

* Revised Wednesday, March 18, 2009

@ 6:15PM: LHS Student Advisory Meeting in the Council Chambers

AGENDA – LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 2009

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: City Hall, Council Chamber

SALUTE TO FLAG:

ROLL CALL:

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:

1. **Spotlight on Excellence:** Lowell High School, Department of Interscholastic Athletics - - Winter Athletics Report

MINUTES:

1. Regular School Committee Meeting of March 4, 2009
2. * Regular School Committee Meeting of January 21, 2009 (page 10 as amended)

PERMISSION TO ENTER:

MEMORIALS:

(By Regina M. Faticanti):

1. Henry Reynolds, Father of Martha Reynolds, Rogers School Teacher and Nancy Reynolds, PyneArts School Teacher.
2. * John B. Harrigan, Father of Patrick Harrigan, Lowell High School Head Custodian.

(By Connie Martin):

3. Sister Ann Teresa Neary, Aunt of Claire Abrams, Coordinator K12 Mathematics, James Neary, Coordinator for School Improvement & Accountability and Patricia Neary, Wang School Teacher.
4. Claire Bator, Mother-in-Law of Mary Bator, Secretary in the Office of Finance & Operations.

(Committee as a Whole):

5. * Leo Brown, Jr. was employed by the City of Lowell in the Messenger Department.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

1. * Paul Georges, United Teachers of Lowell President, to speak on Motions #1 and #5

MOTIONS:

1. (By John Leahy): To ask the Superintendent to begin the discussion regarding Open Negotiations with all School Unions.
2. (By John Leahy): Request the Superintendent provide the School Committee with an update on the district's efforts to address and educate students and parents on 1) appropriate on-line behavior, 2) the dangers of social networking websites, and 3) the inappropriate use of cell phones, including picture taking, text messaging, instant messaging, and sexting.
3. (By Connie Martin and James Leary): Request the Superintendent provide to both the Finance and Lowell High School Subcommittees a review of the current Lowell High School attendance policy, including but not limited to the financial costs associated with the current policy and if warranted, provide recommendations to improve the policy and reduce the financial cost associated with the policy.
4. (By John Leahy and James Leary): Request that all schools and school department facilities turn off the lights for ten minutes at 12:00 noon on Friday, March 27, 2009 in support of Earth Hour 2009, the world's first global election between the earth and global warming with more than 1,200 cities in 80 countries participating in the event on Saturday, March 28, 2009.
5. (By Mayor Caulfield and Regina Faticanti): Request the Superintendent to begin discussions on how receptive our Unions would be to taking a furlough in FY10 if there was a financial shortfall in order to avoid layoffs.
6. * (By David Conway): Ask the Superintendent to look into how to partner with the Art Community in the City of Lowell to enhance the Fine Arts awareness in our schools.

SUBCOMMITTEES:

1. Personnel Subcommittee: Report and Approval of the Minutes of March 12, 2009
[Connie Martin, Chairman]
2. Curriculum Subcommittee: Report and Approval of the Minutes of March 16, 2009
[Connie Martin, Chairman]

REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

1. Knowledge Bowl 2009
2. * 2009-2010 School Year Calendar

NEW BUSINESS:

CONVENTION/CONFERENCE REQUESTS:

1. Approved at the October 1st, 2009 Meeting - Overnight Field Trip Request – **Date Change:**
LHS Foreign Language and ELL Chairman Stephen Gervais, along with four chaperones and 24 LHS students to travel to *Japan* during April vacation, April 18th through April 26th, 2009. Participants will be paying their own way. No substitutes will be needed.

Due to a schedule change by the travel agent, departure and return dates have been changed to Sunday, April 19, 2009 – Monday, April 27, 2009. Students will miss (1) day of school.

2. Claire Abrams, K-12 Coordinator of Mathematics and Martha Cohn, Wang School Science teacher were selected to participate in the *US Department of Education's Mathematics and Science Partnerships Program Regional Conference* to be held from March 30, 2009 through April 1, 2009 in Chicago, Illinois. There will be no cost for the conference/travel to the school department budget. A substitute for two days [\$200] will be paid from District Science Professional Development budget.
3. Stoklosa School Principal Stephen Gross to attend, as a NELMS Board Member, the *New England League of Middle Schools Annual Conference* in Providence, RI from April 5 – 7, 2009. There is no cost to the district budget

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. * Massachusetts Association of School Committees [MASC] Urban Division Meeting held in Lowell on Saturday, March 28th, 2009

PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL:

CIVIL SERVICE:

ADJOURNMENT: