

**LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING  
for the FISCAL YEAR 2011**

May 27, 2010

The Public Budget Hearing of the Lowell School Committee for fiscal year 2011 took place in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Thursday, May 27, 2010, at 7:00 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

On roll call at 7:03 pm, Alison P. B. Laraba was recorded as absent (She arrived at 7:06 pm). All members were present, namely, John J. Leahy, James D. Leary, Connie A. Martin, Mayor/Chairman James L. Milinazzo, David J. Conway and

**For the record**, the Fiscal Year 2011 Lowell School Department Budget was put together by Roger (Jay) Lang, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations. All line items were presented and recommended for approval by the Superintendent.

At 7:04 pm, Mayor Milinazzo thanked the public for coming out this evening. He stated his appreciation of their attendance and their appreciation for quality education in the City of Lowell. He was anticipating their input, but first (if it was okay with his colleagues) he wanted to recognize the Superintendent for her presentation and input. After that Mayor Milinazzo stated he would open up the meeting to the public. He reminded the public to sign in (if they hadn't already) and of the 5 minute rule per speaker.

Mayor Milinazzo acknowledged Dr. Chris A. Scott, Superintendent of the Lowell Public Schools.

Superintendent Scott stated that she wanted to go over some of the assumption drivers of the FY11 School Department Budget that the Committee was deliberating on this evening. The Lowell School Department faces a 7.774 million dollar shortfall. She recommended that the Lowell School Committee cut no more than her recommended 4 million dollars from the FY11 School Department Budget, because to cut more (she believed) would cause permanent and long-lasting damage. This will be 7 years of cuts in which over 500 positions have been lost, and programs have been dismantled that educators and administrators have built up over the decades. The dedicated and hard-working Lowell School Department employees (many of which are here this evening) will be negatively impacted by the budget decisions this School Committee is required to make. Superintendent Scott publicly expressed how difficult the budget process has been and publicly thanked the Lowell School Department employees for their years of dedicated service to the children of Lowell. The Superintendent went on to say that the district office has been reorganized and restructured twice in the past 24 months. The Parent Information Center, the Transportation Department, Food Services, the Personnel and Business Offices have all been

restructured. There has been a savings this year in the Personnel and Business Offices of over **\$200,000 dollars**; the reduction in the Food Service budget this year was over **\$300,000** dollars. Five clerks were lost last year in the district office alone. There has been the elimination of one custodian supervisor and five administrators, The Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Recruitment position has been eliminated. Her recommended cuts, according to employee group, are 1.8 million or 2.7 percent of the proposed cuts are teachers that are in front of the Committee tonight, 1.3 million or 12.8 percent administrators, and 587,000 or 9.2 percent of paraprofessionals are all being eliminated in the budget before the Lowell School Committee tonight. An equitable core program will now be available to every preK-8 school. They all will have music, an art, and a physical education program. As well, the elimination of one band teacher will now put the bands in the middle schools on a six-day cycle, Her intention is to maintain an instrumental band and string program that feeds into the high school, but they will no longer be able to maintain as many semi-private classes as they once did. Unfortunately, her proposed budget can no longer afford instructional technology throughout the preK-8 schools *“That is a big loss for us”*. Given how big the cuts have been at the high school, she recommended that the core decisions made and the scheduling at the high school drive the Committee to determine which teachers will ultimately be eliminated in this year’s budget. It would be operationally very difficult to determine any other factors of what these cuts would be. Although the Fine Arts and Business Chair is purposed to be eliminated at the high school, it is expected that the responsibilities and job descriptions of the Fine Arts and Business Chair are to be folded into other positions. There are 17 teachers in the Fine Arts Department and they will be evaluated by other administrators at the high school. The House Masters have agreed to take on the administrative responsibilities of Fine Art productions. Fine Art teachers receive stipends of lead positions, so it is the Superintendent’s expectation that these teachers will provide leadership to make sure Fine Arts productions are maintained. Unfortunately, due to the severity of this year’s cuts, the Superintendent had to consider the cuts to clubs and to sports at the high school. The Superintendent recommended that the Lowell School Committee approve the recommended dollar value being reduced from the interscholastic budget and the Student Activity budget. Over the summer months the Superintendent and her administration want to work with the UTL (United Teachers of Lowell) to renegotiate the cost of stipends and coaches’ fees in an attempt to bring them in line with the industry standard. As well, they will reach out to the business community to seek the financial support for these very important extra-curricular activities that are so important to our youth in this City.

Mayor Milinazzo opened the meeting up to the public at 7:35 pm. He again thanked them for their participation. He welcomed all speakers that signed in.

**For the record**, twenty-nine speakers signed in and are recorded. However, there were forty-nine speakers who came to the podium and spoke. These minutes show the recording of the 29 registered speakers.

1. Steven Anstey - 231 Mt. Hope Street

He thanked the Mayor and the Committee for allowing him the opportunity to speak. He stated that he has been actively involved in the Fine Arts Program through the band, the Latin Lyceum, and has been an active supporter of Latin at the high school. Tonight he was stymie. The cuts

were too deep to expect that any program could be spared the pain. The assurances are very slim that anyone knows the extent of the budget shortfall. He was here tonight to remind the Mayor, the School Committee, and the City to do more than make the tough decisions on the cuts. They were elected to lead whether the times were good or bad. Now, more than ever, and probably more than we have in many years, our elected officials are needed to fight for solutions, to reopen and reconsider contracts, to pursue changes in the law to ensure that our public school system; and, in fact, the entire City remain solvent and responsive to the needs of the community. It is not enough to just follow the laws that make no sense in the current situation, such as handing \$600,000 to the Voke (Greater Lowell Technical and Vocational High School) while you butcher preK through 12 and our alternative schools. It is not enough to allow a City to demand huge amounts of cuts in the School Department budget (even Special Education which is untouchable) while unnecessary programs are funded. Future accreditation, the long intellectual flight, and the long-term safety and productivity of our City are at stake. Education, like ambulance, fire, police, and trash are absolute necessities, and if neglected, in long term, the price will be paid in higher crime, fewer job opportunities, lower property values, and a shrinking tax base. As leaders, it is not simply enough to take a number and make the cuts. It is time to call in the State Reps, the State Senators, the U.S. Reps and U.S. Senators, and offer them changes in the law that will allow Lowell's elected officials the tools to make changes in a reasonable way. The Fine Arts Academy needs a Chair. The Latin Lyceum needs Latin and upper-level classes with smaller class sizes. The students need after-school programs, clubs, and athletics to make sure they have a reason to come to school every day. The whole City, in order to get through this, is going to need a music program. This isn't about want, this is about need. Steven Anstey stated that the elected officials must do what is necessary to find resources to provide the needs of students, rather this means finding other resources in the City or even increasing taxes. Mr. Anstey stated that it was not acceptable that Lowell High School just provide the minimum requirements to get into a state school. He wanted the highest standards to make sure graduates of Lowell High School have the necessary education, tools, and skills to succeed in any college and to succeed in whatever they choose to do in life. Anything short of that was like setting a match to the community and waiting for a future to burn.

## 2. Sharon Bisantz – 68 Oakland Street

Mrs. Bisantz stated that she has been with the Lowell School System for the past ten years. However, for the past 35 years, in her spare time, she has worked as a Theater Professional, Director, Choreographer, and Drama teacher in the Boston area. At Lowell High she was a Show-Choir parent volunteer for the 7 years her children were involved. For the past 4 years she has been the Show-Choir Choreographer, and lastly (not least), she is the Drama Advisor. To that end she has watched the workings of the Fine Arts Department and was here tonight to address the possibility of cuts to the Fine Arts Department. Specifically, the Fine Arts Chair position which she knows is out there to be cut. For the Fine Arts to work not only in schools, but out there in the real world, all the components: visual, music, dance, and drama need to mesh cohesively and cooperatively. Two basic reasons why they have to mesh:

- First – all artists, whatever their discipline, need to have knowledge of the other Fine Arts. Her son wanted to be here. He just finished his third year at New York University in Theatre. He wanted his mother to tell everyone that his musical training at Lowell

High School definitely gave him an advantage when he auditioned for his school's theater program. For the spring production this year, the Fine Arts Department utilized the talents of students in Visual Arts to paint the backdrops, one of the first times in Lowell's history. These students now know, even as visual artists, they can go to college and major in Theater to study Scenic Design, a very lucrative career. That is why there needs to be someone in place who has a thorough understanding of all the separate fine arts and how they fit together. An individual dance, music, or art teacher needs to concentrate on their own disciplines. They don't have the prospective of the big picture.

- Secondly – all the arts need to mesh in order to save money. Losing the Fine Arts Chair will actually cost money in the long run. There are many shared activities and expenses in the department. The department calendar is filled with concerts, plays, art exhibits, fund-raising events, as well as housing outside groups, such as Senior District Chorus. These activities and events often cross over the disciplines for money, staff and time. In other words the Head of the Fine Arts Department is really a Producer. That one person keeps tabs on the
  - Costs
  - Manpower
  - Program Coordination, and
  - Any overlaps

Mrs. Bisantz stated that she understood the cuts the School Committee had to make, but the needs are real for a coordinator or whatever you want to call that person. If money cannot be found she had suggestions for creative alternatives: One thing about being creative is that they are trained to think outside the box. Sharon Bisantz stated that she wanted to leave with the slogan that has been staring her in the face, *Art Is the Handmaid of Human Good*. It would be kind of ironic if the high school did not reflect that sentiment.

### 3. Lisa Seaver – Instructional Technology Specialists (ITS) at the Reilly Elementary School

Lisa Seaver stated that she was blessed to work in the Reilly Elementary School for the past 6 years, but she has been working with technology for the last 15 years. You walk into any school and technology is before you. Where are our children without technology? It is needed to go forward. Yes we have teachers, but the Department of Education says that the schools need technology to support our teachers. She heard the word creativity out of the box. Technology should be used in that matter to support math, reading, science, language arts; to support students who do not have computers in their homes. It was ironic to her that the City of Lowell has spent millions of dollars in computer technology for all their school buildings, and now there isn't going to be any computer teachers to teach it. She not only teaches students how to use the computer, but she supports other teachers with reading, math, science, sports, physical education, and art programs that are available on the computer. Technology Specialists have made learning fun. Proper use of the internet is taught. She could go on and on. This day and age when computers are such a vital part of learning, she can't understand eliminating all the technology teachers. Most importantly, those students going into those labs or going into a classroom and not being able to use what the Instructional Technology Specialists have given them, or they

might not be able to have it next year. “*The Whole World Is Technology.*” She thanked the Committee for allowing her to speak.

4. Cameron Anstrey – Lowell High School Junior

Cameron Anstrey stated that he was a junior at Lowell High School, a member of the band, the Latin Lyceum, as well as other clubs. One fact he has been made aware of last year was that Boston Magazine ranked Lowell High School the 25<sup>th</sup> best public high school in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a fact that many people in the Lowell schools are very proud of. He did a little bit of research before coming to this budget session. In 2009 Lowell High School slipped in the ratings to 134. That is a big drop. The entire thing (ranking system) is based on how many upper-level classes, special programs, and class size a high school has. Those are 3 things that are all on the chopping block tonight. Special programs such as band are so important. Sharon Bisantz said it before, “*Art Is the Handmaid of Human Good.*” He noticed this year, especially when he is in a class with 27 other juniors for English, it kind of made it more difficult (in his opinion) for students to be heard. With 27 students, it makes it more difficult for the teacher to affectively grade us, make sure the students are learning something, and to make sure every school day is worthwhile. If cuts keep continuing, class sizes increase, upper-level classes get eliminated; Lowell High School might fall off the list completely. Families, young families will stop coming to Lowell; and, if that happens, Lowell will stop growing. If families stop coming to Lowell, all that urban redevelopment that has been going on for the past 20 years will be lost. All this stuff is connected. Upper-level classes, special programs, and class sizes are all important. It is imperative that Lowell High keeps upper-level classes, special programs, and smaller class sizes. The special programs at Lowell High School are very important to him and many of his friends that are in attendance tonight. Cameron thanked the Committee for their time, and he hoped they would consider what he has stated tonight.

