

Town of Littleton School Committee

33 Shattuck St. * P.O. Box 1486 * Littleton, MA 01460-4486 * Phone: (978) 540-2500 * Fax: (978) 486-9581 * Website: www.littletonps.org



JEN GOLD, Vice Chair STACY DESMARAIS, Member JUSTIN MCCARTHY, Chair

BINAL PATEL, Member ELAINE SANTELMANN, Clerk

School Committee Meeting Littleton Police Station Community Room 500 Great Road In-person and Hybrid June 1, 2023 7:00 PM

When: Jun 1, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: School Committee meeting of June 1st, 7pm, 2023
Please click the link below to join the webinar:

https://littletonma.zoom.us/j/88210688586?pwd=cmU4YXhrMHdwR1FkTWpGYXI4VHpZUT09

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A G E N D A

Our mission is to foster a community of learners who strive for excellence and prepare each student to be a successful, contributing citizen in a global society.

7:00 I. ORGANIZATION

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance
- 3. Consent Agenda
 - Minutes May 18, 2023
 - Oath to Bills and Payroll

7:05 II. INTERESTED CITIZENS

It is the policy of the Littleton Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin, color, homelessness, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its educational programs, services, activities or employment practices. Further information may be obtained by contacting Lyn Snow, District Equity Coordinator at 978-540-2500, Isnow@littletonps.org or 33 Shattuck Street, P.O. Box 1486, Littleton, MA 01460.

7:10 III. RECOGNITION

- 1. Superintendent's update and recognition: Superintendent Kelly Clenchy will give and update and recognize the May/June school events.
- 2. Other

7:15 IV. <u>PRESENTATIONS</u>

- **1. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Update at Littleton High School**: High School Principal John Harrington will discuss current and future plans for implementing DEI and will touch upon some of the challenges the High school has faced during the 2022-2023 school year.
- 2. List of Colleges 2023 High School Graduates will be attending: Superintendent Kelly Clenchy will present a summary of the various schools that our 2023 High School Graduates will be attending.
- **3. Financial update:** Business Manager Steve Mark will give a Financial update report.

7:50 V. INTERESTED CITIZENS

7:55 VI. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. PMBC
- 2. Budget Subcommittee
- 3. Policy Subcommittee: (see LPS website to view all policies) Motion to accept the first reading for the following policy:

JHA - Absence to observe Religious Holyday

https://www.littletonps.org/school-committee/policies

8:05 VII. ADJOURNMENT

JOIN US FOR A RETIREMENT CAKE RECEPTION
JUNE 1, 2023
LHS CAFETERIA
6:00PM - 6:45PM

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING TO FOLLOW



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ELAINE SANTELMANN, Clerk BINAL PATEL, Member

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 18, 2023
7:00PM

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PRESENT: Justin McCarthy Jen Gold (7:02PM)

Stacy Desmarais Elaine Santelmann ALSO PRESENT: Kelly Clenchy

Dorothy Mulone Bettina Corrow

NOT PRESENT: Steve Mark & Binal Patel

CALL TO ORDER

Justin McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

On a motion by Stacy Desmarais and seconded by Elaine Santelmann it was voted to approve the May 11, 2023, agenda as presented. (AYE: Unanimous).

INTERESTED CITIZENS

None

RECOGNITION

- 1. Recognize Student Representative: School Committee Chair Justin McCarthy recognized John Feltus for his year of service (2022-2023) as the Student Representative to the School Committee and presented him with a small token of appreciation.
- 2. Student Representative(s) Report: Student Representative, John Feltus gave his last update of events for each school.

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3. Superintendent Clenchy recognized the Financial Literacy Fair at the High School and thanked Mrs. Pam

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Abate for her hard work, getting this event off the ground.

4. Starting an online registration for our new students. An easier way to input all the data, and for parents it will be easier for them to see their students' schedule and other important information at one place.

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5. Erik Arnold, Special Ed and PACE Teacher at High School has implemented a partnership with Acton Toyota Career for our PACE students.

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> **PRESENTATIONS** 1. Two of the Curriculum Coordinators presented their State of Curriculum reports within the following

State of the Curriculum Science presentation was presented by Valerie Finnerty, who highlighted the initiatives and accomplishments within the 6-12 Science, WE FOCUS ON ACTIVE LEARNING!

We set priorities for our curriculum review: • Eight 1-hour after school department

Six 3-hour PD Days

• Spend hours of extra time evaluating materials.

