center. Theme=Communication  
The first Citywide Family Council even of 2019 was held on January 24, 2109 at the Cardinal O'Connell Early Childhood Center. This event focused on communication from the Lowell Public Schools to families. The meeting was facilitated by parents of students of the Lowell Public School system. There were \_\_\_\_\_ attendees where parents, community organizations, and public school officials collaborated in small group activities to develop strategies in order to improve and strengthen the **communication** between all stakeholders involved.