5. Emily Steinberg – 107 Endicott Street

Emily Steinberg stated that she has been a teacher at Lowell High School for 11 years. For 9 of those 11 years, she has been the Advisor for the Lowell High School Science Club and the Science League. She has been a resident of Lowell for the past 8 years. Emily stated that she was deeply depressed to learn that the Science Club and the Science League might be cut next year. This is one of the things, as well as other clubs, that gives students a leg up to get into college. It is what keeps the kids out of downtown in the afternoons. It gives them a place to go rather than at home, a place that is empty, or a neighborhood that isn't the safest. She understands that cuts have to be made, but the after-school programs that they have are integral to the high school. They are part of the student's success, and if that is taken away, you are taking away an opportunity for students to succeed. Clubs are not only for the kids that go to college. They are for every-day kids. As Advisor to the Science Club, she has 500 members, on average, every year. These entire 500 students may not be at every meeting, but they come, they enjoy, they participate. You don't have to be in the UMO Biology class, you don't have to be in Honors Chemistry, or Honors Biology to take part in the Science Club or the Science League. These are kids who take Science, want to meet with other kids that take Science, and want to travel. They travel to other high schools representing Lowell High School and the City of

Lowell. They participate and compete. They compete at the state level every year and have done so for the past 16 years. It is very disheartening for Emily Steinberg if the Science Club, Science League, Fine Arts, or other clubs and programs are eliminated. Scholarships for students will be lost. Her biggest concern is that if these programs are lost, they will never come back in the capacity they are now. Lawrence was taken over by the state 10 years ago. Today, they still do not have the programs, the clubs, the intramural sports that they had before. Our job here is to educate our children, to provide a basis for them, so they can go on and succeed. If we take these special programs, clubs, and other student activities away from them, you are cutting them off right at the base. She thanked the Committee for their time.

6. Laurel Hansen – 87 Stratham Street

Laurel Hansen stated that her daughter, Rebecca Hansen, was in the balcony tonight with her friends. She is graduating from Lowell High School next week (June 2<sup>nd</sup>). Next year will be the first time in a lot of years that she does not have a child in the Lowell School System. She wanted to remind the Committee of all the benefits her children have received from the music and Fine Arts Academy that Lowell High School had to offer over the years her children have been in the Lowell School System. Her daughter is very musically gifted as our many other students. Laurel Hansen could not imagine her daughter Rebecca's middle school years or especially her high school years without the music programs Lowell had to offer. The reason Laurel Hansen decided to send Rebecca to Lowell High School was the wonderful programs that were offered. Parents might look at Lowell High School to see what it has to offer in regards to the Fine Arts. This could be a deciding factor of whether to send their child to Lowell High School or not. Her daughter, Rebecca, will receive 10 scholarships upon graduation. Most of them are in music. These scholarships would not have been possible if not for the music programs Lowell has to offer. Also, there are a lot of students, she feels that are not able to academically excel, however, they are extremely gifted in the arts. To take away these programs and the wonderful teachers who are running these programs, would be a huge impact and loss to these students' educations. Lastly, her daughter is going to UMASS Lowell in the fall majoring in Music Education. This would not have been possible without the tremendous foundation that she has received from the Lowell Public Schools. Laurel Hansen ended by stating that she was extremely grateful to the Lowell School System for everything they had to offer her daughter. She urged the Committee not to cut these programs so other students might be able to benefit as her daughter has. She thanked the Committee for their time.

7. Yvonne Wheatley – 85 Parker Street

Yvonne Wheatley stated that she also had a student who was in the music program at Lowell High School. She also has two other children who graduated from the Lowell School System. Her son graduated in 1997, and her daughter graduated in 2001. She would like anybody that was here in 1997 and before that saw the band to remember what that was like. There were 14 people walking out on the field. One was her son. They were a laughing stock, because there were 8 alumni and 6 students. She didn't want to return back to that time. She wants Lowell High to stay forward and have the band, have the music, the arts; the programs that were put in place since 1990. If you go back, and she can talk to any of the administrators that were here then, and you have them; they know what it was like. It was miserable! We, as parents, herself,

the teachers, other students, and the administration worked hard and strove hard to get to the point Lowell High School is today. Don't let Lowell High School be a house like a game pulling out, pulling out. Don't go back to only having 6 kids from the high school in the band, 5 kids actually going in the chorus, and then 14, and then 20, and then 25. Now Lowell High is at the point where they have more than one chorus. They have the Show Choir. They have the Art Department that helps support them. You have people that are willing to work. We need to really think. We need to really go back and look at what we left behind, and where we are now. She hoped that everyone would search their hearts, go back and look at the pictures (she can provide them, and she knows other people can too) of what a sad time that was. It took a lot of people, a lot of administrators, and a lot of thinking to get Lowell High School the funding to reach the point Lowell High School is today. She hoped, she employed, and she begged that the Committee really try to find the money to keep these programs going. She thanked the Committee for allowing her to speak.

8. Diane Leary-Oung – Chemistry Teacher, Lowell High School

Diane Leary stated that she taught for William Samaras (present Headmaster of Lowell High School) and George Stamas for 5 years in the 1980s. She left Lowell to work for internationally developmental schools for Care International for 5 years, and then she did doctoral research at the elements for effective schools across the country. She returned to Lowell High School two years ago and is now teaching Chemistry. She was delighted to find upon her return all the elements of effective schools developed to the highest level at Lowell High School. She gave the Committee of an example that happened in her classroom just this past week in terms of elements for effective schools. Her students had just come in this week alone and have said, "Ms. Leary, our Business Professional of America Group did a fantastic job, we had a great time in California. They won the state level competitions, went to California, and came back this week. Also, she has in one of her classes Merrimack Valley Conference Champions in Track; she has the Boys 800 Champion. He won that event yesterday, came in today, delighted he won that event. The Girls Relay Team is also in her class. They came in over-the-top, ecstatic. She also has ROTC students in her class that just came back from Georgia. They placed very high in Georgia. All these students have worked very hard since September on all these endeavors. She had a group of students, yesterday, from Mrs. Steinberg's Science Club. They visited the Environmental Protection Agency. They came in this morning, ecstatic about that trip. They visited 5 Science labs that she couldn't show them unless they went on that trip. Lastly, in her email this morning she communicated with Instructional Specialists who has been working with one of her students to get him over his MCAS (Massachusetts Curriculum Assessment Standards) hump. He is a senior. He took the retest a few months ago. With the help of the Instructional Specialists, he passed his MCAS, and now he is going to be graduating. These are definitely the elements of effective schooling that are in place at Lowell High School. She urged the Committee to keep the staffing, programs, and all the elements that have taken place in the last 20 years at Lowell High School. She thanked the Committee for allowing her to speak.

9. Brian Lima – 666 Varnum Avenue

Brian Lima stated that he was a former Culinary Arts student at Lowell High School. He heard that program might be cut. That was very disturbing to him. In his early life he did not have the

means to go on to further his education. He liked to cook. Lowell High School gave him the courses he needed to go on and further his education. Even if he couldn't seek further education, Lowell High gave him the means to go out and obtain a job and to do something to develop confidence in himself. Thanks to Culinary Arts at Lowell High School he was able to excel in the great culinary world with the best cooks. He came back to Lowell to work for the best restaurant in the City of Lowell. If not for the programs at Lowell High School, Brian doesn't know what his future would have been like. Lowell High is not a vocational school, but it does have a Culinary Arts program. Brian Lima ended by stated that he greatly appreciated what the Culinary Arts program at Lowell High School has done for him. He hoped the Committee would keep the Culinary Arts program at the high school. It has been going on forever. He believed that Culinary Arts is an asset to Lowell High School. He thanked the Committee for their time.

10. Ashley Norman – 23 Packard Avenue, Somerville, MA 02144

Ashley Norman stated that she was a Visual Arts Teacher at Lowell High School. She thanked the Lowell School Committee for holding this meeting tonight and for allowing her to share her Fine Arts Department's concerns about the budget. She opened with a quote from General Omar Bradley, "*The Greatest Leader In the World Could Never Win a Campaign Unless He Understood the Men He Had To Lead.*" Since the cutbacks in 91, the Fine Arts programs have had a long and hard struggle rebuilding and further development. The program they have today is engaging, dynamic and award winning. They have helped at risk youth get involved in numerous programs for the assistance of the arts program here in Lowell and beyond. Each year the Fine Arts Department is recognized for various awards and each year they are able to see the same pattern repeat. Student receives awards, go to 4-year schools and come back to Lowell as contributing citizens and Professionals in their field. This year 95 percent of the Communication Academy seniors are heading to college this fall. Sixty percent of who are going into majors related to their content area studied here in the academy. They have similar success rates with their Fine Arts Academy students. Ninety-six percent are going to college next year, and 51 percent of those seniors are entering programs directly related to the content area they studied at Lowell High School. This past winter they had 24 visual arts students receive Boston Globe's Scholastic Art Awards. This is currently the highest awards they have received on record. She could go on, but for time sake, she wanted to go on to her main concern, leadership. With this recent budget crisis it has come to their attention that the Fine Arts head position is being in jeopardy of being cut. Loss of this leadership will be detrimental to the program at large, and more importantly, it would lead to severe decline in their teacher and student success. This is because the department head manages so much more beyond the classroom and offers support to teachers and students. The correlation between the success of their program and having a leader with resources, connections in the community and content, specific knowledge cannot be ignored. This loss would not only be felt by the high school, but also the elementary and middle schools. Loosing this position would be devastating. The teachers in the Fine Arts Department are spread incredibly thin. In addition to the regular school day, they volunteer their time for gallery openings, parades, shows, art clubs, help students with their homework, or work one on one with students to make sure they apply to and get into college. There is not a teacher in the Fine Arts Department that works only 35 hours per week. This list of responsibilities that come from the Fine Arts Department Head position demands and add up to more than just a full-time

job. Their department has created a list of over 30 topics to make the Committee fully aware of the breath and complexity of their responsibilities, which are as follows:

- Overseeing countless hours of extra-curricular activities
- Overseeing day-to-day K through 12 music
- Visual arts dance programs
- Overseeing the Family and Consumer Departments at Lowell High School
- Support staff (including any issues that arise in the day-to-day operations)
- Advocating for programs
- Writing grants and managing those grants
- Fund raising
- Budgeting and managing scholarships
- Overseeing Professional Development
- Curriculum
- Curriculum writing
- Common assessment K-12
- Assisting and supporting with discipline issues
- Compiling of orders, purchases
- Distribution and management of supplies
- Department schedules
- Trips
- Community activities and supplies
- Fund raising for trips
- Applying for different awards programs (Boston Globe Scholastic Awards)
- Academy responsibilities
- Recruitment
- Retention
- Rescheduling
- Common planning
- Overseeing investors Lowell Academy for the Arts Grant
- Overseeing the Barakus Grant for Curriculum enrichment
- Overseeing and attending musicals and fundraising
- Attending and managing dance recitals
- Monitoring all the Fine Art funds including music and art budget
- Doing all the PR
- Coordinating art exhibits
- Coordinating all requests for the band, fine arts, chorus and visual arts
- Coordinating events like Greek Independence Day, Law Day, etc.
- Downtown store fronts that need to be filled.
- Parade floats, winter feast, etc.
- Multiply art projects

Ashley listed partnerships with museums, the Whistler House and coordinating art exhibits in their classrooms. She also listed partnerships with Middlesex Community College and

UMASS Lowell. Ashley stated that she was sure she had forgotten a few. Ashley stated that a lot of students come to Lowell High School because of the Fine Arts Academy and then they go to college because of the Fine Arts offered at Lowell High School. She asked the Committee to please keep the Fine Arts program strong for the community and for our students both present and future. She again thanked the Committee for listening to her plea.

11. Shauna McCord – 48 Anderson Street

Shauna stated that she was a senior in the Fine Arts Academy at Lowell High School. She has been a member of the band at Lowell High School for three years and a member of the Fine Arts Academy for four years. In the fall she will be attending an art college. She wouldn't have accomplished all this if not for the Fine Arts Academy at Lowell High School. In her freshman year she suffered from severe depression. The hospital she was in offered art therapy. Because of this she learned when she returned to the high school that you can use art and music as a positive outlet. She joined the Fine Arts Academy. She owes a lot to her art teacher. She has grown in drama. Without the Fine Arts Academy Shauna could not honestly see herself graduating this June. She repeated Lowell's motto, "*Art Is the Handmaid of Human Good.*" Shauna urged the Committee not to cut the Fine Arts programs at Lowell High School. She didn't know how students could discover they have a talent in music, art, dance or drama unless it is offered to them. Art is part of culture. If the arts are taken away at Lowell High School, Shauna stated that the Committee would be taking away the heart of the city. She thanked the Committee for their time.

12. Jill McNamara – Flemings Street

Jill McNamara stated that she was a former Activities Director, National Honor Society Advisor, and former Cheerleading Coach, the current Yearbook Advisor, and Business Professional of America Advisor; she was here to speak on the merits of student activities at Lowell High School. Student activities are provided as enrichment in a student's high school experience. They provide opportunities to express special interests and talents. She likes to say that LHS Clubs meet, eat, and greet. Skills for employment are practiced and enhanced through all of the clubs that gather, share information, exchange ideas and differences, and learn from being part of something bigger. All club members develop student leadership by participating, planning, serving as officers, attending meetings and cooperating with students, teachers, administrators, and city leaders. Members improve their social skills by taking active rolls in classrooms and social activities. They develop poise, social ability, a positive attitude, and tact. Students promote their club and have a better understanding of the high school community, because they are involved and learn more than an uninvolved student. Club members learn the value of their own personal ambition, and derive satisfaction out of helping others, and from serving. Club participation help students learn to plan effectively. Everyone needs to know where he or she is and where he or she is going. Enthusiasm for learning is essential for club members of club activities. Students are made aware of our changing society and are taught the necessity of constantly updating their knowledge through continuous education. Members of clubs develop confidence and a spirit of competition. They take it, and they learn it takes more to advance in the ever, changing world. Many students learn they need more than mere classroom participation to move on after Lowell High School. Members must learn to get along with others. Finally,

active club members show pride in his or her organization if the organization is to be successful and betterment to our society. The clubs and student activities at Lowell High School provide the outlet for all students to be part of something more, gather with friends, work with others, have a sense of community for the greater good, and maybe have a slice of pizza. She thanked the Committee for their time and wished that all students have the opportunity to enhance these skills outside their classrooms through participation in club and social activities at Lowell High School.