6-12 Science Priorities for Curricula

- · Aligned to MA STE standards and NGSS.
- Inquiry-based learning can be a priority.
- Up-to-date, research-based instructional materials
- Rigorous, meets the needs of all learners
- Includes promotion of interest in STEM careers
- Includes scientific literacy--application to students' lives and interests
- Course offerings should be relevant and future-minded.
- Graduates should be college and career-ready (What is the vision of an LHS graduate?)
- Graduates who go on to major in STEM should be prepared to access college-level STEM courses
- We evaluated our current curriculum:
- Each teacher completed a curriculum survey for each course they teach.
 - o Students were administered a survey for each course in which they were enrolled. The surveys aimed to measure teacher and student perceptions of our current curricula:
 - What is taught, how it is taught, do the material and the course reflect diverse cultures and backgrounds, and is the classroom a safe and comfortable learning environment?

Littleton Middle School Science, Technology, & Engineering Littleton High School Science, Technology, & Engineering

For the first time LHS students attended the 9-12 Science and Engineering Fair: MSEF

Jen Gold – So pleased with the many projects and STEM efforts. Hearing from students how much they enjoy the STEM work in the classroom.

Elaine Santelmann – I am pleased with the adoption of all the programs. I am impressed with the number of courses you offer to our students. Could you elaborate a little more on the vision of a Graduate? John Harrington – The parameters are still being determined at school council meetings along with other committees.

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Valerie Finnerty – The students are really excited to be able to participate in the STEM fair. We help them after school, during advisory and give them the necessary time to create these projects.

State of the Curriculum English Language Arts presentation was presented by David Pascucci, who highlighted the initiatives and accomplishments within the 6-12 ELA,

Highlights and Accomplishments:

- With the help of an LEF Grant, Beth Richards (author and professor at University of Hartford) Mr. Tombeno's Creative Writing classes.
- Littleton ELA Students (Grades 6, 8 and 10) in comparison with the state Scored Higher on every single question.
- 8th grade students, Sadie Roberts & Gabe Gustainis, entered the "Young Writers" writing contest. Both are going to be published in this year's journal of exceptional student work.

Professional Development

Discussed the book "Making High School Grades Meaningful" by Dr. Thomas R. Guskey (acclaimed author and professor emeritus in the College of Education at Univ. of Kentucky.) within and across departments.

In line with district and state plan goals, faculty engaged in collaborative projects within and across departments.

A part of our focus on Universal Design for Learning (UDL) as a district. ELA teachers attended evidence-based professional development on multi-tiered support systems, evidence-based tiered interventions, evidence-based literacy models, and effective leadership practices.

MCAS Magnificence in the Middle

- * Creation of a positive all-school messaging campaign
- "SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW!"
- -Schoolwide, Student Council-sponsored poster contest
- -ELA Department presentation to staff about communicating a more positive mindset.
- *Focused instruction around time management
- *Targeted lessons on essay organization & length
- *Proctor observed outcomes:
- -Students worked so hard that they required the testing window to be extended by 30 minutes.
- -More students than ever before created and used their own graphic organizers to plan out their writing.
- Stacy Desmarais ChatGPT app.
- David Pascucci We have been reading articles and there is a lot of chatter on social media. Some colleagues have been very interested. How do we use this as a tool? Maybe integrating it and using it to brainstorm a lesson plan. Everyone is at a different comfort level with the program currently. We need to teach students how they can use it. There is still a large learning curve.

work on UDL. It is a lot of work. It takes a lot of time and effort to embed these into your lesson plan. 125 126 127 Justin McCarthy – Can you elaborate a little more on the grading that has taken place during your PD 128 129 David Pascucci – What makes grades meaningful. As an English teacher we can add in so many 130 131 comments. What skills students need to improve on. Certain benchmarks are universal, so we now have consistency across all subject areas. 132 133 134 135 136 137 State of the Curriculum Elementary Curriculum presentation was presented by Rachel Duarte, Ann Brazinski, Susan Mitchell. 138 139 140 **Social Studies K-5 Shaker Lane** 141 In grades K-2, students study citizenship, communities, and map skills through hands-on learning. 142 A focus on hands-on projects, creativity, and collaboration 143 144 **Russell Street** In grades 3-5, students study our state's history, regions of the US, and American history and government. 145 A focus on reading and writing about social studies, project-based learning, and group problem solving 146 147 148 Science K-5 149 **Grades PreK - 2 Connecting Themes** 150 Pre-K 151 The World Around Me **Kindergarten/Transitional** 152 Materials & Motion 153 Animals, Two by Two 154 Trees & Weather 155 156 Grade 1 • Living Non-Living 157 Plants and Animals 158 159 Light & Sound Grade 2 160 • Pebbles sand and silt 161 Solids and liquids 162 Insects and plants 163 164 **Grades 3-5 Connecting Themes** 165

