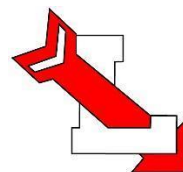


Board Briefs



Regular Meeting of October 12, 2026

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Allison Raison reported that homecoming participation was at an all time high. The PSAT test will take place on October 14. The FAFSA window is now open. The yearbook team is busy putting together senior pages. Fall sports will wrap up over the next couple weeks. The River City Alliance (RCA) meeting will take place on October 28 where student council board members will collaborate with other schools to improve engagement. The fall play "Ghostlight" will take place October 29, 30 and November 1.

ACTION ITEMS

- Approval of minutes for September 14, 2026 Regular Meeting, September 28, 2026 Special Meeting and September 28, 2026 Work Session.
- Payment of bills for September, 2026.

REPORT - GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD PROJECT (attachment)

High School senior Neriah Peters along with Andy Steketee, Middle School Principal, and Katie Erickson, Middle School Counselor, provided a report on the Middle School Girl Scout Gold Award project. The project centered on easing the stress of 5th grade students transitioning to 6th grade at the middle school.

HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Dustin Cichocki stated that by the end of the week all support staff and custodial positions will be filled. He is continuing to recruit bus drivers. The first mentoring meeting of the year took place October 5. Administration is in the initial stages of looking at annuities, outside of the 403b retirement plan for staff. More information will be brought to the next Work Session.

BUDGET UPDATE

Sonia Hodge stated that the first state aid report has been received and the first state aid payment will be received on October 20. On October 27 at 5pm a group will meet to review the district's wellness policy. Anyone is welcome to attend. The district will be posting for a new executive chef. The Food Service Fund will be covering these costs which is separate from the General Fund. Money into the Food Service Fund comes from federal and state meal reimbursements, ala carte meals at the high school, etc.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Steve Gough provided the Board a comparison sheet of State assessments. Data compared Lowell Area Schools to Kent ISD school districts, River Cities Alliance (RCA) school districts and “like” districts. The professional development/calendar advisory committee met to start planning for next school year. The goal for next year is to have more collaboration time for staff. The Curriculum Council will meet on October 8. The Council reviewed the resource purchases and updates from last year - French 1&2, AP Statistics, Subject K-12 Learning Platform at Unity, HMH science at middle school, and IXL 6th grade science. This year the district will be reviewing curriculum for 9-12 math, 6-8 art, and K-5 social studies. The PSAT will take place on October 14 for juniors. October 30 will be half day staff professional development.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

One public comment. No action taken.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Fowler stated that October is National Principals Month. He thanked them all and stated they all have a tremendous impact on the day to day management of the school buildings and their leadership fosters conditions where learning thrives in our buildings. The district had another great Pink Arrow event. That committee has already started working on planning for next year. Students are preparing for the Nation FFA conference in Indianapolis. The fall play “Ghostlight” is coming up at the end of the month. The boys soccer team is playing for a conference championship. Fowler received a memo from the Michigan Department of Education regarding weighted foundation payments for at-risk and English language learners. There will be a pro-ration for Economically Disadvantaged students. The district will continue to use these funds to build support resources for literacy, math, positive student behavior and belonging. He applauded the state legislators for moving toward this weighted funding model and feels like it is a step in the right direction for school funding. He extended his appreciation to Representatives Gina Johnsen and Bryan Posthumus and appreciated their collaboration and support for the district. He thanked Jennifer Dougherty, Pat Nugent and Jared Blough for stepping up and running for another term on the Board of Education. He stated the fourth candidate Jake Tjapkes has moved and is not able to run.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Jared Blough thanked Neriah Peters for her presentation. He hoped she would go into teaching and come back to Lowell to teach.
- Annie Whitlock thanked Neriah Peter for her presentation. She stated that the Gold award continues to benefit the entire community.
- Laurie Kuna stated that Lowell has had many Eagle Scouts as well. The middle school red and white girls volleyball team won their divisions.
- Jessica Curtis thanked Neriah Peters for her presentation. She also stated that she participated in the interviews of Cherry Creek 5th graders for their leadership program along with Jennifer Dougherty.
- Jennifer Dougherty stated that Lowell has amazing 5th grade students. She thanked Neriah Peters for her presentation
- Brian Krajewski thanked Neriah Peters for her presentation and leadership. He encouraged all to vote.