13. Emily Anstey – 231 Mt. Hope Street

Ellen stated that she was a senior at Lowell High School, was graduating this June, and was going to attend Boston University in the fall to study Latin. She honestly loved her 4 years at Lowell High School. She truly loves and cares about Lowell High School that is why she was here tonight. Lowell High School truly challenged her and allowed her to find out what her passions are. In the past two years she has taken 8 AP classes. Her two passions are Latin and music. Latin is one of those courses that you just have to love. Latin has been offered at Lowell High School since its establishment. Many view Latin as the basic for a well-rounded education. At Lowell High School Latin is more than that. At Lowell High Latin is difficult and challenging, but all the students in the Latin Lyceum love it. She is a member of the Latin Lyceum. She urged the Committee not to cut any upper level classes, especially not to cut the Latin Lyceum. Upper level classes keep students motivated. Even though Latin is a “*dead language*”, it bonds students together. The Latin Lyceum is very challenging, but Emily loves the challenge. If Latin was eliminated, it would damage Lowell High’s ability to give a good classical education. She begged the Committee not to cut upper level programs. She has been a drum major in the Lowell High School Band for two years. She could not love an organization more than she loves the band. When the Lowell High School Band goes out on the field, they do their best not only to represent the high school and themselves, but to represent the city. The music program, forgive her pun, is instrumental to the Lowell Public Schools. Music program in the high school relies on the music program in the middle schools, which relies on the music program in the elementary schools. Eyes are on the elementary music teachers. She knows one of the music teachers in the middle schools has the potential to be cut, but she asked the Committee to please reconsider this, because it would not only hurt the middle school’s education, but the high school band. “*It is not my band. It is not Mr. McGovern’s band; it is not everybody who is wearing the band shirt in this room’s band. It is everybody’s band.*” She went on to say that the band represents the City with pride, and they love what they do. Most of the band came from the middle schools. Putting the middle school band on a 6-day schedule would not only hurt the middle schools, but eventually hurt the high school. She hoped the high school band continued to grow and gets better when she leaves. She asked the Committee to keep in mind, when they are making these cuts, that Lowell High School is a great school, it is the best school! It is because of everything that Lowell High offers from AP classes, Latin, a vibrant band, and so much more. She hoped that all who attend Lowell High School in the future will have the same quality education she received. She thanked the Committee for their time.

14. Nilya Mitchel – 34 Coburn Street

Nilya stated that she was nervous tonight. No because she was speaking, but because of the future of her school, the cuts that the Committee was planning to make at Lowell High School, especially the Fine Arts Academy. She specialized in the Visual Arts. To describe it, she feels inadequate. It is too broad a term. In the Fine Arts Academy, She had been able to work in drawing, painting, sculpturing, print making, screen printing, and so on. When she started as a freshman, she didn't know half those things when she started as a freshman. Because of the Fine Arts Academy, she is going to college seeking a career in the arts. Such possibilities wouldn't have been available to her if not for the Fine Arts Academy. She considered the vocational school, but they only offer Graphic Design. She never would have been aware of how extensive the arts are if not for the academy or her teachers. She would not be pursuing a career in the arts, and she wouldn't be off to the only public art school in America. She wouldn't have the confidence to apply. Thankfully she is confident and considers herself blessed. So much she is here representing a generation she does not know. She doesn't think she will ever know. She only knows through her passion for the arts. She cannot fathom her high school life without art. Art formed her identity and gave her the vocational training to be geared for college. Lowell has always made her a very proud resident. There is so much life in the city. There is so much history. She works for the National Parks Service as the Historical Interpreter. People love being part of Lowell. When she goes to other cities, it is not there. When art isn't there, you can tell. People are lifeless, their cities are gray. There is so much passion in the young artists at Lowell High School. Art keeps people moving forward. In its finest essence, art is motivation. When a person is sad, they blast up their favorite song. Seeing the right painting can leave you breathless. There's a magic in those moments of art that is hard to explain. At Lowell High School she has learned how to create that. She humbly asked the Committee not to take that away. She looks around. She notices things. She notices the crest craved in wood. She sees the 14 seals around in the room that says, "*Art Is the Handmaid of Human Good.*". Most of all she sees her fellow classmates. The people who are here tonight to represent the Fine Arts Academy. She asked the Committee not to take that crest away from their hearts. She thanked the Committee for their time.

15. Tammy McKinnon – Junior at Lowell High School

Tammy McKinnon stated that she was a member of the Latin Lyceum, she is in band, and she is also part of the color guard, the people who carry the flags. She didn't want to stand and list facts. She wanted to put a face on what the Committee is getting rid of. If not for the band, Latin Lyceum, and the color guard, not only won't she be the person she is today, but she would not have come to Lowell High School. She would have been at the Voke (Greater Lowell Vocational Technical High School) in a heartbeat. She wanted the Committee to think about what they will be doing to the students at Lowell High School. Don't just think about the money. These programs are not important; they are not great; they are vital! It is what makes Lowell High School. It is what makes everyone love Lowell High. She cannot imagine her life without the things she got involved in at Lowell High School. It is really upsetting to imagine her little sisters coming to the high school without the programs that she has received. Tammy thanked the Committee, and stated that was all she wanted to say.

16. Jeimy Torres – 58 Crowley Street

Jeimy stated that she also was a junior at Lowell High School and part of the Lowell High School Band. She realizes that they have heard a lot about the Fine Arts Academy, but she wanted to get through to the Committee that the Fine Arts Academy is very important to many people in the room right now. She can remember when she was a freshman and was invited to play for Superintendent Scott to welcome her to the Lowell School System. It was great! The Superintendent came in with a smiling face. She made them feel special. It was a real nice feeling, and Jeimy thanked Superintendent Scott tonight. She went on to say that her hope was to keep the Fine Arts Academy not only for the band and other Fine Arts students, but for the other students as well. Every single program in the Fine Arts Academy is intertwined with every other piece of LHS (Lowell High School). They have kids in the Latin Lyceum; kids that are part of the sports program, which she hoped would not die. Everything that they do is important to all of Lowell. It made her very sad to think it was possible for programs to go away. Everything in Lowell High speaks of the arts and of Lowell. You go around the building and see beautiful paintings seniors have done for their projects. You go to concerts and you see everything that the students do from the Show Choir, to the band, and even the smallest thing such as the lighting that they work very hard on. It is all intertwined with each other. They go through Lowell hoping that people will see them and notice everything they do. They want to look good to the city they are in. Band is all about class. The Show Choir is all about looking good. The arts want to show their passion through their art whether it makes you cry or makes you happy. Everything is connected, and she really hoped the Committee would not let them down. The students practice for the people of Lowell, to show people that Lowell is not a bad city, and that Lowell High is not a bad place. When she was in the fifth grade, she never thought of going to Lowell High School. She heard it was bad. In the eighth grade she chose Lowell High over the Voke because of the music programs. She knew that Lowell High School would be a better education for her. She wasn't putting the Voke down, but at Lowell High School she became the person she is today. She has learned to be a strong person, to cooperate with the other members of Lowell High. They are friends with each other and are intertwined with each other. Dance, artist, band members within our history and English classes. The classes are getting fuller and fuller. *"It is hard to learn when you have 30 kids in one tiny classroom"*. Their teachers are special. She stated the new Band Master, Mr. McGovern, helped her become the person she is today, and she thanked him for inspiring her. She thanked her mother and all her friends who were in the audience tonight. They helped Lowell High School become a better school. She thanked the Committee for their time.

17. Vitoon Lim – 54 Washington Street, Apt. #2

Vitoon Lim stated he was a junior at Lowell High School and a member of the band. He gave the Committee some background. He is going to be the future Band Manager. Currently Vitoon is Captain of the Woodwind LHS (Lowell High School) Band. Someone asked him this morning what he would advocate for tonight. He stated band. Seeing everyone here tonight, he cannot say that he is just going to advocate for music. If you think about Lowell High School, it offers these circles of things you can go into. Of course he is in band, but he is also in Robotics, the Science Club, the Student Council, UMASS/Northeastern Council, Latin Lyceum; he thinks he

has broken the mold of so many things. Lowell High School is one of the schools that have broken the mold. It is the first co-ed high school in America. If you take away one program such as an AP (Advanced Program) class, or band, or art, or sport, you lose the creativity of a student. Everyone knows he is an awkward person, but he is also involved in everything. He is Lighting Manager of the auditorium. He is crazy, of course, but he loves Lowell High School. It is a school that breaks the mold of everything. Why should Lowell High be like other schools? Tewksbury just broke down their music program because of budget cuts. If the Committee does that, Lowell High School will lose everything that they have worked for. A mill has been renovated for art and culture. If you take away the art, they have wasted money for nothing. He wanted to thank his friends, his teachers, because if it wasn't for them, he would not be here advocating for Lowell High School tonight. He would probably be sitting at home wondering what he is going to do with his life. He thanked the Committee for their time.

18. Courtney Baldwin – 118 Stromquist Avenue

Courtney Baldwin stated that she has just completed her first year at UMASS Amherst. If you are wondering why she is here tonight speaking? It is because she was a former track athlete at Lowell High. She was informed that a lot of the assistant coaches might be losing their jobs because of budget cuts. Personally, she had to come and speak. Without her coaches, she wouldn't be where she is today. They have influenced her and all her friends. Besides being coaches, most of them are teachers. \Being such a big school, it is hard to find somewhere where you will fit. If the jobs are cut for these coaches, it means that a lot of the positions for the team will also be cut. The roster of 60 would now go down to 20. What happens to these 40 children? They will go to downtown Lowell up to no good. Sports are a way kids as a team become friends. They meet a lot of people. Coaches influence her not only in track but in the books too. Coaches stay on top of them to make sure they are up on their grades. They watch out for kids. Coaches become kids' friends. She stays in contact with her coaches even though she is now enrolled in another school. Coaches such as Patrick Sweat are still helping her even though she no longer is a student at Lowell High School. Without coaches, she would not be the athlete that she is and knows other students won't either.

19. Patrick Sweat – Physical Education Teacher at Lowell High School

Patrick Sweat that he is the Head Girls' Field and Track Coach. He stated that Courtney was a prime example of what assistant coaches bring to the table. Track has 16 different events, each distinctly different from the other. Each event requiring its own time, nurturing to the athletes, and instruction. By having assistant coaches, they can diversify and conquer all the different events. Courtney was actually coached by an assistant coach, not by him. Her event was one of the events they gave over to an assistant coach. Because Lowell High had the assistant coach, Courtney had the nurturing of a direct coach. Courtney won a Division 1 Scholarship. Courtney may have won that scholarship on her own, because she is very talented. The fact of the matter is that if Lowell High does not have those assistant coaches, there isn't the chance to work with each individual group. He, as an individual, would not be able to work with 16 different field and track events. The roster this year is 70 girls. It just isn't going to happen. He was here to advocate for his own sport, but he would never want to stand up and say that track is the most important. Everything is important. Every kid that has come up has a very valid point. You

may not be suited for track. You may be drawn to band, to crew; there are a million different things. Every one of them has a story just like his that deserves to be heard and is very important. It makes Lowell High what it is. Thank you.

20. Pan So – Foreign Language Teacher at Lowell High School

Pan so stated that he has been teaching at Lowell High School for 22 years. He is from Cambodia. He came here in 1982. He never thought to be a teacher, but when he came to this country he became one. He looks at the student's eyes every day and thinks about how to help all these children. They are all going to grow up to be citizens of this country. Now there is a situation which he never thought would happen, but it has happened. When he came in this room (Council Chamber), it was hot. He thought there would be the luxury of an air conditioner. The students complained to him that it was hot these last few days. They can't study. I put on a fan for them. I realize now that the Committee suffers the heat too. When I go back to class and the students complain, I will tell them it is hot in the Council Chambers too. He was here tonight to support all the programs at Lowell High School. When he first came to this country, he started teaching bilingual and math. Lately, it is Language Art. He doesn't think any of the programs at Lowell High School should be cut any more. They have been cut enough already. He heard there is going to be two groups in his classroom. Too many students where a language has to be taught out loud; the students won't learn at all. While one group is saying language out loud, the other group will have to do something quietly and won't be able to concentrate. The students depend on us the teachers and, especially, the School Committee here. All the programs are equally important. Children have the talents and skills. They want to choose. They have to have equal opportunity to learn. He suggested that the Committee find a way somehow to keep all the programs at Lowell High School the way they now are. He thanked the Committee for their time.

