

**2005 LeftinLowell.com Lowell City Council
Candidate Questionnaire
Tim Lavoie**

1. What do you see as the top three issues that need to be addressed by the next Lowell School Committee? What specifically can you do to address those issues?

1. Complete the next two school building projects. I have an extensive construction background that could prove valuable to the city and school committee before and during the project.
2. The school committee & Council need to create a capital plan to maintain the current school buildings so as not to fall into disrepair.
3. Evaluate various programs and services to find areas where we can reduce costs or consolidate services for better performance. Like the busing problem! I am currently a high school educator and have expertise in various programs.

2. Should the Lowell School Committee be directly involved in the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements? Why or why not?

Yes, they should at least be allowed to give input or direction to the superintendent to better facilitate the process.

3. What is your view on M-CAS requirements for graduation?

The main focus and purpose of MCAS is to raise the level of education in our schools. If we do not do so we fail our students. If we do not have a graduation requirement how can the students take it seriously? I do not like the fact of teaching to a test but I like higher educational standards.

4. Is Lowell prepared to meet the new requirements of the addition of science M-CAS that will take effect in 2010? If not what do you propose to see that students are proficient in science?

At the present time I am not aware of the current programs that are in place. Of course once elected I plan to examine all programs to see if the quality of programs will meet the requirements.

5. What specific proposals will you make to improve the percentage of students in Lowell that are proficient in the other M-CAS requirements?

As stated before I plan to examine all programs to ensure the level of instruction is consistent with the standards requirements.

6. Are the alternative schools for students with discipline problems working in Lowell? If not what should be changed?

Again I am not able to evaluate the facility until I am elected to the board. Safety in our schools for all students and instructors is absolutely necessary.

7. What kinds of security measures are needed in Lowell schools to protect students and teachers?

On the spot locker and backpack inspections are vital. We need to send a message that safety is key and nothing else will be tolerated. Students and parents need to be held accountable for their actions.

8. Do you support the teaching of Intelligent Design (creationist theory) alongside evolution in science classes? Do you think it should be taught instead of evolution?

I agree possibly along with but not instead of.

9. Do you support/oppose the search of student lockers or backpacks for contraband? Why/Why not?

Yes absolutely! Searches on the spot send a clear message of zero tolerance. This message must be sent loud and clear and all parties must be held accountable for their actions.

10. What do you propose to improve working relations between the Lowell School Department and Lowell City Hall?

Simply I feel that the communication should persist in open forum and in phone conversation. Isn't the essence of politics the conversations between politicians anyway? The School Committee runs the functions of the educational system, but the city maintains the buildings and construction projects as well as a major component of the funding mechanism.

11. Is the cost of the Lowell School Administration adequate, too high or too low? Why?

I have not seen the salary structure of the complete Lowell School Administration. I would need to see that as well as determine the workload of that individual to make such a determination.