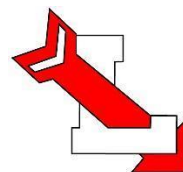


Board Briefs



Regular Meeting of September 8, 2025

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Gianna Gates-Duprey stated that the start of school is always tough to get back to. Seniors gathered together for the traditional "Senior Sunrise" and donuts. Flex time started this week and students are glad to have this opportunity for extra help. The football team won their first game. She noted that the Pink Arrow game is coming up. Athletes will be playing for and honoring a family member or friend. Athletes will also be visiting the elementary buildings the week of Pink Arrow to get everyone pumped up for the game.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Dustin Cichocki introduced the new staff to the Board of Education.

ACTION ITEMS

Minutes for August 11, 2025 Regular meeting and August 25, 2025 Work Session, payment of bills, Cherry Creek construction bids and the following new hires:

Tessa Heeringa, High School Academic & Career Coach
Paula Skeel, High School Agri-Science & Biology Teacher
Alex Hubbard, Middle School Social Studies Teacher
Lara LaBryer, Middle School Resource Room
Jessica Polczak, GSRP Teacher

HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Dustin Cichocki stated that middle school principal interviews will start on September 9 at 4pm. There will be a formal interview as well as a staff meet and greet. A new driver has been hired and is in the process of training.

BUDGET UPDATE

Sonia Hodge stated the final audit is wrapping up and she should have the final report in the next couple of weeks. The auditors will be presenting the process and findings to the Board at the November 10 regular meeting. The House has now released all of their budget proposals but she is still waiting on more information from the State. Lowell Area Schools has a good fund balance in order to make payroll and payments if the October state aid payment is not received. If there continues to be a prolonged State shutdown, there will need to be discussion regarding borrowing money.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Steve Gough stated elementary programs are completing fall benchmark assessments using Acadience and NWEA/MAP. This data is used to ensure that students are progressing as expected and getting the support they need. Currently, Lowell Area Schools has three benchmark assessments throughout the year. There is currently discussion regarding eliminating the spring testing due to M-Step taking place at this same time. The Board will be informed as this process is worked through. Flex time at the high school started last week. This time ensures students get the support they need to master essential content. This is the third year of implementation and there is positive evidence that the program is successful:

- 7 consecutive terms with the lowest course failure rate on record.
- 2 of those 7 consecutive terms have shown a 2-3% course failure rate or less.
- Increased AP scores for the last 2 years.
- Increased number of students participating in AP courses and taking AP tests.

Gough is working with the middle school leadership team to begin discussions regarding building a similar Flex/Tier 2 program at the middle school. The technology team is continuing to make progress on the transition from Novell to Google Workspace platform. We are currently in the 3rd and final year of this transition. Constitution Day is September 17 and all schools are planning to recognize the day and provide instruction. Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up at all of the buildings. Staff professional development will take place in the afternoon on October 31st.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Five audience members made public comments. No action taken.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Fowler thanked all for their public comments. He stated that today was supposed to be the first day for the Great Start Readiness classes. There were some licensing delays that prevented students from attending. This issue has been resolved and students will be in class tomorrow. He thanked Kathy Burch, Preschool Director, and custodial staff for their work getting this program up and running. He also thanked the families for their patience and understanding. Fowler stated that it has been a successful start to the school year. He stated that Lowell voters are now receiving flyers regarding the county-wide Kent ISD Enhancement Millage to restore and renew .9 mills. These funds account for \$1.2 million of Lowell Area Schools budget. These funds have been used by Lowell Area Schools to reduce class sizes, for the Chromebook program, and for the literacy program. He thanked Mr. Cichocki for organizing the middle school principal search and interviews.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Jennifer Dougherty stated she likes the fact that Lowell Area Schools always looks for ways to continually improve by looking at middle school flex time and looking at data to be sure we aren't sacrificing instruction time for testing. She likes the way we look at the things we are doing and not always doing what we have always done.
- Jared Blough welcomed Gianna Gates-Duprey and all the new staff.
- Annie Whitlock welcomed Gianna Gates-Duprey and all the new staff. She also thanked two audience members for their positive Lowell Area Schools graduate stories.
- Laurie Kuna welcomed all the new staff and the new high school principal. Lowell Area Schools does a good job and there is always room for improvement.