21. Edith LaBran – 200 Market Street

Edith LaBran, Principal of the Sullivan Middle School, stated that it was very difficult to speak, because everyone is speaking from their hearts and passions, but she really wanted to speak to this Committee. On May 19<sup>th</sup> Superintendent Scott presented hers and her cabinets recommendations for reductions to the School Department. This budget represents the best thinking and planning of all your school site administrators as difficult as it was and is. Although these reductions are the best of our worst case scenarios, each one of them are scenarios in which they can live and provide quality instruction in the academics for every child in every school in Lowell every day. They will also allow for our contractual allowance for teacher collaboration to continually improve teaching and learning. These surgical reductions have left nothing extra and have even compromised some essentials but not eliminated any of them. She wanted to assure this Committee that your teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators will do everything possible to ensure that our students do not suffer. She cannot assure the Committee, however, that if there are any further reductions that they may not have an impact on student's learning. So, she asked the Committee to please do not debate and trade one position for another. Administrators have been doing that in their own schools since the start of this process and came up with our recommendations that all administrators support to the Superintendent and her cabinet. Each position that they had to reduce is valuable. Each one of

the reductions, every one of them is painful and will definitely have some impact on their educational programs, but, please, do not pit one school or program against another or one fully valuable program or position. She employed the Committee to please respect the recommendations of the administrators in this district, approve this budget as it has been recommended, and to send it forward to City Council. Let that body reckon with the implications of these and any further reductions to the education to the children of Lowell. She thanked the Committee for their time.

22. Chris Smith – A lifelong resident of the City of Lowell

Chris Smith stated that he ran two non-profits in the city: Shedd Park Baseball and Softball, and Junior High Football. He has 3 sons in the Lowell School System. His oldest is entering the high school in the fall. This is a time when he should be fairly excited; but, instead, it's a time of trepidation. From his perspective if what people are talking about goes through and his son is affective, he will send his son to Lowell High School this year as an experiment. If it doesn't work out, he will take him out. Wherever his oldest son goes, the other two sons will go as well. Working with some great people and driven kids around the city who might not have the opportunity to do the same, he is shocked that this Committee is going after the low-hanging fruit, the kids of the city which is our most important asset. These kids don't have the opportunity to switch schools, or join any UA team, or do whatever it is to make them viable for college. The clubs that you are talking about (I obviously have an athletic background that is what he is here for), but the clubs that you are speaking about cutting are as equally important. These kids build a resume when they are in high school. If they go against a kid who has this stuff that you have cut, they aren't going to get into college, because they will not be a viable candidate without that background. He thanked the Committee for their time, and stated he just wanted to tell them that story.

23. Michael Arwe – Upper Level Latin Teacher at Lowell High School

Michael Arwe stated that he was the Upper Level Latin Teacher at Lowell High School. He has been teaching at Lowell High since 2002. He teaches the sophomores, juniors and seniors. The point he wanted to make, tonight, is that he not only just teaches Latin students. His students are creative writers, crew members, saxophone players, are on the Science Club, Math Club; his students are more than just his Latin students. Just like any other teacher here tonight, their kids have such opportunities at this point in time that allows them to make Lowell High an incredible experience for them and allows them to move on. He wanted to make one brief observation. He saw many of the Committee and administration last Friday (May 21, 2010) at a testimonial dinner for Bill (William) Samaras (retiring Headmaster of Lowell High School). All night long, rightly so, they were praising Bill for the job he has done and all the incredible advances that have happened at Lowell High over the last 10 to 20 years. Those advances were in the form of increased electives, added sports, added clubs that have developed over that time (last 10 to 20 years). Speaker after speaker praised Bill and praised the high school. The Committee among them were praising the high school and stating what a great school it was, how it advanced, and what great opportunities it was giving Lowell High School students. If the Committee was genuine about what they said about Lowell High School that night, if they were genuine about their support of the high school, then don't cut those programs that they praising the high school

for a matter of days ago. That is what makes Lowell High School special; that is what makes Bill Samaras special. The high school is on its way up, and it has to continue not only for the kid, but for the whole City of Lowell. He thanked the Committee for their time.

24. Cameron Crockett – Crew Team, Lowell High School

Cameron Crockett stated that he came tonight to tell the Committee that the Lowell High School Crew Team is one of the largest, if not the largest sport's program in Lowell High School. Now they only have one Head Coach for their men's team and of the women's team. Their Head Coach is off the women's team. Their Assistant Coach is the men's team Head Coach. If they were to lose this Assistant Coach, there will be one Head Coach for over 100 students. Rowing is not a sport like track where you can just go there and run. Rowing is brand new to the kids, and they have no idea what they are doing. You need coaches to teach them how to get along. He is asking for further quality. He is not asking for Assistant Coaches like most people. He is just asking if they could have a Head Coach for a women's team and a Head Coach for a men's team. He thanked the Committee.

25. Thomas Thornton – Current Student Activities Advisor at Lowell High School

Thomas Thornton stated that first, he wanted to thank everybody for their support these last couple of years. He further stated that it is without a doubt a necessity that the community protects the student activities at Lowell High School. It has been mentioned before that these clubs help keep students in classes and even make them better citizens of the world after they move on from high school. It is also a proven fact that the more active all students are in extra-curriculum activities, the more successful they will be outside in the real world; in some cases even as human beings. It is everyone's responsibility to protect this, otherwise, the relationship that students have made throughout school will be lost in certain areas, in certain ways, and trips that they have with their high school could be tarnished forever. He thanked the Committee for their time.

26. Shivan Patel – President of the Science League

27. Diana Nguyen - Vice President of Student Council and President of the Science Club

Shivan Patel stated that they first wanted to express their extreme gratitude to have the opportunity to come here and speak before all of them today. He stated that they were not here to speak on behalf of any particular program. They were not here on behalf of any particular sport or club. They were here to voice and stand upon the strong principle that applies to everyone in the room today, which is not to sacrifice the quality of education at Lowell High School for simple budget cuts. He knows the budget cuts are not simple; they are obviously very complex, but not to cut for the principle of budget cuts. Lowell High has so many invaluable opportunities for students, and they need to formulate some sort of way that doesn't sacrifice the quality of education available for the students. Diana Nguyen stated that she wanted to open up with a quote from Audrey Lord, "*Who I am is what fulfills me and what fulfills my vision of the world.*" She wanted to say that going into senior year as Vice President of Student Council and President of (tearfully she went on) a society, she had so many proud moments just being a part and seeing students being accomplished. One of her proudest moments was with the kids when

they enter competitions. These kids looked at her and stated that they were very proud of what they did and what they accomplished this year. In that she felt so accomplished, because she was doing her job supporting kids and making them feel very important in having something in this world. If the Committee takes away those clubs, those sports, those activities, anything, they are taking away students' opportunities. They will be taking away the pride that these students have in that one thing, either winning a medal or just being a part of a team. She was on the Crew team and has been a part of so many activities at Lowell High. She wished she could name them all now, but she didn't want to waste the Committee's time. For the future of these students, the Committee cannot take away these clubs and activities. If you do, you are taking away what makes them. If the clubs, sports, and activities are taken away, even though she is a senior and is graduating, they will be taking away a part of her. Shivan Patel stated that he wanted to end their collective speech with a simple quote, which underlines everything everyone in this room wants to stand for today, "*Necessity is the mother of invention.*" Today, they are all gathered here because new ways need to be innovated to help solve this budget crisis, but, at the same time, they cannot take away the opportunities from the students. "*We cannot!*" They both thanked the Committee for allowing them to speak.

28. Moowaca – Lowell High School Student (did not sign in)

Monaca begged the Committee not to cut the cooking restaurant at Lowell High School. She stated it was really important. She loved to cook. She loved the Ski Team. This was what they all needed. She loved the Ski Team. She loved to ski. She also begged the Committee not to cut the Library Media Specialists. They work very, very hard, and she, including her Mom, feel very strong about all this. She thanked everyone.

29. Moowaca's Mom – Did not sign in; never gave name

She stated that Lowell High School was a fabulous school. Teachers, students are a family down there. "*Please do not cut anybody.*" She thanked everyone for their time.

30. Kimberly Porter – McAuliffe Elementary School parent (did not sign in)

Kimberly Porter stated that she was here on behalf of her 4 year old son who attends the McAuliffe Elementary School. Her son is part of the hard of hearing and deaf program. He has bilateral sensual neural hearing loss. He has been at the McAuliffe for a year now, and he is finally talking. She was here tonight to ask the Committee to reconsider cutting his Special Education Hard of Hearing Teacher who plays a crucial role in his every-day education. The goal for her son is to achieve being caught up to his peers by the first grade. She fears it will be detrimental to her son's education if the Special Education Hard of Hearing Teacher's job is eliminated. She thanked the Committee for their time.

31. Caroleena – Lowell High School Student (did not sign in)

She can't believe she is here. She is very nervous, but a nice lady pushed her into speaking, so here she is. She doesn't have a speech with her, and she doesn't know what she is going to say, but she would never forgive herself if she left like a chicken, because she was too shy to say

what she thinks. She came because she was really concerned. To her, what is happening at Lowell High School is very important. She came to Lowell three years ago from South America. She came specifically from Columbia. Her country is amazing, despite that it is known for its Cocaine. It has a lot of nice things. In her school in Columbia they only had a few sports: volleyball, basketball, and soccer. She really admired all the sports, extra-curricular activities, all the opportunities, and all the other stuff that is offered at Lowell High School. She is not number one, her DPA is not the highest, but she is involved in sports and extra-curricular activities. Thanks to her teachers and her coaches that are pushing her, she is going to go somewhere. Before the Committee cuts sports and all the extra-curricular activities at Lowell High School, they should first think of all the immigrants, like herself, that have come to this country for opportunity. What did they come to Lowell for? It doesn't make sense. She really admired the United States and the City of Lowell, and Lowell High School. Again, she wanted to really thank her teachers. She thinks teaching is an art. She asked the Committee not to make cuts at Lowell High School. As a favor to her, she asked the Committee not to think too much as a worker when doing their job. Think more as a high school student when they were back in high school. How would they feel if this was happening to them? *"Let's be creative. Let's think out of the box and come up with other options."* An example would be her friend, Pablo. He came to Lowell from Columbia a few years ago too. He ranks number 5 in his class. He is involved in AP (Advanced Program) classes, UML (University of Massachusetts Lowell) classes, extra-curricular activities, and sports. He is going to go very, very far. She has known Pablo since middle school. Kids like Pablo without opportunities, kids like her without opportunities would be out there probably doing drugs, because there will be nothing extra being offered. Thanks to coaches, teachers, people from the clubs, she has never been on drugs. She is a member of the Science Club, the International Language Club, a member of the ROTC program, besides sports. She asked the Committee to really think about the budget cuts. She thanked them for their time.

32. Catherine Larocque – Kindergarten Teacher, Greenhalge Elementary School

Kathy Larocque stated that she was a teacher, a parent, and a taxpayer in the City of Lowell. She was sitting here watching the Lowell School Department being devastated with cuts. She is watching programs that mean so much to everybody being cut. They talk about being cut to the bone; the school department is cut to the bone. She is asking when the Committee does get to the point of cutting; they do it with a sculpture that they really look at every cut. Every cut doesn't affect cutting across the whole board in the same way. One job out of the whole system affects different schools in different ways. When the Committee talks about Assistant Coaches across the board, it doesn't affect every sport; it doesn't affect every school the same way. She is watching her children go through the high school right now. She is watching programs go down, down, down; it is frightening to see where her kids are. She had a hard time deciding to stand here tonight as a teacher or as a parent. She knows the cuts that are devastating the City of Lowell right now. She is asking that every cut be taken one at a time. Sometimes cuts across the board seem fair, but they are not. They don't affect programs the same way. This is all she wanted to say. She thanked the Committee for their time.

33. Fred Gavriel – resident of the City of Lowell, 29 Surry Lane (Did not sign in)

Fred Gavriel stated that he has two short stories (he promised they would be short of success stories) dealing with the high school. The 1<sup>st</sup> story is of his oldest son, Socrates, who went through the Latin Lyceum and graduated in 2008. He went to Fitchburg State, and has just completed (for those who do the paperwork) his sophomore year. The reality is because of the Latin Lyceum program, his son, Socrates, has completed his junior year at Fitchburg State College. By taking the AP (Advanced Program) classes, the UMASS Lowell (University of Massachusetts Lowell) classes, these programs are offered at the Latin Lyceum, he actually gained a whole year on his college education. This is great for parents, because it saves us some money. The 2<sup>nd</sup> reason Fred Gavriel stated that he was here was for his next son who is presently going through the Latin Lyceum program. He is a sophomore this year, and he is also on the Crew program. As many people know and have read in the paper, the Crew Team has had several very successful regattas on the river (Merrimack River) here in Lowell. There was a lot of participation from Crew parents; a lot of money was brought into the city through those regattas. The kids had a great time. The parents had a great time. He knows the coaches, because he spent a week with the coaches putting the sport events together. He watched the coaches working with the kids, and for what they make and the hours they put in, Fred Gavriel thinks these coaches lose money every year. The coaches put in a lot of time and dedication. There is a lot of work, he saw it first-hand that goes into holding these regattas. He asked the Committee to think about the money that these regattas bring in. The Crew program is a tribute to the coaches and to the kids as competitive as it is. He asked the Committee to look at the programs and try not to cut anything from any of them. *“Think about what you are cutting. Don’t make across the board cuts.”* He thanked the Committee for their time.