Elaine Santelmann – I am wondering how it could be a good tool for students. Congratulations on the

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Grade 3

Grade 4

Structures of Life

Motion and Matter

Water and Climate

Soil, Rocks and Landforms

• States of Matter

Energy

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174	Grade 5
175	• Earth and Sun
176	 Mixtures and Solutions
177	 Water Cycle
178	 Living Systems
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180	Math at Shaker Lane
181	Kindergarten and Transitional
182	Representing, relating & operating on whole numbers with sets of objects
183	Describing shapes and space
184	Hands-on games
185	Manipulatives
186	First Grade
187	Addition & Subtraction
188	Compare numbers
189	Data & Graphing
190	Place Value
191	Trace varie
192	
193	Count & Represent to 120
194	2 digit add & subtract
195	2D & 3D Shapes
195	Time
197	Measurement
198	Intro to Fractions
199	Waggle/DreamBox
200	
201	Second Grade
202	Fluency Add/Subtract w/in 20
203	Equal groups
204	Data
205	Place Value
206	Read, Write & Show to 1000
207	Coins & dollar amounts
208	Time
209	Add/Subtract strategies & fluency
210	Algebra
211	3 digit add & subtract
212	Length
213	Waggle/DreamBox
214	
215	Math at Russell Street
216	Third Grade
217	Multiplication & Division
218	Addition & Subtraction
219	Fractions
220	Time
221	Measurement
222	Multi-Step Word Problems
223	Waggle/DreamBox
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224	Essenth Condi
225	Fourth Grade
226	Place Value Multi Digit Multiplication & Division
227	Multi-Digit Multiplication & Division
228	Fractions
229	Geometric Figures
230	Multi-Step Word Problems
231	Waggle/DreamBox
232	Fifth Grade
233	Multiplication & Division (whole numbers and decimals)
234	Volume
235	Fractions
236	Coordinate Planes
237	Multi-Step Word Problems
238	Waggle/DreamBox
239	
240	ELA-Reading K-5
241	Letters and Phonics
242	Fundations & Spelling
243	Handwriting
244	Print Concepts
245	Phonics & Word Study
246	Spelling
247	
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249	Speaking & Listening
250	Heggerty & Fundations
251	Phonemic Awareness
252	Vocabulary
253	D 11
254	Reading
255	Journeys & Engage NY
256	Fluency
257	Comprehension
258	Small Group Reading Instruction
259	Literature Study
260	
261	ELA-Writing: Units of Study K-5
262	Narrative
263	Small moments
264	Weekend News
265	 Personal Essays
266	
267	Informational
268	• Expert Writing topics
269	• "How To" writing
270	 Bringing history to life
271	
272	Persuasive/Opinion

272	C-114: D4:- C1
273	Collections-Best in Show
274	• Reviews
275	o Restaurant
276	o Toy/Movie/Places
277	o Book
278	 Persuasive letters
279	
280	Grade Specific Topics
281	 Introduction to Writer's Workshop
282	Realistic Fiction series
283	 Poetry
284	• Fairy Tales
285	• Literary Essay
286	Memoirs
287	· Wemons
288	Social Emotional K-5
289	Shaker Lane School
290	Showing HEART
291	"We are building a safe, caring, and ready-to-learn community." - School Vision Statement
292	Second Step Curriculum
292	Diverse Read Alouds
293	
	School-Wide Community Meetings
295	Duggall Street Sahaal
296	Russell Street School
297	STRIPE Program
298	Safety, take responsibility, respect, integrity perseverance, empathy
299	Second Step Curriculum
300	Responsive Classroom
301	Classroom Book a Day
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303	100
304	180 picture books read to class by classroom teacher.
305	Chill Zone
306	Shared space under stairs
307	
308	STEM Integration K-2
309	Kindergarten
310	Three Little Pigs: Paper and Wood Exploration (Science)
311	Transitional
312	Storytelling with Robots (ELA)
313	First Grade
314	Mapping Our Lasercut Community (Art, SS)
315	Coding in Scratch Jr.
316	Second Grade
317	Cardboard Community Day (SS)
318	Lasercut Geometry Windows (Math) Coming soon!
319	
320	STEM Integration 3-5
321	Third Grade

