

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

October 5, 2011

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

**ROLL CALL**

On roll call at 7:02 p.m., Mr. Leahy was absent. All other members were present, namely: Ms. Laraba, Mr. Leary, Ms. Martin, Mayor/Chairman Milinazzo, Mr. Conway and Ms. Doherty.

**MINUTES**

**1. Regularly Scheduled Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, September 21, 2011**

Ms. Laraba moved to accept the Regularly Scheduled Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, September 21, 2011; seconded by Mr. Leary. Accepted and placed on file.

**PERMISSION TO ENTER**

Jean M. Franco, Superintendent, presented and recommended the following contract for School Committee approval:

KERRY GILLIS	\$	8,000
18 Nobel Drive		
Chelmsford, MA 01824		

Collaborate with the Program Director of the Lowell Public Schools District Based Licensure Program to assemble, interpret and document evidence, as request by the DESE, in preparation of Lowell's application for re-approval of the Initial Licensure Program (ILP).

Funding provided by the FY12 Local Budget – Professional Development Account

Ms. Martin moved to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the Permission to Enter and to enter into contract; seconded by Ms. Laraba. **APPROVED**

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

1. Robert 'Beau' Collette, retired paraprofessional at the Butler Middle School and former cook manager at the Bartlett and the Butler Schools.
2. Stella F. (Strykowski) Diamantopoulos, mother of John Diamantopoulos Bartlett School custodian.
3. Virginia Holland, mother of Ruth Holland, Wang Middle School clerk.
4. John A. Cronin, retired Principal of the Bartlett Jr. High School.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Permission to Post: Coordinator of PreK-4 Mathematics  
Coordinator of Grades 5-12 Mathematics  
Coordinator of PreK-4 English Language Arts and Literacy  
Coordinator of Grades 5-12 English Language Arts and Literacy  
Coordinator of Science/Social Studies PreK-12

Ms. Doherty made a motion to approve the Permission to Post positions; seconded by Mr. Conway. 6 yeas, 1 absent APPROVED

**MOTIONS:**

1. **[by John Leahy & James Leary]: To request the Superintendent provide the School Committee with an update regarding the Lowell High School parent/student portal. The report should contain the number of parents that are now able to view their child's school status and how many parents are not yet able. In addition, what action steps are in place that will ensure 100% access; seconded by Ms. Doherty. APPROVED**
2. **[by John Leahy & James Leary]: Request the Superintendent provide the Lowell School Committee a timeline and action plan for the implementation of the student portal program for grades K-8; seconded by Ms. Doherty. APPROVED**

3. **[by Jackie Doherty]: Request the Superintendent report on the status of the light and sound systems in the Burgoyne Theatre of the LHS Freshman Academy. The report should include current status and recommendations on updating equipment to enable the theatre to be used as a fully functional performance venue; seconded by Mr. Leary. APPROVED**

## **REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Jean M. Franco, Superintendent, presented and recommended approval of the following reports:

1. MCAS Status Report

Superintendent Franco and Paul Schlichtman, Coordinator of Research, Testing and Assessment, shared a power point presentation with the committee to explain the data. The report showed that the district continues to ebb and flow with the state. The grade by grade trends for the past ten (10) years were shared with the committee. The power point presentation showed substantial growth in English Language Arts and Mathematics at certain grade levels as well as the smaller, more significant findings that were found in the 2011 data.

Ms. Doherty made a motion to accept the report as a report of progress; seconded by Mr. Leary. ACCEPTED

2. Sports-Themed Schools/Childhood Obesity

Superintendent Franco spoke about the district research that was conducted around reasonable approaches that will result in the implementation of long-term programs aimed at expanding healthful opportunities for middle school children. Superintendent Franco proposed the following initial action steps:

- Create a planning team of content specialists from the Lowell Public Schools, other interested private and parochial school personnel, interested business and community partners.
- Begin planning and developing after school programs that clearly focus on building key knowledge needed to instill long term healthy nutrition habits.
- Strategically extend options for formalized physical activity programs for all Lowell children that have positive effects on overall student health, fitness, self esteem and academic achievement in schools and community based facilities after school and Saturdays.
- Focus on the existing facilities and resources in different school locations to plan related sport activities.
- Seek funding sources to support the program objectives.

- Extend knowledge and classes to families in support of improving family health and overall success of children.

Mr. Conway made a motion to accept the report as a report of progress; seconded by Ms. Martin. ACCEPTED

### 3. Recycling Participation in our Schools

Superintendent Franco discussed the meeting that she had with Gunther Wellenstein, Recycling Coordinator, David Grenier, Stephen Greene, Kim Scott and Beverly Schultz of the Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee (SW & R AC) in her office on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. A plan was developed from that meeting to formally increase recycling participation in the middle schools and Lowell High School.