34. Tess Cigliano – 28 Fairfield Street

Tess Cigliano stated she was a junior at Lowell High School. She didn’t come here tonight thinking she was going to speak, so she asked the Committee to bear with her if her speech wasn’t too eloquent. She wasn’t here to advocate one aspect of Lowell High School. She knows people from across the board. She knows people from every single group, every single club and activity at Lowell High School. She can clearly see tonight that they all feel compassionately about what they do, and they have as much pride (if not more pride) in Lowell High School as she does. She has noticed, over the past year, the morale at Lowell High School has been the lowest that she has ever seen. It really, truly, bothers her due to the apathy she has seen. She thinks it all started from the students feeling that they do not have the resources to achieve. The students don’t have the confidence and security that they should have if they could keep all the programs. She understands that the Committee has to make cuts, and she is not advocating for any specific thing. She just wanted the Committee to think of everyone when they are making these cuts. Don’t think just of the money. She asked the Committee to think of the students, because if they do not have the trust of the students, then everything being done is worthless. If they want to invest in anything, invest in the morale of all the students. She wished the Committee luck in making the decisions, and she hoped they would come out with a successful ordeal. She thanked the Committee for their time.

35. Max Meehan – 32 Harland Avenue

Max Meehan stated that he was a sophomore at Lowell High. He runs cross-country in the fall, he swims during the winter, he is on the Headmaster's Advisory Board, and he is really involved with Lowell High School. He was here to speak on behalf of the Library (at Lowell High School). It is suggested in the 2011 budget to get rid of both Library Media Specialists at the high school. If this happens, he thinks the quality of the Library at Lowell High School will be diminished. He goes to the library every single morning; because he knows it is a place that is quiet, and a place where he can always get help. He thinks that a lot of people are under the false impression that all a librarian does all day is sit behind a desk and check out books. Librarians are actually involved in teaching and helping out students. Whether that be actually helping students set up their work-cited page or helping them set the margins on their paper. Just today, his English class was in the library using the data basis there to write their research papers. Without the librarians there to show students how these researches work and explaining them to the students, these research papers couldn't be done. He cannot see the library really functioning without librarians. It would be a shame if the students had to do without them. Before he leaves he wanted to mention the Swim Team and the proposed athletic cuts. He spends 7 days a week in a pool, and he also does very well in school. He knows being active in swimming after school has helped him develop time-management skills and has kept him out of trouble. He could stand up here for hours talking about all the great things he loves about Lowell High School. To save time he just wanted to say that if cuts have to be made, please consider the students while making those decisions. He thanked the Committee for their time.

36. Boris Stanford – Sophomore at Lowell High School (did not sign in)

Boris Stanford stated that he was a sophomore at Lowell High School. He was in the Latin Lyceum program, in Theatre, Cross-Country, and several other things. He understands the dilemma this city is facing in these tough economic times. He knows the Committee won't be able to leave without making cuts to the school. As speakers have said before, he didn't want the Committee to choose against certain programs. Instead of making individual cuts, he wanted the Committee to focus on different aspects of programs that won't be as effective. He plays violin for the Lowell String Assemble. Many people here probably never heard of that program. They perform in the winter and spring concerts with the band. Until this year, he had never picked up a violin. The program (Lowell String Assemble) helped him discover hidden talents within himself, and it has encouraged his growing passion in music. He also wanted to emphasize the importance of the Theatre Club as part of the Fine Arts Academy at Lowell High School. The Theatre Club takes more dedication than most people realize. Some days they have over 6-hour rehearsals. He believes it to be a great extra-curricular program. For the first time this year Lowell High has been able to coordinate (the art department, the dance department, the creation of the set, and the musical) all the different sections of the Fine Arts Academy thanks to their Director Sharon. Theatre also gives opportunities for a pit band. Theatre builds leadership. For example in the fall, the LHS Theatre Club organized a show they call, *Friday Night Live*, in which they had student directors direct several skits. They performed them for Lowell High in December. He is involved in many activities. He is involved in the Fine Arts Academy, but, as they can see by his jacket, he is also on the Cross-Country Team. They won the state championship this fall. He is planning on rowing this fall (not sure about that). As it has been

said, rowing has provided benefits for the City of Lowell. The real large regattas like the Junior National Championships have created a boost for economic activity. With the growth of the Crew Team, there is the possibility of more regattas in the future even National Championships (he doesn't really know). As was said earlier, the morale at Lowell High School is at an all-time low. Students in AP (Advanced Classes) classes are not sure where they will be next year and fear they won't have a fair opportunity in life. He believed music was important in education. Every student should be given the opportunity to study music. In the process the student will learn about himself and prepare for a better future. He thanked the Committee for their time.

37. Joanna Price – graduate student at the University of Massachusetts Lowell

Joanna Price stated that she is a graduate student at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. She also completed her undergraduate degree in music studies. During the last 5 years she has had many amazing experiences through the school. However, the one that always comes to her mind first is the teaching at the Bartlett Community Partnership School. In her senior year as an undergraduate, she took the general music methods course where they were put into teams of 3 or 4 people to teach either grades 3, 6 or 7. She was lucky enough to be in a group with 3 other colleagues to teach 7<sup>th</sup> grade. It happened to be the greatest teaching experiment that she has had teaching to date. Through this partnership, she got to teach at least an hour per group at the Bartlett School as well as many hours per semester at Lowell High. She has to admit she was nervous walking into a classroom, which sounds a little silly coming from a future teacher. She had never before stood in front of a classroom with 30 students to teach an entire one hour lesson. As a group they planned the curriculum for the entire year, which is something you don't even get to do as a student teacher. Having this opportunity as an undergraduate is something she never would have wanted to give up. Not only did they get to plan an entire year, they got to bring this group of 7<sup>th</sup> graders through the journey of what it is like to do a recording from start to finish. They spent many weeks teaching them an African Spiritual including instruments such as the piano, guitar and xylophone, and then had the opportunity to bring them on a field trip to the recording studios at the University (of Massachusetts Lowell). It was a learning experience for her as much as it was for the 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Not only did the students get to observe firsthand what it was like to do a recording, but they had the opportunity to organize a field trip from permission slips, to transportation, and making sure all students brought a lunch with them. This was an incredible experience, not just for them as the teachers, but for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students as well. Throughout the day, she was consistently getting questions of what it was like to be in college, what does it mean to be music major and what happens after you graduate? She got to spend a lot of time one-on-one with the students answering all their questions and showing them that trying hard in high school can lead to bigger and better things. Although these were amazing memories and experiences, nothing can surpass the relationships that were formed with the students over the year. The day she realized that she was going to be a role model for these students was the day she realized that she was in the right profession. Yes, all teachers are considered to be role models, but there is something special about being a college student and being their teacher. Just being there shows these students firsthand what their future can be and what they can accomplish if they try their hardest in school and reach for these high standards that are, in fact, achievable. Furthermore, over that year of teaching she accumulated a box full of mementos, letters, stories, and drawings from these 7<sup>th</sup> grade students that she has kept for no other reason than to remind her that she did, in fact, have an impact on them. It would be such a

loss, not only for the University, but for the students and the community if these programs stop. Not all students are athletics, great mathematicians or scientists. Music offers an outlet that no other program in the school can provide. It gives people the ability to express themselves, and, hopefully, provides a means of escape if only for an hour. It can build student's self-esteem through performances and expression, promotes group work and communication with others; and, overall, it is a subject that students enjoy. It is a time for students to share about their lives, to explain how the music they listen to with their families relates to the lesson that is being taught whether blues, jazz, or the music of Gama. It is one of the few subjects that crosses all curriculums, promotes understanding and acceptance of each other's cultures, and celebrates the differences amongst all of us. *"Isn't this what we are ultimately trying to teach our students?"* She urged the Committee to rethink eliminating the music and art programs from any year as it is beneficial to every age group. Furthermore, the music teacher is one of the few teachers in the school that stays with the students for more than one year. Sometimes they can be with the students for 3, 5, or up to 9 years. Having a consistent teacher in a student's life can be the most beneficial, especially in an urban school where students and teachers are always changing. Students have built relationships with teachers throughout their community. Teachers have taught students everything they know. Students have learned so much from them; it is a shame for teachers to lose their jobs after all the time and effort they have put into helping future generations of teachers such as herself. She thanked the Committee for their time.

38. Scott Morrill – 3 Belmont Street

Scott Morrill stated that he was like Joanna, a graduate student at the University of Massachusetts Lowell in the Music Education Department. A lot has been said about the partnerships by Joanna, particularly the one the Lowell School Department has with the University of Massachusetts Lowell at the Bartlett School. He will not be redundant and repeat what Joanna has already stated. He had a wonderful experience to work with a wonderful woman at Lowell High School who pretty much runs the music program there, Pat Fitzpatrick. He went to the University of Massachusetts Lowell as a transfer student in January of 2006 with the goal of becoming a music teacher. He went to UMASS Lowell because he had heard that there were many hands-on approaches and abilities for the student to get into the classroom and teach for student teaching. He thought this would be a very good thing for him to go through. In his Technology Music Education course he had to take (at UMASS Lowell), he was introduced to Pat Fitzpatrick of Lowell High School. Pat Fitzpatrick is a phenomenal teacher. He knew he wanted to teach, but he never really did any teaching before. With his first experiment with students at Lowell High School, he found himself extremely nervous and shy. Any classroom training that he had at that point went right out the window. He had a fear of failing as a teacher and a fear of rejection by the students, but not with this class. This particular class was fantastic. Pat Fitzpatrick had set up a culture in this class that was second to none. Those students were not only good students, but they were good citizens. Lowell High has made him become a more comfortable teacher. He is not use to defending such programs like the wonderful program at Lowell High School in the Music Department. The Committee has heard a ton about the band program, how important that is, and how cuts at the middle school do ultimately affect the high school level. He cannot stress enough that is true. He has seen it happen before. He recently taught in the Tewksbury Public Schools this past fall. As was mentioned earlier by one of the high school students, the music program is no more. There are many Tewksbury students that

were in the music program that are now without an outlet. This is the point he had come to address the Committee about today. Many students in the music class he taught came up to him and stated how much fun and enjoyment they had. It was the one place they enjoyed being in during school. General music classrooms are not necessarily for the most talented students or for those who want to excel in music beyond high school. He can tell the Committee that kids are thoroughly passionate about music. To take music away from them is an absolutely horrifying thought. He wanted to leave the Committee with a quote from Victor Hugo, a great poet, author, and French Romanticist, "*Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and cannot remain silent.*" "For these students, music is their way!" He thanked the Committee for their time.

39. Joseph Prieto – 86 Crescent Street

Joseph Prieto stated that he was speaking tonight as a former student of the Fine Arts Department of Lowell High School and as a current student at UMASS Lowell majoring in Music Education. He is speaking tonight on how the Fine Arts Department was important to him, and why it is essential to keep it in tact. A lot has been said already about the band and Show Choir programs. What hasn't been said a lot about is the Piano Minilab at Lowell High School. The Piano Minilab at Lowell High School is essential in the Fine Arts Department of Lowell High School. It gives many students, who are not involved in band or chorus, the opportunity to learn and apply their knowledge of music. What is taught includes: music theory, piano, and guitar. Computers in the lab can record and give students the opportunity to listen back and critique themselves. Not only is this important to Lowell High School students, but also to UMASS Lowell students. Much of the partnership between UMASS Lowell Music Education program and the Lowell High School Music Department has to do with student teaching in the Piano Minilab. Cutting this would not only take away from Lowell High School, but it would also take away from UMASS Lowell Music Education students. He knows from personal experience that it gave him a hands-on opportunity for student teaching that not many people will get when going into their line of work after college in Music Education or otherwise. Some of the Committee might think that cutting a position from the Fine Arts wouldn't make a big difference. You may think the Music Department is important but not as essential as other departments. The three music positions at Lowell High School that are in danger of being cut are essential. These programs are not just an intellectual outlet, but an emotional outlet for our students. Cutting one of these positions would take that away. It would also take away from Lowell High School students and UMASS Lowell students trying to student teach there. He thanked the Committee for their time.