322 323		Lifecycle of a Seed Stop Motion Animation (Science) Makey Music (Music)
		Fourth Grade
324		
325		Choose Your Own Adventure: Coding Stories (ELA)
326		Explorers with Root Robot (SS)
327		3D Printed Bubble Wands (Engineering)
328		Fifth Grade
329		Novel Engineering (ELA)
330		Functional 3D Printing (SEL)
331		Coding Interactive Math Word Problems (Math)
332		Go Bananas Unruly Splats (PhysEd) (Featured in the Lowell Sun)
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334		Elaine Santelmann – This presentation reminds me why I chose to go into teaching.
335		
336		Jen Gold – Very impressive curriculum.
337		ven dela very impressive carriediani.
338		Stacy Desmarais – How important is the transitional classroom?
339		Ann Brazinski – It is such a gift of time for students in that classroom. They are still interacting with
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
340		students in grade 1 and Kindergarten and we never heard from any student that it is a negative thing to be
341		in the transitional classroom. It allows students extra time to prepare for first grade.
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343		Michelle Kane – Now more than ever we need this option for some of our students.
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345		John Feltus – I went to transitional with Mrs. Constantine, which was one of my best memories.
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347		Justin McCarthy – I was wondering about the transition from Shaker Lane to Russell Street. Are we
348		screening our students?
349		Susan Michell – We do MAP testing in Grade 2. We use unit assessments. We support our students with
350		SEL, we have reading support, math support and some teachers will re-teach concepts to our students. We
351		analyze the data and use it.
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353	2	ESSER III Update: Director of Teaching and Learning, Elizabeth Steele, gave an update on ESSER III
354		grant review and update.
355		Review ESSER III
356		Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) to address learning recovery and the
357		impact of COVID-19
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360		- Wide range of allowable expenses
361		- ESSER funds are designated for one-time, short-term expenditures to address the ongoing impact of the
362		pandemic
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364		LPS Plan Review & Update
365		The ESSER Grant Plan – Updated
366		Total = \$357,471.00
367		1. 0.9% PPE Supplies
368		2. 9.8% Outdoor Educational/Lunch Space
369		3. 5.6% Technology Support
370		4. 5.1% Mental Health Supports
371		5. 27% MTSS Support
J / I		J. 21/0 1911 33 Support

373	7. 5.6% Special Education Program Evaluation
374	8. 25% Social Emotional Learning
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376	Stacy Desmarais – Is this money that is out there to be spent or money we already spent?
377	Elizabeth Steele – Some of this money we have already spent or have already planned for.
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379	Elaine Santelmann – Thank you for this presentation. I think the priorities set forth to allocate funds
380	these items are perfect for this grant.
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383	NEW RUSINESS

Town Administrator search committee appointment: School Committee Chair Justin McCarthy discussed the Town Administrator Search Committee appointment process.

for

On a motion by Stacy Desmarais and seconded by Elaine Santelmann it was voted to elect Justin McCarthy to the Town Administrator Search Committee. (AYE: Unanimous).

INTERESTED CITIZENS

None

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SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PMBC: Meeting in June regarding the Shaker Lane building.

6. 21% Literacy Screener and Materials

- 2. Budget Subcommittee: None
- 3. Reading of Policy: A revised policy will be brought to the next school committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Elaine Santelmann and seconded by Jen Gold it was voted to adjourn at 8:48PM. Roll Call Vote: Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; Elaine Santelmann, AYE; and Stacy Desmarais, AYE.

> **NEXT MEETING DATE** June 1, 2023 7:00PM

DOCUMENTS AS PART OF MEETING

State of Curriculum, ELA, Science and Elementary Curriculum

ESSR III Grant Review & Update

DEI at Littleton High School

June 1, 2023 Update

Professional Development

Dr. Kalise Warnum of KW Diversity - Professional Development and coaching opportunities

Culturally Responsive Instruction

AdaptiveX Leadership Vision Workshop for Administrative Council

AdaptiveX Early Adopters & Book Study: Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain

