



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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Special Education
Subcommittee Meeting

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

TV Studio - 5th Floor

7:00 p.m.

Fred Bahou
David Conway
Eileen Delrossi
Jackie Doherty
Connie A. Martin

Subcommittee Members Present:

Chairperson Delrossi, Ms. Doherty and Ms. Martin

School Department Personnel Present:

Ms. Brown-LeGrand, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Bousios, Director, Special Education

Chairperson Delrossi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following agenda items were discussed:

1. Special Education Department Updates
2. Special Education Programming Updates

Ms. Bousios informed the subcommittee that significant progress has been made in the second half of the school year. Her work began with site visits to all schools and program teams to assess available space and resources across buildings. She described this period as particularly robust and productive. She shared that she has been meeting regularly with all cohorts to collaboratively address caseload challenges and noted an increase in service requests. In response, the department has implemented greater flexibility and expanded support. Ms. Bousios is currently evaluating all programs, exploring additional training opportunities for staff, and conducting in-house reviews. She reported receiving positive feedback and emphasized that students in Lowell are fortunate to have access to a wide range of resources and support programs.

Ms. Delrossi asked whether a timeline for a formal plan would be provided.

Ms. Bousios responded that she is currently developing a plan to be presented in June, which will outline the next steps and key goals for the upcoming school year.

Ms. Brown-Le Grand noted that the long-term goals discussed are embedded within the district's Strategic Plan and that the initiatives currently underway are part of the next steps aligned with that plan.

Ms. Bousios shared that she has met with professors from UMass to discuss expanding the internship program. The aim is to provide interns with hands-on experience in their field, with the goal of recruiting them into the Lowell Public Schools workforce after graduation. These interns are currently working under administrator supervision at the district's tutoring center.

Ms. Brown-Le Grand also provided an update on the Jeanne D'Arc School, stating that it is intended to eventually become the permanent campus for the entire Dr. Janice Adie Program.

Ms. Delrossi inquired about current enrollment at the school.

Ms. Brown-Le Grand responded that the program currently is housing 24 to 26 students across four classrooms.

Ms. Doherty asked for a breakdown of student ages.

Ms. Brown-Le Grand explained that the students range from 8th grade through age 22. She added that although the school building is still undergoing renovations, the convent building on the premises is currently in use. She highlighted that the school's basement houses a large library that could potentially be repurposed as a gym space. She also noted that parking will be a challenge once the program is fully operational.

Ms. Doherty also raised concerns about speech-language caseloads, noting this has been an ongoing area of concern.

Ms. Brown-Le Grand acknowledged that caseloads remain high across all special education teams. She reported that a speech-language position was added to the budget last year, but it has yet to be filled. The demand for services has increased, mirroring trends seen in other districts. She added that the district's mental health department is collaborating with Mass General Hospital to provide training in schools, and emphasized that the team is working diligently to move forward despite the staffing challenges.

Ms. Martin made a motion to adjourn at 7:24 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Doherty. The motion passed with 3 yeas.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Brown-LeGrand, Assistant
Superintendent of Student Support
Services for Superintendent Skinner,
Secretary to Lowell School Committee

ABL/mes