40. Marissa Broe – 74 Winthrop Avenue

Marissa Broe started off by stating that she has lived in Lowell her whole life. She grew up in the Lowell Public Schools, and, now, she has gone one to pursue an education at UMASS Lowell. For that, she has to thank the teachers she had in her early education. If not for her English teachers, she could not articulate her thoughts to the Committee today. If not for her math teachers, she never would have succeeded in her upper-level math courses in college. If not for her music teachers, she never would have found her passion in life. These teachers have inspired her to pursue education; and, some day, she hoped to equally inspire others. She has

been fortunate enough to see classes from both sides. It has truly been an incredible experience to give back to the community that has given so much to her. She is among many other Lowell High School graduates at UMASS Lowell. There are many other graduates spending graduate years just in the Music Department alone. In Lowell High School she watched as the Technology Lab turned into what it is now. She watched as the computers that were dinosaurs turned into the E-Pianos that they have now. She considers it an honor and a privilege to participate in the partnership with the Technology and Music Education course where 2/3rds of the time are spent with Lowell High School students. She enjoyed this experience so much; she hopes to return next year as a directive study working with Lowell High School students again. As part of her course work at UMASS Lowell, she worked with 3 other UMASS Lowell students in an 8<sup>th</sup> grade General Music class at the Bartlett Community Partnership School every Wednesday morning. She can say that she has greatly benefited from this experience/ she has learned as much from her students as they have learned from her. She cannot stress enough the importance of a music program that starts in the elementary schools, to the middle schools, that supports the program at the high school. The music program has been carefully developed throughout the years. This is evident by the flourishing group of talented students at Lowell High School. All students should be given these opportunities to flourish and showcase their talents. Some students may be gifted in Science, Visual Arts, or Music. It is important to let them find what they are passionate about. She found that her passion is music. Her hope is that she can encourage future students to find out what they are passionate about. She knows that not every student will grow up to be a rock star or concert violinist, but they should have the opportunity to learn what music is all about, and how music is relevant in their lives. She cannot stress how important is to maintain the current music positions, the current music programs, and to even expand these opportunities to create better opportunities for students. She thanked the Committee for their time.

41. Dennis Finn – Did not sign in

Dennis Finn stated that he wanted to basically add his voice to the speakers that highlighted the great things that have happened at Lowell High, the extra-curricular activity, and the athletic program. He graduated in 1972 from Lowell High School. The school was very different back then. The exterior of the building looked the same, but Lowell High is a very different place today. He moved back to Lowell about 10 years ago. He started seeing these signs around the city, the planters in the islands, signs that say, *Lowell Pride, we've got it!* He really saw that the city was quite a bit different than it was back in the 70s. Both of his sons came up through the parochial school system. When it came time for high school, he and his wife looked at Lowell Catholic, Bishop Guertin, a couple of other prep schools. At the end of the day, they looked at what Lowell High School had to offer. They both liked the diversity of the programs and thought it would be good for their son. One of his sons graduated from Lowell High School and went on to Suffolk University. His second son is a freshman at Lowell High School this year. Both his sons are involved in athletics. As he moved with those teams to away games and visited places such as Trenton, New Jersey, and all of the more affluent towns and city in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire, he watched the kids carry themselves. It was apparent to him, when you talk about city pride, these kids really epitomized city pride better than anything else the city could offer. They are the future. They are our future. He knows the Committee has difficult decisions to make. The common theme this evening has been that

people are very passionate about the extra-curricular activities. These things add, they give kids opportunities to grow in ways that they just can't grow in the classroom. When it comes time to go to college, admission officers are interested. You have to show your transcript. More and more admission officers want to know what the students have done outside of the classroom. Colleges are interested in kids that participated in athletics and extra-curricular activities. This is how they distinguishes themselves. When the Committee deliberates over the budget, he asked them to heavily weigh those extra-curricular activities on how well they allow kids to carry themselves outside of their community and represent the city as a shiny place they all know it is. He thanked the Committee for their time.

42. Gary Parent – 235 Wentworth Street

Gary Parent stated that he was a resident of Lowell, a graduate of Lowell High School in 1983, and a proud member of the community. He was here tonight to speak on two fronts. He was here to speak as a member of the Shedd Park Baseball Organization and Lowell Junior High Football. He was also here on behalf of his son who is a freshman. He is in the Freshman Academy, and he has had a great experience over there. He commended the School Committee and the past and current administration for the job they have done over there. It is tremendous. His son has been able to play three sports. He has just recently selected his classes and has bumped himself up to Honors classes in what he deems and all the freshman deem as the big school. It is a very exciting time for this group of young men. He has coached them in various sports in the city, and he has coached and been a member of Girls Incorporated and the Boys and Girls Clubs in Lowell for a long period of time. What he is hearing tonight is a lot of different things. He is hearing people speaking on behalf of the children and on behalf of their programs. The combination of academics, athletics, and programs is what makes us all very successful. The Committee must look at each and every one of these programs and determine how important that value is to the children, to the students, to what they will become. He stands before the Committee as other members of Lowell High School stood before them. They played sports, been involved in club activities, and enjoyed their time at Lowell High School. They took that commitment, that dedication they learned at Lowell High and raised themselves up to give back to this great city. They lived by example. He has shown his sons by example. He employs this School Committee, this City, the teachers union, and the coaches of this great city to work together, get a partnership, and be creative to find the means to keep all of these programs. You look at the children, the students. You have athletes. You have academics. You have children in the Fine Arts. Some are lucky. They are involved in 1, 2, and 3 of those programs. It was very disconcerting to him when he looked at some of these budget cuts for the child that is in one program. That student that is just in one program, and it is eliminated, that one student now has no way to turn. An athlete who is in a program, club; you may be able to keep his sport. The academic side is a very important piece. Scholastics, academics, athletic ability, and fine arts are what create this great city. The partnership that he is asking everybody to come together with to find those pieces, those puzzles. Put them together, be creative. Work with the teachers union. Work with the coaches. Work with the city to bring more money to the School Committee side. Let's take a piece of that. If they have to redo stipends, if they have to increase volunteer coaches (he understands that might be an issue and there is a concern there), there can be a panel process to employ the proper people to go and volunteer time with the city and the school side. Be problematic in programs. Be proper coaches and have the credentials to do so. He is fully

aware that everybody in this room from School Committee members, to teachers, to administrators. None of them came into this business to do budget cutting. Everyone came here for your commitment to students, to children. He asks everyone to think of that when they sit down. That is what makes them very valuable people as educators and leaders of this city. He asked them to do what he has done, what his greatest friends have done since high school, "*Lead by example!*" He ended by stating that it was a very difficult task, these tough economic times. They are unreal, and it hurts. When children look at them that they have known for years and wonder where the school is going, where their friends are going. He left the Committee with this thought, a group of them a few years back founded the Junior High Football League. They are now on their tenth year. They are a non-profit football league. They have not charged one athlete to play in their program. Their reason and purpose was because they were asked by Lowell High School. Lowell High School Head Coach Athletic Department came to them and ask them as former players to form a league to be a feeder system like Andover has. They did that out of commitment, out of value to service, and they have grown. Their greatest success story is Joe Harris who came over to this country, played football for them, was a member of the ROTC with great success. Joe Harris is now at the University of Rhode Island. He has played football there for four years. He is going on to medical school. What he brought from Lowell High School as an athlete and as an academic has propelled him in life. All of them are a result of that. He asked the Committee to please consider these cuts, be creative, work together in partnership, and he is confident that everyone will do the right thing for the pupil, the student. He thanked the Committee for their time.

43. Kim Davis – did not sign in

Kim Davis stated that she was a parent of two children at the Bailey Elementary School. She may be the lone voice for elementary school here tonight. She has listened tonight to everyone who spoke passionately about their own interests. She agrees with almost everything. Unfortunately, budget cuts have to be made. They are painful and have been very painful already. At the Bailey Elementary they are one of the schools that has not seen the growth that they are suppose to see. She hopes the Bailey Elementary isn't in danger of losing anyone else. The cuts that are proposed for the Bailey Elementary bring them down to bare bones. They have no spare aides other than the Special Education aides, the one-on-one aides, and the kindergarten aides. The upper grades, 1, 2, 3 and 4, have no aides. At a time when the school should be improving their growth, this is going to be a very painful loss. She is looking forward to middle school and high school hoping they won't have to see any more cuts. She is here tonight to ask the Committee not to make or take any more cuts she reiterates what the last speaker said. Everyone should work creatively with everyone involved to find the solution so the Committee won't have to make any bigger cuts. She thanked the Committee for their time.

44. Alex Ruthmann – Citizen of Lowell

Alex Ruthmann stated that he was a University of Massachusetts Lowell Music Professor. Over the past two years he has had the opportunity to work with some of the students the Committee has heard from tonight both from the University and from the Lowell School System. The most valuable thing for him over the last few years has been the direct deep partnerships he has been able to have with teachers, with students, in the Lowell schools and at the University of

Massachusetts Lowell. Tonight he was here to talk a little bit about some of the proposed music cuts in the district that trouble him, that trouble his colleagues and friends as well. The Committee has heard about their partnerships and how deep they go. His partnership with Pat Fitzpatrick at Lowell High School is not your traditional band and choir chorus. They are those extra courses that Joseph Prieto talked about. The Piano Minilab includes courses such as piano, keyboarding, guitar, which meets the needs of students who are musicians but not in the traditional sense. For many of these students, this is the reason that they come to school. The Committee has heard from them. The participation in the arts, whether it is music, the arts, after-school programs or sports, those are the reasons these students are coming to school and staying in school. Looking forward and also backward at some of the music cuts that have happened in kindergarten through grade 8 in site-based decisions, there has been a 38 percent cut in music teachers at the kindergarten through grade 8 level in the past two years. If you look at the budget documents, there were 16 music teachers K-8. If the music cuts go through this year for the middle schools, there will be 10. That is quite a large and quite disproportionate number particularly for the arts and music in looking at all the other cuts that are happening. There needs to be a surgical look at the impact of these cuts. Certainly they have been toiled over, and he respects all the site-based decisions, very tough decisions, that led to these cuts. However, when you look at the cuts before the Committee, it takes a brief picture of these cuts. It is up to the School Committee and the Administration to decide how a site-based decision to cut a music teacher, a science teacher, or any other position impact the entire program K through 12. One thing he'd like to bring up from looking at these cuts is a financial prospective. It is very easy to look at a 4 million dollar cut, and say we have to cut things; we have to get below this. That is what the Committee is dealing with. He would encourage the Committee to look at the long view that, yes, by cutting two middle-school music teachers and perhaps a music program and a music teacher at the high school, the Committee may be removing in the area of \$200,000 from this year's budget; however, what is the long-term result if those courses result in a minimum of 20 students deciding to stay enrolled in Lowell High School for a year in retaining them, in keeping them from choosing a different school, in keeping students in the system, and retaining them through graduation? All it takes is that \$200,000 for 20 students staying enrolled in the arts, in these after-school programs; any of these. He encouraged the Committee not to just look at the immediate here, but what will it mean long-term? At the very last School Committee meeting, the Committee talked very deeply about the benefits received in the Special Education program by the stimulus fund. You were able to invest in keeping Special Education kids in the district and not having them go to another district. You are reaping that in return. He urged the Committee to consider that same rational when they look at the cut before them now. What maybe the elimination of one position today, might result in millions of dollars of loss per capita in future years from students who choose to no longer attend. He thanked the Committee for their time.

45. Carry Machado – did not sign in

Carry Machado stated that she had 4 children. Two have graduated from Lowell High School and are currently attending college. One of her children will be graduating from Lowell High School next week and will be going on to the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her fourth child will be going to Lowell High School in the fall. Basically, she does not want to take up a lot of the Committee's time, because she knows they have been here for awhile. Her thinking is

that every child should be given the same opportunities as those that came before them. She is looking at her fourth child, and he's not going to be given the same opportunities as her other three children had at Lowell High School. This makes her sad. She urged the Committee to really think about what they are cutting, and she urges them to keep all the programs at Lowell High School. There has to be a better way. Her fourth son is looking at possibly joining the Crew Team. Her other kids were involved in football, lacrosse, field hockey, Science Club, International Language Club, Ram agama, and she tried to stay involved with them. She hopes she can do the same when her fourth son starts this September. If the Committee keeps the program, they will be there. She urged the Committee to do the right thing.

46. Three Lowell High School Juniors – did not sign in; did not give names

The first junior stated he was here tonight to speak about AP (Advanced Program) classes at Lowell High School. One thing he has learned this year is that he has grown a compassion for Latin. In his AP Latin course, he had decided that he wants to be a classic major. Being in classics is not something his parents want him to do, and it is not something he has been encouraged to do at all. One place where he has found support is in school, in his Latin class. Without Latin, without any passion, he does not think he could go to school and be as successful as he wants to be. He thanked the Committee.

The second junior stated that the three of them were juniors and next year they will be seniors applying to colleges. He cannot stress how important the high-level courses are that are available at the high school whether a small or larger class. He took a high-level history class this year. It was a large class. He felt, although the class was large, he still had the opportunity to take something that would definitely help his college application process. The clubs, the sports, and the things that are threatened to be cut are the opportunities kids need to get into colleges and things like that so in the future these kids can come back and contribute to Lowell and other cities.

