



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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Curriculum & Instruction
Subcommittee Meeting
Tuesday, April 29, 2025
TV Studio - 5th Floor
6:00 p.m.

Subcommittee Members Present: Chairperson Martin, Mr. Bahou and Ms. Doherty

School Department Personnel Present: Dr. Fox Roye, Assistant Superintendent

Chairperson Martin called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. The following agenda item was discussed:

- 1. [By Fred Bahou]: Have proper department submit a detailed report on how Lowell Public Schools includes Financial Literacy courses to our High school students curriculum & prepares them for with long term financial knowledge upon leaving high school.**
- 2. Curriculum and Instruction Updates**

Dr. Fox Roye presented a detailed overview of the financial literacy and economics curriculum at Lowell High School, highlighting a structured, multi-course program designed to build students' financial knowledge and economic understanding across multiple grade levels. The program features three distinct courses, each tailored to students at different stages of their academic journey:

- **Freshman Seminar: Introduction to Financial Literacy (Grade 9)**
- **Introduction to Economics and Finance (Grades 11 & 12)**
- **Financial Algebra (Grade 12)**

These offerings combine both practical and theoretical elements, preparing students with essential financial skills and a foundational understanding of economic principles. The curriculum is intentionally scaffolded starting with basic personal finance concepts in Grade 9 and progressing to advanced topics in economic analysis and applied financial mathematics by

Grades 11 and 12. Each course emphasizes real-world application, ensuring students can translate classroom learning into everyday financial decision-making. This tiered approach reflects Lowell High School's commitment to fostering financial responsibility and economic literacy among all students. Additionally, the program incorporates community partnerships in the early stages, providing students with hands-on learning opportunities and deeper engagement with the material.

Mr. Bahou asked if this could be offered as a course and a needed requirement for graduation.

Dr. Fox Roye responded that it could be and that she saw the value in that and she said she could try and have it become an elective.

Ms. Martin proposed offering the program as an afternoon course, potentially tied to the existing scholarship program. She suggested structuring it as a certificate-based course held two afternoons per week over the course of a semester. Additionally, she inquired about the possibility of partnering with MassHire to enhance student access and career readiness.

Mr. Bahou expressed support for Ms. Martin's proposal and suggested exploring a collaboration with the UTEC program as another potential partner.

Ms. Doherty emphasized the importance of expanding opportunities for 10th-grade students, expressing a desire to see more offerings specifically tailored to that grade level.

Dr. Fox Roye also reported on the district's recent efforts to enhance health education, with a focus on curriculum modernization, professional development, and alignment with the 2023 Comprehensive Physical Education (CHPE) frameworks. She added that no one person is supporting this curriculum and that currently it falls under Social Studies & Scienced team. Key initiatives include:

- Renewal of Michigan Model Health Curriculum licenses
- Targeted professional development for middle and high school educators through Lighthouse Wellness
- Appointment of Lead Teachers to promote vertical alignment across grade levels
- Development of new instructional resources aligned with CHPE standards

These improvements aim to ensure the health curriculum is coherent, up-to-date, and rooted in best practices. In Fall 2024, the district launched a series of strategic initiatives supported by a \$50,000 grant from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) Promoting Safe and Healthy Learning Environments Grant. This funding is being used to support a unified, standards-based health education program that promotes educator growth and meets the needs of today's learners.

Ms. Doherty noted that the survey was conducted during the final week of the previous school year and inquired about the content that would be covered.

Dr. Fox Roye responded that the full curriculum content, including a detailed scope and sequence, will be available in June. She also noted that the middle and high school teams will be collaborating closely to ensure alignment and continuity across grade levels.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to adjourn at 6:34 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 3 yeas.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Fox Roye, Assistant Superintendent
of Curriculum & Instruction for
Superintendent Skinner, Secretary to
Lowell School Committee

OFR/mes