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the report as a report of progress; seconded by Ms. Doherty. ACCEPTED

### 4. MSBA Green Repair Program

Jay Lang, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Operations informed the committee of the \$4.8 million approval of the Green Repair Projects. Lowell Public Schools submitted their application earlier this year and received approval. The approval will result in the roof sections at Lowell High School and the Reilly Elementary School; the roof and windows at the Moody Elementary School; and the roof, windows and boilers at the Washington Elementary School being replaced.

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the report as a report of progress; seconded by Ms. Laraba. 6 yeas, 1 absent. ACCEPTED

### 5. Technology Update

Jay Lang, Deputy Superintendent of Finance and Operations informed the committee that representatives from CELT were in the district to assess the infrastructure, policies and practices of our district. A draft report is expected on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, from the focus group participants with their perceived findings and very initial recommendations. On Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, the focus groups will come together again to discuss the draft report and to make sure what the CELT representatives heard is what was reported. Another draft report is expected somewhere around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November. These draft plans will be discussed at a future Technology Subcommittee meeting. A final plan with the representatives from CELT making a full presentation to the full school committee will be given around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January.

Mr. Leary made a motion to accept the report a report of progress; seconded by Ms. Martin. ACCEPTED

6. List of Eligible Teachers

Ms. Doherty made a motion to accept the report as a report of progress; seconded by Ms. Laraba. ACCEPTED

7. Personnel Report

Mr. Conway made a motion to accept the report as a report of progress; seconded by Mr. Leary. ACCEPTED

**CONVENTION/CONFERENCE REQUESTS:**

1. Miriam Morgenstern, Lowell High School teacher, to attend a *Summit for Fellows* at the Cohen Center at Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire on Friday, October 14, 2011. The cost of \$100 for a substitute teacher will be funded by LHS Individual School funds.
2. Pawtucketville Memorial School staff [Kim Clements, Wendy Serrano, Tara Scola and Cheryl Ortega] to attend a training session entitled: *Units of Study Across the Year in an Intermediate Writing Workshop* in Secaucus, New Jersey on Monday, October 17, 2011. The cost of \$209 per person for training and \$200 for substitute teachers will be funded by the Pawtucketville Memorial's Individual School Funds.
3. Kathleen McLaughlin, teacher at the Bailey and Lincoln Schools, to attend the *American Federation of Teachers Program and Policy Council* meeting in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011. All costs will be paid by the American Federation of Teachers. No substitute teacher is needed.
4. Murkland School teacher Tracy Mainville to attend the *Literacy for All Conference/Reading Recovery Council of New England* in Providence, Rhode Island on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The cost of the conference will be funded by the 13 Grant/Lesley University. No substitute teacher is needed.

5. Mary Payne, Lowell High School staff, to attend the *Marine Corps Educator Workshop* on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> through Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at Parris Island in South Carolina. There is no cost to the school department budget and no substitute teacher is needed.
6. The Lowell High School International Language Club [40 students], along with LHS staff William Donaghey, Philip Maia, Mary Ann Dyson and Danielle Lessard to travel to *Quebec City, Canada* from Friday, February 3, 2012 through Monday, February 6, 2012. There will be no cost to the School Department budget. No substitute teachers are needed.

Mr. Conway made a motion to take all six (6) convention/conference requests together; seconded by Ms. Laraba. APPROVED

Ms. Doherty made a motion to accept the recommendation to approve all six (6) convention/conference requests; seconded by Ms. Martin. 6 yeas, 1 absent. APPROVED

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. INFORMATIONAL: Lowell Telecommunication [Channel 10] Broadcast of School Committee Meetings: Live on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month; Thursdays @ 9PM; Sundays @ 2PM; Tuesdays @ 10AM.

Ms. Martin made a motion to accept the communication and to place on file; seconded by Ms. Doherty. ACCEPTED

### **PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL:**

The members of the United Teachers of Lowell hereby request to donate sick leave days to the following teacher: Anna Collupy, Bailey School, thirty-nine [39] days.

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve the request; seconded by Mr. Leary. 6 yeas, 1 absent. APPROVED

Mayor/Chairman Milinazzo encouraged everyone to attend Lowell High School's football game on Friday night (October 7, 2011) against Dracut High School. The game will be televised on Fox 25.

**ADJOURNMENT –**

Ms. Martin moved to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Doherty  
This meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Franco, Superintendent and  
Secretary to the Lowell School Committee

JMF/mes

Enclosures