

**REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING OF
THE LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**
As Amended

January 19, 2011

The Regular Meeting of the Lowell School Committee took place in the Council Chambers, City Hall, at 7:00 pm, on the above-mentioned date.

ROLL CALL

On roll call at 7:04 pm, all members were present, namely: Alison P. B. Laraba, John J. Leahy, James D. Leary, Connie A. Martin, Mayor/Chairman James L. Milinazzo, David J. Conway and Jacqueline A. Doherty

MINUTES

1. Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2011

Ms. Doherty moved:

To defer acceptance of the Regular School Committee Minutes of January 5, 2011 until the next regular School Committee meeting (February 2, 2011); seconded by Mr. Leary. Unanimously approved on roll call. **DELAY APPROVED**

PERMISSION TO ENTER - NONE

MEMORIALS - The Committee as a Whole stood for a 'Moment of Silence' in memory of the following:

1. William R. Droll, Lowell School Committee member in which he served three terms from 1956 to 1962
2. Vivian Smart, mother of Patricia Fuller, Early Childhood Parent Liaison

(by Mayor James. L. Milinazzo)

3. Mary Sampas, prominent resident of Lowell and columnist for the Lowell Sunday Sun newspaper

MOTIONS

1. (by Jacqueline A. Doherty) – Request the Superintendent work with the Law Department to provide a report on the number, status, and costs of school employees on workers compensation as well as any recommended improvements; seconded by Mr. Leary. APPROVED

Ms. Doherty stated that the motion speaks for itself. The city has been able to have significant savings looking at this particular area; plus progress reducing the time people are out. With our tight budget restraints, perhaps the School Department could see some savings also.

2. (by John J. Leahy) – Request the Superintendent provides a report from Aramark to the Committee on the Food Service Department transition. The report should list changes, improvements and an updated menu that complies with the Federal and State standards; seconded by Mr. Leary. APPROVED

Mr. Leahy stated that he wanted to just see how the transition is going. The report should have:

- State changes made
- Improvements made
- How people are accepting excepting it?

The state and federal mandates have changed for foods.

Through the Mayor to Roger (Jay) Lang IV, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations. was asked how long the contract was for Aramark. Was it to be renegotiated this year or next?

Roger (Jay) Lang IV, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, stated that food service contracts were for one year period. One year is guaranteed. The option is for two years.

Mr. Leary wanted to know if you can make changes to the contract.

Assistant Superintendent Lang stated that it was part of the bid. *“We get to decide if we want to execute years two and three of the contract..”*

SUBCOMMITTEES

1. Technology Subcommittee - Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, January 5, 2011, by John J. Leahy, Chair

Mr. Leahy stated that he had given an oral report at the last regular School Committee meeting (January 5, 2011). Tonight, he just wanted approval of the written report. He had asked Roger (Jay) Lang IV, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, to get a list of computers in each school. The timeframe was open-ended.

Roger (Jay) Lang IV, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, stated that he was unable to get that information from each school. He would have it by the end of January.

Mr. Leahy stated that the request for the number of computers in each school was kind of open-ended. He just would like an idea.

After discussion, Mr. Leahy moved:

To accept the Technology Subcommittee report as a report of progress and to place on file; seconded by Mr. Conway. APPROVED

2. Lowell High School Subcommittee - Report of the Meeting of Wednesday, January 19, 2011, by Jacqueline A. Doherty, Chair

Ms. Doherty stated that this meeting was held prior to this regular School Committee meeting at 6:00 pm. The main discussion was on guidance concerns at the high school. A number of budget cuts have been made to the high school over the last few years, and that has made staffing very tight. In addition, we are down two Guidance Counselors due to illness and family leave. There was some discussion whether students are being served in a timely and effective manner, particularly the seniors. They are applying to colleges, and these colleges have deadlines. Applications, transcripts, etc. must be submitted early for best college choices. Edward J. Rozmiarek, Headmaster of Lowell High School, spoke about some of the ways parents' concerns are being addressed, and that a replacement Guidance Counselor is being added. The meeting was cut short due to this School Committee meeting. We are going to meet again with the Headmaster when he looks at how to measure success in the Guidance Department, and whether further Professional Development or other changes are necessary.

After discussion, Mr. Leahy moved:

To accept the Lowell High School Subcommittee oral report as a report of progress; seconded by Ms. Laraba. APPROVED

REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - NONE

CONVENTION/CONFERENCE REQUESTS

The Superintendent presented and recommended approval of the following convention/conference requests:

1. M. Claire Abrams, K-12 Mathematics Coordinator, Dr. Phyllis Schlichter, K-12 English Language Arts Coordinator, Jeffrey Gwiazda, District Math Support Specialist, Deborah Romeo, Adolescent Literacy District Support Specialist, Susan Carmona, ELL District Support Specialist, Jeannine Durkin, LHS Freshman Academy Director, Dr. Wendy Jack, LHS Curriculum Director, Steve Gross, Robinson School Principal, Brenda Busta and Sheila Brisson, Robinson School staff, to attend a seminar focusing on *Curriculum Mapping: A School-Wide Plan for Integrating Curriculum & Assessment for Grades K-12* to be held on Thursday, January 27th and Friday, January 28th, 2011 in Manchester, NH. The cost of \$2552 will be funded by Title I grant funds. No substitute teachers are needed.

Mr. Leahy moved:

To accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve; seconded by Ms. Laraba. Unanimously approved on roll call. APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Thank you letters from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation dated December 22, 2010 regarding the Greenhalge, Rogers and Varnum School Scholarship Funds.

Mr. Conway moved:

To accept the communication and to place on file; seconded by Ms. Martin. APPROVED

2. Lowell Telecommunication [Channel 10] Broadcast of School Committee Meetings:
Live on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the Month; Thursdays @ 6PM; Saturday and
Sundays @ 2PM; Tuesdays @ 10AM. - Informational

PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL - NONE

ADJOURNMENT – Mr. Leary moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Conway. This
meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm

Respectfully submitted,

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

CAS: jms

Enclosures