Dr. Nicole Christian-Brathwaite Presentation

Dr. Ken Williams - Ruthless Equity - Keynote Speaker November 2022

Ruthless Equity book study in summer of 2023

LHS Educational Activities with Students 2021-2023

Holocaust survivor presentation in November 2022

Facing History and Ourselves course

US History courses address racism

Meaningful connections survey with students 2022-2023

Presentation on microaggressions in May of 2022 and June 2023

Active DEI and GSA clubs

Student Activities Continued

MIAA DEI Pledge and presentation at the start of each athletic season

Great Kindness Challenge each January

No Name Calling Week each January

Spread the Word Inclusion event each March

#SeeMe Campaign in May through Stomp Out Bullying

DEI Plans for Next School Year

New School Culture Team with a strong emphasis on inclusion

School Climate Survey for students, staff, and parents

All school assembly: DEI Club presentation

Guest speakers (TBA) for students and staff

With opportunities for discussion and Q & A with students

Considering an all school book reading assignment with diverse options

Focus groups with students regarding DEI and racism perceptions

Workshop Opportunity for engaging LHS Families

National Culture Week in April

Other DEI

District DEI Team includes four LHS staff members

New District DEI website showcasing DEI in Action

Many staff reading books on culturally responsive teaching and DEI independent of professional development

MPY webinars

Return of Pals club

Unified Sports - three seasons

CLASS OF 2023 - TOTAL # SENIORS = 106					
COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY	TYPE	CITY	<u>STATE</u>	COUNTRY	# of LPS students attending
Assumption University	4 Yr Private	Worcester	MA	United States	1
Brigham Young University-Idaho	4 Yr Private	Rexburg	ID	United States	1
Bryant University	4 Yr Private	Smithfield	RI	United States	2
Clark University	4 Yr Private	Worcester	MA	United States	1
Dean College	4 Yr Private	Franklin	MA	United States	1
Duquesne University	4 Yr Private	Pittsburgh	PA	United States	1
Emerson College	4 Yr Private	Boston	MA	United States	1
Emmanuel College	4 Yr Private	Boston	MA	United States	2
Endicott College	4 Yr Private	Beverly	MA	United States	2
Fairfield University	4 Yr Private	Fairfield	СТ	United States	1
Franklin Pierce University	4 Yr Private	Rindge	NH	United States	1
Georgetown University	4 Yr Private	Washington	DC	United States	1
Georgia Institute of Technology-Main Campus	4 Yr Public	Atlanta	GA	United States	1
Hampshire College	4 Yr Private	Amherst	MA	United States	1
High Point University	4 Yr Private	High Point	NC	United States	1
Iowa State University	4 Yr Public	Ames	IA	United States	1
Ithaca College	4 Yr Private	Ithaca	NY	United States	1
James Madison University	4 Yr Public	Harrisonburg	VA	United States	2
Johnson & Wales University-Providence	4 Yr Private	Providence	RI	United States	1
Merrimack College	4 Yr Private	North Andover	MA	United States	2
Methodist University	4 Yr Private	Fayetteville	NC	United States	1
Michigan State University	4 Yr Public	East Lansing	MI	United States	1
Middlesex Community College	2 Yr Public	Bedford	MA	United States	2
North Carolina State University at Raleigh	4 Yr Public	Raleigh	NC	United States	2
Northeastern University	4 Yr Private	Boston	MA	United States	3
Plymouth State University	4 Yr Public	Plymouth	NH	United States	1
Providence College	4 Yr Private	Providence	RI	United States	1
Purdue University-Main Campus	4 Yr Public	West Lafayette	IN	United States	1
Quinnipiac University	4 Yr Private	Hamden	СТ	United States	1
Quinsigamond Community College	2 Yr Public	Worcester	MA	United States	1
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	4 Yr Private	Troy	NY	United States	1
Rivier University	4 Yr Private	Nashua	NH	United States	1

Roger Williams University	4 Yr Private	Bristol	RI	United States	1
Saint Anselm College	4 Yr Private	Manchester	NH	United States	2
Salem State University	4 Yr Public	Salem	MA	United States	4
Salve Regina University	4 Yr Private	Newport	RI	United States	1
Simmons University	4 Yr Private	Boston	MA	United States	1
Stonehill College	4 Yr Private	Easton	MA	United States	1
Suffolk University	4 Yr Private	Boston	MA	United States	1
Syracuse University	4 Yr Private	Syracuse	NY	United States	1
The University of Tampa	4 Yr Private	Tampa	FL	United States	1
Tufts University	4 Yr Private	Medford	MA	United States	1
University of Denver	4 Yr Private	Denver	СО	United States	1
University of Florida	4 Yr Public	Gainesville	FL	United States	1
University of Maryland	4 Yr Public	College Park	MD	United States	1
University of Massachusetts-Amherst	4 Yr Public	Amherst	MA	United States	15
University of Massachusetts-Boston	4 Yr Public	Boston	MA	United States	3
University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth	4 Yr Public	North Dartmouth	MA	United States	1
University of Massachusetts-Lowell	4 Yr Public	Lowell	MA	United States	4
University of New Hampshire-Main Campus	4 Yr Public	Durham	NH	United States	4
University of St Andrews	4 Yr Public	St Andrews	FIF	United Kingdom	1
University of Vermont	4 Yr Public	Burlington	VT	United States	3
Wentworth Institute of Technology	4 Yr Private	Boston	MA	United States	1
Western Colorado University	4 Yr Public	Gunnison	СО	United States	1
Western New England University	4 Yr Private	Springfield	MA	United States	1
Westfield State University	4 Yr Public	Westfield	MA	United States	1
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	4 Yr Private	Worcester	MA	United States	4
Worcester State University	4 Yr Public	Worcester	MA	United States	2
Employment					7
4 year colleges / universities - 96 seniors = 91%					TOTAL 106
2 year colleges - 3 seniors = 3%					
employment - 7 seniors - 6%					