The third junior (Min) stated she was an officer in the Science Club and she is involved in the Student Council, the International Language Club, Modern UN, Color Guard which marches with the band, and she is an immigrant. She has lived here since the year 2000. She started in a small middle school. When she got to Lowell High, it was completely new to her. In the middle school she had a small group of friends. In the high school she met a lot of new people. She has friends from the Latin Lyceum. She has made friends from the clubs she is in. People join these clubs, because they are interested in what the clubs have to offer. Everyone has something different that they are interested in. She would like to meet everyone. By joining a lot of clubs and by allowing these clubs to grow, more people will enjoy friendships. The clubs have inspired her to become a better student. In the middle school she use to come home, do her homework, and then do nothing for a long period of time. Every since she has become a Lowell High School students and has been involved in many clubs, she doesn't usually go home until about 9:00 pm. She still gets all her homework done, gets sufficient amount of sleep, and she really enjoys the challenge she is given at the high school. The Science Club has inspired her to pursue a career in the science field. Clubs like the Student Council and the Modern UN have inspired her to do public speaking and helped her acquire leadership skills. The colleges she is

going to apply for will know that she is a well-rounded student, because she has all these clubs she has been able to enter. She thanked the Committee for listening.

47. Jen Bauer – Art Teacher at Lowell High School (did not sign in)

Jean Barrow stated that she was an Art Teacher at Lowell High School and one of the former coaches of the Crew Team. She is currently taking the year off. She grew up in Lowell and went to the Lowell Public Schools through the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. In 1989 she entered Lowell High School. There were over 40 kids in her Honors English Class. She thinks there were probably 3 clubs available to students at that time. There really weren't a lot of activities so she applied to Phillips Andover. That is where she received her high school diploma. While she was at Phillips Andover, she learned how to row, how to be a film maker, and she found some things that she was passionate about. This allowed her to grow into the person she is today. Now it is 2010 and Lowell High School has a Crew Team. Lowell High School has a film production program, and Lowell High School has a multitude of activities, athletics, and art opportunities for their students. They are unparalleled to any high school, not an urban high school. There is no need to qualify Lowell High as that. Let's be realistic. What they have at Lowell High School is incredible! It makes her so sad that these opportunities may be taken away for the future generations. She just wants to make a plea to please not let it go back to 1989 when there were 40 to 45 kids in each honor's class, where there weren't many opportunities available to the students. They deserve better. She challenges everyone in the room to find a way to make it happen, to maintain what they have at the high school, and to continue to let it grow into the incredible institution it has become. She thanked the Committee for their time.

48. Erik Rojas – did not sign in

Eric Rowhouse stated that he was a member of the Latin Lyceum at Lowell High School, countless other clubs, and the rowing team. He doesn't have a speech so he asked the Committee to understand if he made errors. He wanted the Committee to understand how important the Crew Team was at Lowell High School, and what it is to have coaches. The Crew Team is very large (over a hundred kids). He understands the budget cuts before the Committee are daunting, but if they were to cut coaches from the Crew Team (or any other sport for that matter), it would be detrimental to the lives of the students and why they call Lowell High School home. The Crew Team helped shape him. He rowed for 4 years. Members make friends, build character, and all the good stuff. He thinks having the Crew Team on his resume helped him get into college. He will be attending Boston University in the fall, the College of Communication there. On his resume there are 4 to 5 lines about the Crew Team, and what he has done with it. He asked the Committee, please, as they look over the budget and the 4 million dollars they have to cut, to look over the Crew Team and all the other activities that make Lowell High School what it is to help other students.

49. Natali Soto – senior at Lowell High School (did not sign in)

Natalie Cyd stated that she will be attending Boston College next year. She is on the Crew Team. She is here on behalf of the Crew Team representing everyone up in the balcony that is part of the Crew Team as well. She wanted to stress the importance of having two Head

Coaches. She is not asking the Committee to give them Assistant Coaches. She is just asking for a Head Coach for the boys and a Head Coach of the girls. It is very, very unsafe to be on the water without a coach, and it is not legal. They have to have one launch per two boats. For safety reasons they have to have life jackets available for them, as well as first aid kits especially when they go out on long rows. She just wanted to stress the importance that the Crew Team had on her Lowell High School experience. She not only has the social skills today because of the Crew Team, but she has an amazing resume. The coaches (such as Jen and Kendra Bauer) have pushed her to join activities. She is Vice President of the National Honor Society and a member of various other activities as well. Her coaches not only pushed her to keep moving forward, to continue with her studies, to join various activities, but to also strive to be the best. If it wasn't for them, if it wasn't for the support she has from the Crew Team, she honestly can say she wouldn't be the person she is today. She wanted to stress while the Committee is making their budget cut to take into consideration the safety of the rowers (if they do not have two Head Coaches). This is all they are asking for. She thanked the Committee for their time.

50. Christine Donahue – Head Coach of the Girls Swimming and Diving Team (not signed in)

Christine Donahue stated that she was going to speak very quickly, just piggy-backing what the young lady said before. One of the challenges of being the Head Swimming and Diving Coach is that she has so many young girls, and for the men's team, so many boys in the pool at the same time. For safety issues, they need to have coaches on deck. At any given season, she has had girls that are state qualifiers that are champions in the pool. She has girls that are on the team showing up every day just to learn their survival skills. She has a lot of girls varying in ranges. The last time she was here before the Committee was just a few months ago. Her Girls Swimming and Diving Team were awarded the Sportsmanship Award, and in the fall her girls won the State Championship. It was very proud for her as their coach to stand before the Committee with a very diverse group of girls. These girls in ability are diverse and ethnically are diverse. She could not have accomplished what her girls have accomplished by herself. She works with a great coaching staff. She cannot imagine doing it all by herself. As all the coaches have said, they recognize that the Committee has a great challenge ahead of them. She asked the Committee to please take into consideration what the teams are, what the activities are, and what the clubs mean to all the students. It keeps them off the streets. It provides a safe place for them and a safe place to flourish. She thanked the Committee for their time.

51. Amy Schaeffer – Music Major UMASSLowell (did not sign in)

Amy Schaeffer stated that she has been in a band since she was 8 years old. She remembers the first time she picked up her lovely, rented, student trumpet and played her first note. It was no more than a gurgle, but still it was something she was very proud of. From that day forth music has been a passion for her in her life. She has pursued music since she was 8 years old. She has had the opportunity to be in band through elementary, middle school, and all the way through high school, because the music program was highly encouraged and supported. It is very strange for her to hear that the music program may be affected by these budget cuts. Is it not just as important as math and science, or history, or English? The Committee would not think of cutting those classes so why music classes? To her music is not a hobby. To her and to many other people in this room (musicians and non-musicians alike, can attest to this) music is a passion

with them, especially those who continue it in schools over the years. As President elect of the UMASS Chapter of MNC she strongly supports the fight to keep the music programs in the schools striving. She can only imagine what it would be like if these budget cuts did take a serious toll in the music program. She can picture herself in band at 8 years old, her favorite class of the day, and the class she always looks forward to, and she imagines coming home only to have her parents tell her (because of budget cuts) there is no more band. There is no more music classes. There is no more of what she looked forward to every day from 4<sup>th</sup> grade until her final year of high school and moving on to college. Not only would she be devastated but also the many students who are in this very room. What some people do not realize is that music is not something that is disposable. It is just as important as math, science, and other parts of the curriculum. It is just as important as clubs and sports. Music is a learning experience, a way to live, to have talents blossom, a way to make friends, and a way to be involved. She wouldn't be going to college pursuing a music degree, pursuing her passion if it hadn't been for the music programs. She has gained so much knowledge from music and numeral positive experiences not only for herself, but for all students in the Lowell Public Schools who look forward to band, choir, or art every day. She is proud to say that she is a band geek, but she would have lost out on that chance and would not consider herself a proud musician if the opportunity was lost through cut music programs. What some people forget is that students identify with some of these fine arts programs. If that is taken away, the Committee is taking away their pride and of little of who they are. She knows budget cuts are extremely difficult, but she asked the Committee to please make wise decisions. Do not cut the music programs. You might be taking someone's passion or someone's dream away. She thanked the Committee for their time.

52. William Samaras – 57 Gaiivrel Street

William Samara, Headmaster of Lowell High School, stated that he thinks it has been a long evening for everybody. He wanted this opportunity to say a few words. Last Friday he was honored by a retirement party. It truly was honorable, and it left him and his family some wonderful memories. Tonight, as far as he is concerned, this night equals the honor he felt at his retirement party because of everyone's concern. He has always said how proud he was to be Headmaster of Lowell High School, but tonight he listened to wonderful students, teachers, and parents articulate their concerns about their high school and how proud they were of their high school. *"It just doesn't get better than that."* All of them realize that the Committee has a hard task before them. Some people has said to him, *"Bill, this is not your problem any longer. You are retiring. That is it."* Yes, he is retiring, but he will always be a citizen of Lowell. He will always care for Lowell High School. That is where he is coming from. He thinks that the School Committee and the Superintendent have taken a positive step by developing this 4-million dollar budget. Truthfully, he would like to see a zero budget, but that isn't the reality out there. The Committee knows that. It is a bold step the Committee and administration have taken, and it has to be taken. No, it is not going to be easy for the City of Lowell, because on their side we are talking about police and fire protection, and other things that are their issues. If you talk to the state (Commonwealth of Massachusetts), they will tell you about their problems at their level. There are times when he gets confused easily. Someone may say it is his age, but his issue is that the Charter and the Vocational schools are mandated to be fully funded. It is as simple as that. He thinks the School Committee and the City must take their fight to the state. He doesn't want to see them (Charter and Vocational Schools) lose their full funding, but he

thinks what everyone wants here is parody. They want the same rights to have our school system fully funded. He is not asking that the money come from the K through 8 system. Sometimes people say that the Headmaster is fighting for the high school, but everyone is fighting for the school system. If the K through 8 system is taken apart, the students will not come prepared at the high school level. The transition from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade doesn't become difficult, it becomes impossible, so he advocates for the support of the K through 8 system. He can only ask the Committee at this point to approve the budget that they have. He would like to have this as part of it. They have been asked to cut 1.4 million from the budget. He would ask that 1.4 million cut should not be discussed tonight. He wanted to ask the Committee to allow the Superintendent, himself with the new Headmaster. In other words if the Committee is allowed the 4 million dollar cuts and not the 7 million that has been asked, he wants to be allowed to revisit the budget. They have heard so many students and parents talk about their issues, so as a school with a Central Office and a new Headmaster coming onboard, let them look at the cuts and try to make the best decisions possible. In that way Lowell High School administration can present their recommendations before the Committee approves the final budget. With the Committee's support, they will make the cuts they have to. He asked the Committee to try to come up with some creative ways to find other funding. They need a little more time to put the pieces together. He thinks tonight is a wonderful step. He thinks tonight the Committee heard a lot of students, parents, and teachers speak out. They were speaking from their hearts. They are concerned. Parents have said they want their child coming up to have the same opportunities their older children had. He knows that the Committee wants every child to have those opportunities. If we accept the process tonight, he knows the reality, but there is another reality. They have the right to fight. He thinks that is what has to take place. Let them (himself, the new Headmaster and the Superintendent) make the final determination based on what students have asked for and what money they can raise in other areas to put the entire program together. He has been in curriculum all his life. Years ago, he would have stated that you need the core curriculum and the other activities would have to go. Today, you need the well-rounded student. He or she has to be able to apply to a college and say that he or she is in a club, in a band; he or she is somewhere. He knows the Committee does not want to do this. How can they manipulate time to react, work with the city to come up with a cause? He doesn't know anybody on the city side that wants to destroy the school system. Everybody wants the school system to work but it is going to take time, some creativity, some adjustments in the law, some midnight session like this that go on past the 10 o'clock hour, past the 12 o'clock hour, to do the things that need to be done to make it work. He thanked the Committee for their time.

