



**LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
*Henry J. Mroz Administration Offices*  
*155 Merrimack Street*  
*Lowell, Massachusetts 01852*

*Robin Desmond*  
*Assistant Superintendent*  
*Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment*

*Tel: (978) 674-4323*  
*email: rdesmond@lowell.k12.ma.us*

May 22, 2019

Dear Superintendent Durkin:

I am writing to request permission for Melissa Newell, Coordinator of Language Arts & Literacy K-12, to attend nErD Camp in Parma, Michigan on July 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. This educational conference is focused on implementing and sustaining a culture of reading within a classroom, school, and district. This conference focuses on current instructional practices to support literacy. This work is directly related to her role as the English Language Arts and Literacy Coordinator K-12 because she supports reading and writing professional development at all levels. Teachers continue to struggle with how to reach all readers in their classrooms and this would give her strategies to offer them to support our students.

Melissa is requesting to attend the 2-day conference and receive hotel accommodations for Sunday evening, the evening before the conference begins in order to be there on time for the morning workshop and Monday evening as the institute concludes on Tuesday afternoon. As the conference is in Michigan, she is also requesting air travel and a car rental to be able to attend the conference.

The total cost for the workshop is free. Title 1 will reimburse up to \$900 to cover the total cost for the air, hotel, meals and car accommodations.

Thank you for this consideration. A description of the institute is attached.

Sincerely,

Robin Desmond  
Assistant Superintendent

# ***nErDcampMI 2019 is July 8 and 9!***

## **nErDcampMI 6.0**

If you've never attended nErDcamp before, let us do our best to describe what you might be able to expect!

Day 1 is a traditional education conference. We have scheduled speakers to get you all fired up about teaching reading and writing in the classroom. For more specifics on day 1, please visit the page by clicking the link to your left.

Day 2 of nErDcamp is designed differently than your typical conference. It's an (un)conference with a focus on literacy in learning. That's literacy in every and all areas -- science and math, we're talking to you too!

There will be 4 hour-long sessions during Day 2. You'll meet some awesome people. You'll learn some amazing things from them. You'll have the opportunity to share what you're passionate about with others.