Littleton Public Schools

FY 2023 Year to Date - Budget Report

As of April 30, 2023

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ADJSMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	% USED
310 Regular Education	9,290,764	-148,840	9,141,924	6,201,975.16	34,292.93	2,905,656	68.2%
311 Special Education	6,212,852	-287,882	5,924,970	3,085,830.35	720,420.75	2,118,719	64.2%
312 Student & Support Staff	1,406,715	9,161	1,415,876	984,135.63	112,560.40	319,179	77.5%
313 Other Instruction	295,425	47,093	342,518	278,930.75	48,023.30	15,564	95.5%
314 System Administration	1,564,162	1,970	1,566,132	1,176,669.09	24,481.57	364,981	76.7%
315 School Administration	1,267,777	195	1,267,972	1,049,268.64	450.00	218,253	82.8%
316 Transportation and Busing	1,250,260	1,304	1,251,564	1,075,440.57	212,373.47	-36,250	102.9%
317 Facility & Maintenance	1,762,292	719,280	2,481,572	2,066,147.36	447,570.02	-32,146	101.3%
Grand Total	23,050,247	342,280	23,392,527	15,918,398	1,600,172	5,873,957	74.9%

Absence to observe Religious Holyday

The Littleton Public Schools serves children from different religious backgrounds. The Littleton School Committee maintains a deep and sincere respect for religious diversity throughout the community. The Committee recognizes there are conflicts between observing important religious holydays and mandates relative to days of instruction within the school year. As such, it shall be the policy of the Littleton School Committee that:

- 1. Littleton School District shall close schools for Yom Kippur, Good Friday and Diwali.
- 2. For other religious holydays, students shall be allowed an excused absence on a day chosen by the student's parent/ legal guardian in order to participate in his or her in their religious observances of that day.

So that students who use an excused absence to participate in religious observances of his or her their choice on a normally scheduled school day are not penalized in any manner for missed schoolwork of the day, such students:

- 1. Shall be allowed to participate in their religious observances without detriment to their education or grades.
- 2. Shall not be held accountable for tests, quizzes and homework and other one-time events (field trips, athletic events, music performances, theater plays, and productions, audition, and back to school functions), on such days.
- 3. Shall be allowed to make up tests, quizzes, homework, and other one-time events within a period agreed to by the student's teacher and the parent/ legal guardian. If the parent/ legal guardian and teacher cannot come to an agreement, the matter shall be referred to the principal who will determine the make-up period.
- 4. Long-term assignments shall not be due the day of, nor the day following such a holyday.

Further:

- 1. Any pupil absent from school because of a religious holyday shall not be deprived of any award or of eligibility or opportunity to compete for any award because of such absence.
- 2. Students whose conscientious observation of a religious holyday conflicts with participation in a school-scheduled event such as try-outs, athletic contest, theatricals, or concerts, shall not be required to participate nor penalized for their non-participation.
- 3. Any absence because of a religious holyday shall be recorded in the school register, or in any group or class attendance record, as an excused absence.
- 4. Such absence shall NOT be recorded on any transcript, application, employment form, or any similar form.

To facilitate teachers' ability to plan for circumstances set forth above, the student/ parent/ legal guardian must present to the principal a written excuse signed by a parent/ legal guardian as soon as feasible, but in no case any later than five school days in advance.

This policy should not prevent coaches and/ or advisors from holding practices or scheduling contests for events on holydays in which school is in session.

Adopted: November 19, 2009 Reviewed: November 15, 2012 Reviewed: February 25, 2016 Revised: April 6, 2022