



# LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## *REGULAR MEETING MINUTES*

---

**Date:** January 21, 2026

**Time:** 6:30PM

**Location:** City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA 01852

---

Members of the public can view the meeting via LTC. Those wishing to speak about a specific agenda item must register in advance by emailing the Superintendent. Please include the agenda item, as well as your phone number and email address so we can provide a Zoom link for access. The email address is [skeo@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:skeo@lowell.k12.ma.us). If you do not have access to email, you may contact us at 978-674-4324. All requests must be submitted by 2:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

### **1. SALUTE TO FLAG**

### **2. ROLL CALL**

**On a call at 6:35 p.m., members present were, namely: Mayor Gitschier, Mr. Lay, Ms. McFadden, Mr. Bahou, Mr. Conway and Ms. Delrossi. Ms. Martin arrived at 6:36 p.m.**

### **3. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

#### **3.1. Spotlight on Excellence: Social Emotional Learning at McAvinnue Elementary School**

The Spotlight on Excellence featured McAvinnue Elementary School, where the focus was on the Social Emotional Learning initiatives implemented at the school. Principal Domina and several members of his staff informed the Committee about the protocols they have in place to address bullying and support students' social and emotional development.

### **4. MINUTES**

#### **4.1. The Approval of the Minutes of the Inauguration Exercises of Tuesday, January 5, 2026**

**Mr. Bahou moved to accept and place on file the minutes of the Inauguration Exercises that were held on January 5, 2026 and the Regularly Scheduled School Committee meeting that was held on January 7, 2026; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

#### **4.2. The Approval of the Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Lowell School Committee Meeting of January 7, 2026**

**Mr. Bahou moved to accept and place on file the minutes of the Inauguration Exercises that were held on January 5, 2026 and the Regularly Scheduled School Committee meeting that was held on January 7, 2026; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**



## 5. PERMISSION TO ENTER

### 5.1. Permission to Enter – January 21, 2026

**Mr. Bahou moved to approve the Permission to Enter; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

## 6. MOTIONS

**6.1. [By David Conway]:** Request the Superintendent to supply a detailed safety protocol update for each school in our system. Further describe the system that is in place to make sure the police department is aware of current policy and how they receive annual updates.

Committee members stated that this should be sent to a Safety Subcommittee for further discussion.

**Mr. Conway moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

**6.2. [By Connie Martin]:** Requesting a nomination and vote from the Lowell School Committee for Member Connie Martin to continue as the Committee's representative on the Board of Directors for the Lowell TeleMedia Corporation for another term.

**Ms. Martin moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden.**

**Mr. Conway moved to select Ms. Martin to continue as the Committee's representative on the Board of Directors for the Lowell TeleMedia Corporation for another term; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

**6.3. [By Fred Bahou]:** Have the proper department report transportation costs for homeless students being transported and attend LPS district, being transported and attend other school districts, as well as how many of those students are being transported more than 40 miles round-trip per day.

**Mr. Bahou moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

## 7. SUBCOMMITTEES

**7.1.** The Approval of the Minutes of the AD HOC Building Naming Subcommittee Meeting of December 16, 2025

Ms. Martin, Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Building Naming Subcommittee, provided the Committee with an update on the nomination process. She explained that nomination forms must be completed with the required background information and letters of support from community members. Once submitted, the nomination is placed on the next School Committee agenda to allow for community input. The process includes vetting the nomination, completing a background check, and conducting thorough due



diligence by the Committee. Following these steps, the full School Committee must vote in order to proceed. Ms. Martin emphasized that building naming is a deliberate, slow-moving process.

**Ms. Delrossi moved to accept the report as a report of progress; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

## **8. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

### **8.1. Strategic Plan Update: Refining and Implementing Standardized Procedures and Processes**

Dr. Pinto, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, presented a report outlining the steps the finance department is taking to achieve measurable progress on Strategic Initiative 4.1. This work is intentionally sequenced into 15 steps spanning April 2025 through June 2027, ensuring a thoughtful approach to diagnosis, development, implementation, training, and continuous improvement. To date, the office is on track with the established timeline and has completed or made significant progress on several processes critical to district systems.

**Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.1 through 8.6 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

### **8.2. Lowell High School Construction Update**

An update on the status of the Lowell High School construction project was presented to the Committee, consistent with the information previously shared at the School Building Committee meeting.

**Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.1 through 8.6 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

### **8.3. Response To Motion (By Dave Conway, 08/21/24) Regarding Spotlight on Anti Bullying Initiatives Update**

Ms. Brown LeGrand, Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services, provided a report that informed the Committee that the Lowell Public Schools Mental Health Department is implementing a coordinated, districtwide approach to bullying prevention focused on skill development, student safety, engagement, and well-being. Through updated policy, targeted professional development, evidence-based curriculum, and strengthened family and community partnerships, the district is building consistent systems to prevent and respond to bullying behaviors. The initiatives reflect an intentional strategy to strengthen adult capacity, support positive peer relationships, and address social-emotional factors that impact student attendance, engagement, and academic success. In June 2025, the district updated its Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan (BPIP) to ensure alignment with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education expectations, current best practices and district priorities. This updated plan provides for a clear framework for prevention, reporting, response, and ongoing support for students.

**Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.1 through 8.6 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**



#### 8.4. Response To Motion (By Eileen DelRossi, 12/17/25) Regarding Bridge street pedestrian crossing.

Dr. Hall, Assistant Superintendent of HR & Operations, informed the Committee that he contacted Mr. St. Cyr, Director of the DPW, last week. He reported that Land & Buildings inspected the area from the sidewalk on Bridge Street to the driveway behind the Robinson School. On January 14, 2026, assigned masons identified two loose concrete treads on the Bridge Street stairs. The areas were cleaned, and the voids were filled using an etching agent and concrete to complete the repair. The railings require painting; however, this work will be deferred until weather conditions permit.

**Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.1 through 8.6 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

#### 8.5. Finance Updates

Dr. Pinto, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, presented a report that informed the Committee that the Superintendent's Cabinet has begun reviewing and approving key components of the school funding formula and has agreed to the following:

- **Guardrails:** Minimum staffing levels calculated based on enrollment per school.
- **Weights:** Weighting of student categories, applied either as a per-pupil dollar amount or as a ratio, both of which translate into a total dollar allocation per school.
- **Transitions:** Parameters designed to minimize year-to-year budget variances.
- **Workbooks:** Budget workbooks for schools and departments, which will be shared with School Site Councils (SSCs) and community members for review and approval. These remain largely unchanged from FY26.

**Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.1 through 8.6 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

#### 8.6. US Department of Ed FY26 Community Schools Grant Update

Ms. Brown LeGrand, Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services, provided a report that informed the Committee the US Department of Education has notified Lowell Public Schools that we have been awarded the full continuation amount of \$500,000 for our Full-Service Community School (FSCS) grant for the current federal FY26 (January 1 - December 31, 2026). FY26 is the fourth year of the five-year FSCS grant cycle awarded initially in 2022 to expand the community school strategy to high need schools. The continuation award was granted after the department's review deemed adequate progress in program activities and fiscal management toward the community school strategy.

**Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.1 through 8.6 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

#### 8.7. Home Education

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



Christian Blomquist  
Vanessa Cantana

**Mr. Conway moved to approve Home Education; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Martin).**

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

### **9.1. Summary of Proposed Changes to K-12 School Assignment Policy**

**Ms. Martin moved to have a Special School Committee Meeting to further discuss the Proposed Changes to the K-12 Assignment Policy; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

### **9.2. Approval to Accept and Expend Allocated FY26 Awards**

The grants funds provided in the report have been secured by the Lowell Public Schools through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

**Mr. Lay moved to approve, accept and expend the allocated FY26 awards; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

### **9.3. Approval to Accept Donation for Student Activities Account**

Donations from Hannaford and the Museum of Science for the benefit of the Student Activity Accounts at the respective schools. Donation details are as follows:

- Three hundred sixty-six dollars (\$366.00) from Hannaford for the benefit of the Shaughnessy School.
- Three hundred thirty-six dollars (\$336.00) from Hannaford for the benefit of the Wang Middle School.
- Three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00) from the Museum of Science in Boston for the benefit of the Bartlett Community Partnership School.

