

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Patrick A. Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent's Report May 26, 2022

Since the very beginning of my tenure as Superintendent, we have made a concerted effort to solicit and respond to feedback on every major initiative in the district and generally as it relates to student and family experience. In the fall of 2021, we received direct feedback via e-mail and through public comment at a number of school committee meetings involving concerns about the quality and freshness of meals served in our schools, particularly at the elementary level. In response, we engaged a full review of our quality control processes, retrained staff, and created an accessible online feedback form to allow us to formally document and expeditiously respond to any concern. Further, we held two forums (November 3, 2021, and February 10, 2022) to allow members of our community to share their experience and any related concerns. At its November 18, 2021 meeting, the school committee directed the city solicitor to do a full review of the contracts of the food service purveyor (Revolution Foods) and the food service management company (Chartwells) to determine whether or not there has been any breach or dereliction of duty. That investigation is complete, and there is a finding of no breach of contract or dereliction on the part of either partner.

While the finding indicates no fault by our partners, we will continue to solicit student feedback about likes, dislikes, and choice. Further, we will continue to embrace ideas from students and families on how the meals can meet the needs of our students. This is an ongoing process that will continue in perpetuity.

Continuing with the theme of feedback response, we are in the early beginnings of conversations about how to expand after-school programming, particularly in the k-8 space. Going as far back as 2019 with the development of the district strategic plan, families and community members indicated the need to provide more opportunities for access to after-school programs for our youngest learners. The intensity of those calls increased related to how we respond to the impact of the pandemic (See [ESSER III Allocation Plan](#)).

The district has a longstanding history of providing after-school programs, both enrichment and academic intervention, and pure engagement and fun. As we continue to build and expand on services for students, after-school programming that marries all of those important elements in a robust, data driven, and partnered effort feels like an important next step. Something as extensive as this requires deep thought and careful planning. We would like for this plan to be rich and impactful, but also sustainable. As such, we will need time to put this together and there

might be specific staffing that does not currently exist that we will need to explore. We will do so in partnered fashion over the summer and fall months. The point here is to indicate that we intend to respond to community feedback with something we believe will be of great benefit to students.

Finally, the district was informed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that it will receive additional funding. The FY2022 General Appropriation Act (GAA) is providing funding for districts with "pandemic-related disruptions in their enrollment" that impacted their Chapter 70 aid for FY2022. Districts are eligible to receive priority funding if enrollment declined from FY2021 to FY2022 followed by significant enrollment increases from FY2022 to FY2023, which is established in the October 1, 2021 count. Using these criteria and an applied funding formula, LPS will receive a one-time payment in the amount of \$3,953,728. The funds must be spent by the close of FY23 and can be used for non net school spending expenditures. A proposal will be brought forth to the School Committee on or before June 30, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent