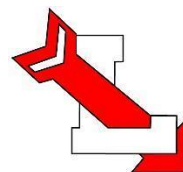


A Summary of the Regular Meeting of the Lowell Board of Education

Board Briefs



Regular Meeting of September 14, 2026

ACTION ITEMS

- Minutes for August 10, 2026 Regular Meeting, August 24, 2026 Work Session, and August 24, 2026 Closed Session.
- Payment of bills for August, 2026
- New Hire: Kolin Herron, Middle School CI Room
- Overnight Student Trips - State FFA Convention, East Lansing, MI, March 10-12, 2027 and National FFA Convention, Indianapolis, IN, October 20-24, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

One public comment. No action taken.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Allison Raison reported that the student council has been working on student morale by giving out donuts on the first day of school and using sidewalk chalk to leave positive messages. The student section at sporting events has been nominated for the best in West Michigan. Pink Arrow events will take place this week as well as a blood drive. The AP Government class is creating a hallway display for Constitution Day. Students and parents are working on their FAFSA as well as preparing for homecoming. Seniors have a goal of leaving the school better than they found it.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Superintendent Fowler introduced the new staff to the Board of Education.

DISCUSSION

The Board of Education and Superintendent Fowler discussed two quotes for Chromebook purchases and reviewed the current Sinking Fund Projects. Fowler stated that the cost of Chromebooks will see a significant increase on October 1st and will be asking the Board to approve the purchase now, versus at the end of the school year, at a Special meeting on September 28.

HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Dustin Cichocki stated that the Business Office is working on the 2027 health insurance rates for union and non-union employees as well as comparing wages across the county. He thanked Brad Stinson, Food Service Director, for the new staff dinner. He also stated that he is continuing to recruit for bus drivers and one part-time custodian.

BUDGET UPDATE

Sonia Hodge stated that the draft audit has been received and the final audit will be coming soon. She thanked Paige Rozell-Clouse, Payroll Specialist, for successfully completing the first major payroll of the school year. The fleet card pilot program has been successful. The Business Office is working on a timeclock solution. The next step is to demo two solutions - Red Rover and Skyward. Count day will take place in a couple of weeks. The 31aa Mental Health and Security grant will be in two separate applications (separating the mental health funds and the security funds) this school year. The At-Risk/Bilingual weighted foundation formulas will also be separated.

CURRICULM UPDATE

On behalf of Mr. Gough, Nate Fowler reported that the 2025-2026 state assessment data was released. We continue to perform well above the state and county averages across all grade levels. The math, reading and belonging vertical teams will meet over the next couple of weeks. These teams support the MICIP (Michigan Continuous Improvement Process) goals and ensure that our programs are aligned K-12. Constitution Day is September 17. All buildings have submitted plans in compliance with Public Law 108-447 which requires all education institutions to hold programming about the US Constitution. The fall assessment window will close on September 18 (NWEA MAP in math and reading, Acadience Reading K-5, and Universal Screener for Number Sense in Kindergarten pilot).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Two public comments. No action taken.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Fowler stated that LowellArts decorated the Board Room with student art. He welcomed Allison Raison to the Board. He thanked everyone for working with staff and adjusting parking at Cherry Creek Elementary during pick up and drop off times. He stated that Pink Arrow activities are taking place this week.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Jared Blough welcomed the new staff and Allison Raison.
- Annie Whitlock welcomed the new staff and Allison Raison.
- Laurie Kuna thanked the AI guidance planning group for their work and information that was provided to the Board. She also stated that the Lowell Rotary Club presented the Paul Harris Fellow award to Christine Beachler and Denise Dommer.
- Jennifer Dougherty welcomed the new staff and experienced staff back to school and Allison Raison.
- Brain Krajewski thanked the bus drivers for a smooth start to the school year.