**Mr. Conway moved to bundle and approve agenda items # 9.3 through # 9.6; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 abstain (Mayor Gitschier).**

### **9.4. Approval to Accept Donation from Greater Lowell Tech**

Donation of a surplus 2012 Ford E-450 (approximately 21,166 miles) from the Greater Lowell Technical High School Committee.

**Mr. Conway moved to bundle and approve agenda items # 9.3 through # 9.6; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 abstain (Mayor Gitschier).**



**9.5. Approval to Accept Donation from Massachusetts Technology Collaborative**

MassTech is donating 500 Dell 3120 2-in-1 touchscreen Chromebooks, each with a three-year hardware warranty and accidental damage coverage, with an estimated total value of \$150,000. The award was received in January 2026, and delivery of devices is anticipated within the next several weeks.

**Mr. Conway moved to bundle and approve agenda items # 9.3 through # 9.6; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 abstain (Mayor Gitschier).**

**9.6. Request to Accept Donation from United Way of Massachusetts Bay**

The Community Schools program in the Office of Student Support Service has received a grant award of \$35,000 from United Way of Massachusetts Bay, funded by the Lubin Foundation. The purpose of this award is to expand contractual services including community partnerships and enrichment program transportation at the district's eight Community Schools. In addition to the \$35,000 direct award for contractual services, United Way will sponsor travel and registration costs for Community Schools Managers to attend the National Community Schools conference on May 27-29, pending further School Committee approval.

**Mr. Conway moved to bundle and approve agenda items # 9.3 through # 9.6; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 abstain (Mayor Gitschier).**

**9.7. Approval for Food Service Vacation Pay**

Dr. Hall requested that the following rates of pay be approved to support cafeteria operations for February, April, and summer vacations:

- DRIVER: \$24.00/hour
- CAFETERIA WORKER: \$22.00/hour
- COOK: \$26.00/hour

Working during these vacation periods is optional and is not contractually obligated. These rates of pay are recommended in recognition of the rate of pay needed to staff kitchens in consideration of the optional nature of this additional work outside of the school year.

**Ms. McFadden moved to approve the Food Service Vacation Pay; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

**9.8. Budget Modification Request**

**Mr. Bahou moved to approve the budget modification in the amount of \$29,533.80; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**



## 10. CONVENTION/CONFERENCE REQUESTS

10.1. Overnight Out of State Travel Request - LHS to Portland, OR

**Mr. Lay moved to bundle and approve the convention/conference requests; the motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

10.2. Overnight Travel Request - LHS to Southbridge, MA

**Mr. Lay moved to bundle and approve the convention/conference requests; the motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

10.3. Overnight Out of State Travel Request - LHS to Japan

**Mr. Lay moved to bundle and approve the convention/conference requests; the motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

10.4. Overnight Out of State Travel Request - LHS to Stratford, Connecticut

**Mr. Lay moved to bundle and approve the convention/conference requests; the motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

10.5. Overnight Conference Travel Request - Norwood, MA

**Mr. Lay moved to bundle and approve the convention/conference requests; the motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

10.6. Overnight Out of State Conference Travel Request - Nashville, TN

**Mr. Lay moved to bundle and approve the convention/conference requests; the motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. Lay moved to adjourn at 7:38 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion passed with 7 yeas.**

Respectfully submitted,

Liam Skinner, Superintendent and  
Secretary to the Lowell School Committee

LS/mes