53. Paul Georges - President of the United Teachers of Lowell

Paul Georges stated that if they needed an indicator of how effective the Lowell School System is just look at the kids that came up a spoke tonight. They are articulate, well mannered, and right to the point. Kids who came here 10 years ago from another country, couldn't speak English, were articulate and came right to the point. They were not afraid to stand up and argue their case when it comes to budget cuts. He doesn't envy the Committee in any shape or form. This has to be the most miserable part of their job although the ongoing subcommittee meetings are equitably miserable from time to time. He was taken back a little by Gary Parent when he spoke about everybody working together trying to come up with solutions. He is sure there is a lot of ways they can come up with solutions if the focus is in finding solutions rather than

building battle lines. He doesn't think it is fair to put the burden of funding, chronic underfunding, and a physical crisis on the back of practitioners, although he believes they have a willingness to try to help. It is going to take a full team to try to do this. It is going to take a further commitment by the city. A year ago there was a major cut on the city side, and the school department side ended up getting hit in the tune of 8 million dollars in cuts. All he asked the other day was, "*Is this reciprocal?*" At a time when the city isn't getting hit as badly, can the School Department rely on them to support the best asset this community has? In doing so, then he can feel a comfort zone in talking to teachers and so on to try to help the situation. He thinks it is wrong to think somehow the burden should be on the practitioner, because they happen to be educators and decided sometime in their career to want to be committed to educating students. Just because they are practitioners doesn't mean they are a target, but they are willing to help with ideas and some creative solutions. He applauded the Committee and Superintendent for going to 4 million dollars. He would hate to think that they would get to a situation where the system would go into cardiac arrest. They cannot afford to go into a situation towards a downward spiral that cannot be reversed other than huge amounts of money sometime in the future when better days are ahead. A lot of people spoke about Lowell High School today, and it really is a jewel in many, many facets. He doesn't want to see a lot of these facets disappear. He knows from being a teacher for many years that the club that kid is involved in ends up meaning that the kid is better motivated to get to school. The kid knows he cannot participate in some sport events unless he gets a passing grade. There is a number of different jewels out there that attract kids, keep them involved in the community, keep them successful, and, ultimately, lead them to graduating and so on. Look at the carefully is all he can say. Know that they can work together and are committed. He still is going to demand, and he hopes the Committee demands, that the city do its fair share in trying to support these goals. If the city does, he thinks they can work together creatively to solve a lot of problems during a difficult time at least on a temporary measure. Again, he thanked the Superintendent and Committee for staying in 4 million. Again, he doesn't envy the Committee, but he wanted to congratulate the kids and everybody who spoke today. It really shows the commitment to our public schools and public education in the City of Lowell. He appreciated it. He was gratified as an educator, and he knows a lot of teachers and administrators feel the same way. He thanked the Committee.

Mayor Milinazzo asked if there were any other speakers who wanted to come before the Committee this evening. There was no response. Mayor Milinazzo recognized members of the Committee.

Ms. Doherty stated that she was very proud of all the speakers who came forth tonight and spoke. She stated in 2003 she was on the other side of the podium speaking passionately about not losing our science teachers at the elementary level. They lost their science teachers that year, and she ran for School Committee. The next year they cut pre-school transportation. That cut stills bothers her, because many of our needy pre-school children are not able to participate in pre-school education. As the Superintendent has mentioned, we have had 7 years of cuts in our school system. She again thanked all the speakers but reminded them that the cuts don't end here tonight. The School Department has been asked to cut 7.5 million dollars. The Superintendent has come up with 4 million dollars worth of cuts. If the public here tonight think these cuts are devastating, wait until they get to the next tier and the next tier. Any further cuts would devastate the school system. Tonight 4 million dollars must be cut. She has yet to hear

any better suggestions than what the Superintendent has recommended. There was a lot of work and effort that has gone into that. She asked the public to approach their legislators and the City Council. The only way they are going to get through this is if everybody steps up to the plate.

Ms. Doherty moved:

To **Suspend the Rules** to go beyond the 10 o'clock deadline; seconded by Mr. Conway.

APPROVED

Mayor Milinazzo thanked all the speakers who came forth tonight to speak passionately about the school system. On behalf of the Committee he appreciated their concern. He congratulated them for speaking, and he promised them they would try to do the right thing.

Mr. Leary moved:

To take a 5 minute recess; seconded by Ms. Laraba. APPROVED

### **ROLL CALL after RECESS**

On roll call after recess Ms. Laraba was recorded as absent (she came back at 9:59 pm). All other members were present. Six present; one absent

Mayor Milinazzo recognized Mr. Conway.

Mr. Conway stated that it was very heartening to listen to the speakers come down here and talk, the parents, the teachers, and, especially, the students. He graduated from Lowell High School and spent a great deal of his life there (as a teacher). In 1989 when those cuts took place he was in the system. It was devastating! It devastated our school system for a number of years. The school system didn't just recoup. It took many, many years. Looking at the proposed cuts tonight, once again, it is going to take many years to get back to where they are. They have to join hands and work together to do what is best for the children of Lowell and make those correct cuts. He knows they are going to disagree on many, many things. They have to let the powers know that everyone has to work together.

Ms. Laraba stated that she was very impressed with the students and with the adults who came forward and spoke tonight. She certainly recognizes how difficult public speaking can be. She thanked everyone for coming out. She wanted to come up with a level-funded budget, invite our unions to sit down to discuss the 3 million dollar deficit and with a united body approach our City Council and City Manager, present our budget and say this is what we need to do. As it is a level-funded budget, it is going to mean cuts. The cuts are horrendous. Our school system is in tough shape. She commends the Superintendent for coming up with 4 million, but she thinks as a body they need to stand firm. We need to present a level-funded budget, say we have had 7 years of cuts, have had numerous program cut, have had numerous students affected. She asked teachers and parents that showed up tonight to show up at the City Council to show their support, and as a group of School Committee members say, "*This is what we need. for our schools.*" Ms. Laraba asked if she needed to put that in the form of a motion.

Mayor Milinazzo stated that she needed to put this in the form of a motion but wanted some clarification from the Superintendent or her administration of level-funded budget. Right now there was a 2.8 million dollar increase in this year's school department budget over last year.

Dr. Chris A. Scott, Superintendent, "*Point of clarification, it is increasing by 1.8 million.* Level funding would mean technically that they receive the same amount of dollars as they received in FY10 as FY11 (wouldn't be a 1.8 million dollar increase). A Level-Service Budget would mean that the School Department would get the 1.8 million dollar increase. They would remain whole even though it would cost 2.5 and 3 million additional dollars. It would cost the School Department to maintain all the programs that they have now and not to take any of the cuts between 2.5 and 3 million.

Ms. Martin wanted to know the total operating budget in FY10.

Roger (Jay) Lang IV, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations stated that the total operating budget for the current fiscal year including local funds as well as assuming all the stimulus offsets is **\$138,757,346**. That was the total operating budget including all revenue sources.

Ms. Martin wanted to know what the amount would be for the level-service Ms. Laraba is looking for.

Roger (Jay) Lang IV, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, stated that amount would be **\$141,283,542**. It would be a 2.5 million dollar increase taking into consideration all of the offsets that he has already built in.

Ms. Laraba moved:

To approve the FY2011 Lowell School Department level-service budget in the amount of **\$141,283,542**; seconded by Mr. Conway for discussion.

Ms. Laraba stated that she wanted to go to the City Council and the City Manager and have them commit to our schools; to ask them for more money. Her motion wasn't going to solve all their problems, but if they could hold off these cuts for a year (next year is going to be even worse), it would give them more time to think outside the box, find more creative solutions; there are some other areas they need to address. Ms. Laraba suggested stipends, buy backs; that is where the unions come in. That all happens in negotiations.

Ms. Doherty stated that she didn't feel the Committee could legitimately go before the City Council without making any cuts at all and ask them to come up with the money. She could not support Ms. Laraba's motion.

Mr. Leary stated that this was his fifth time making cuts. He stated that there was issues with some of the schools. To go before a body and ask for more money without addressing some of the school issues was a major problem with him. He could not support Ms. Laraba's motion.

Ms. Martin stated that it was not realistic to think the City Council is going to come up with more money for the School Department. She had to be realistic. She realized that the city was facing the same financial crisis as the school department. She wanted to work together with them.

Mayor Milinazzo stated that he appreciated where Ms. Laraba was coming from. He wanted to use Ms. Martin's words. It was not realistic. If they get to the point where they are going back to the City to say they want level-service funding, it is just not going to happen. The City during the past week worked with the School Department administration trying to identify additional funds. He doesn't know what that number is. It hasn't been shared with him yet. If the Committee walks away tonight with a 4 million dollar cut to show the City that they are going in a reasonable direction based on a 7 million dollar deficit, he is hopeful that the City Manager may be able to provide extra dollars, and what the unions may be able to provide in concessions, they will be able to fulfill the gap. Again, Mayor Milinazzo stated that he thinks it is unrealistic of them as a body to go back to the City and demand that the School Department gets level-service funding. He is going to be voting against the motion. He is hopeful from what he has heard tonight that the gap will be closed.

Mr. Conway appreciated where Ms. Laraba was coming from. He also needed to face it realistically. He could not support the motion.

Mr. Leahy stated that he appreciated where Ms. Laraba was coming from. After sitting on the School Committee for 8 years he knows what can get done and what cannot get done. When the Superintendent listened to what her cabinet had to say, her administrators had to say, what the Committee had to say, she took the burden off the Committee's shoulder coming up with 4 million dollars in cuts. He appreciated that. He is still angry with the cuts that have to be made. He has kids in the system. His kids are leaving elementary and going into middle school. When his son Jack came home and told him they were cutting library media, he was furious. He has to face reality. The cuts the Superintendent has made, he can live with.

Ms. Laraba **WITHDREW** her motion.

Mr. Leahy moved:

To approve the budget reductions that have been recommended by Superintendent Scott and her administration in the amount of **\$137,217,021**; seconded by Ms. Laraba

Ms. Martin wanted to approve the 4 million dollar budget cuts but to come back another day to go over the budget page by page.

Ms. Laraba stated that the Superintendent has come up with the recommended cuts. At this point to go over the Superintendent's budget line by line to muddy it at this point is not going to be helpful.

Mr. Leahy wanted to ask for an arrogate number but agreed with Ms. Martin to go over the budget page by page at another budget session. If Mr. Leahy doesn't change his motion he was going to vote no. He wanted to go over the budget line item by line item on another day.

Mr. Leahy stated that he thought the Superintendent's recommendations were the fairest. He wanted to approve the bottom-line budget figure. It was his understanding that the Committee still could go back and go over the budget line by line.

Mr. Conway stated that he could not go along with all the recommended cuts at the high school.

Ms. Doherty stated that tonight they had the Headmaster of Lowell High School and a Principal of a Middle School asking that the Committee not mess with the cuts. As difficult as they are, there is a lot of thought that went with those cuts.

Ms. Martin stated that she wanted to approve the bottom-line figure but wanted to go through the budget line by line. This is one of the things that she as a Committee member takes pride in doing. The public judges the Committee and the district on the budget decisions the Committee makes.

Mr. Leahy stated that his motion was to accept the Superintendent's 4 million dollar cuts. He still wanted to get together another night and go over the budget line by line.

Mayor Milinazzo stated that on Tuesday (June 1<sup>st</sup>) they were going to have the City's number (the amount allotted to the Lowell School Department). Based on that number, the Committee will determine what additional cuts, if any, have to be made. The Committee can set up meetings with the unions in order to bridge the gap. He referred to Roger (Jay) Lang IV, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations.

Assistant Superintendent Lang stated that the point of Tuesday night's budget session, obviously the Committee takes more than one night to approve the budget and they go line by line. He still doesn't have an indication from the City what their recommended budget was going to be, because their numbers are not solid. Tonight they did as much of the budget as they could. It brought them more time to work with the City and hopefully the state would firm up. Obviously he will be talking to the City Manager tomorrow to get some sense of what he is looking at to get some sort of recommendation that he can support to the City Council. Tonight there is 4 million dollars in cuts. He has cuts that are beyond that. Tuesday night they will get where the City stands. They could go line by line through the budget, answer questions, talk about the line items. He wanted to include the public as well. They can talk about what the gap is and what they can do to fill that gap. He thinks Tuesday will be an important night. He suggested that the Committee support all the cuts the Superintendent has recommended as presented in her budget, not just the bottom-line figure.

Mr. Leahy asked that the Committee support his motion and to send it over to the City side. The Committee could come back and make changes later.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Mr. Leary moved:

To move the question; seconded by Ms. Laraba. Unanimously approved on roll call.  
APPROVED

**For the record**, Mr. Leahy's motion is to be voted on immediately which reads as follows:

To approve the budget reductions that have been recommended by Superintendent Scott and her administration in the amount of **\$137,217,021**; seconded by Ms. Laraba. Unanimously approved on roll call. APPROVED

Dr. Chris A. Scott, Superintendent recommended that the Committee approve the Director of Discipline and Operations position at an additional cost of **\$20,000** be included in the discussion of the June 1<sup>st</sup> Budget Hearing.

Mayor Milinazzo asked if that was option C1 for the high school.

Superintendent Scott stated that it was C2.

Mr. Leary stated that he did not want to approve the position tonight. He wanted it presented on Tuesday.

Mayor Milinazzo suggested approving the Director of Discipline and Operations as a report of progress by the Superintendent tonight. The additional **\$20,000** for the position and the position itself would be discussed on Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Martin moved:

To accept the Director of Discipline and Operations report as a report of progress and to place on file; seconded by Ms. Laraba. APPROVED

**RECESS** – Ms. Laraba moved to recess; seconded by Ms. Doherty. This Public Lowell School Department Fiscal Year 2011 Budget recessed at 11:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Chris A. Scott, Superintendent and  
Secretary to the Lowell School Committee

CAS:jms  
Enclosures