



## ★ ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE ★

**Deadline: September 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**Candidate Event: October 15<sup>TH</sup>, 5:30PM**

# Solidarity Lowell 2023 School Committee Questionnaire

**Name:** Stacey Thompson

**Office Sought:** District 1 School Committee Member

**Website:** <https://www.staceyforlowell.com/>

**Facebook:** [@StaceyforLowell](https://www.facebook.com/StaceyforLowell)

**Twitter:** n/a

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### **1. What qualities will you be looking for in a new superintendent?**

Experience in leading a district and working collaboratively with administration and district stakeholders. Someone who is really in the community. Someone with experience increasing retention rates of students and staff.

### **2. What suggestions do you have to ensure that the search for a new superintendent of schools is as inclusive as possible?**

It is really important to get people who have done the work to ensure they function through a lens of equity and inclusivity. Hosting community listening sessions for transparency about the process but to gain an accurate pulse of the needs, the frustrations existing in our district at present. Be cognizant of asking thoughtful and challenging questions.

Diversity of thought is essential to move the needle forward.

### **3. During the city's listening session on racism, students reported disparities in disciplinary actions between white students and students of color. Do you agree that a disparity exists?**

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree Nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

***Why or why not? If you agree, how would you address this issue?***

Yes I agree with this. As a person of color myself, I know that we try to go to anything else..we look for any other reason first because some folks feel that it's ""an excuse"" that people of color use.

In short we don't want the inequities to be true but since they do exist our job is to address them so our young people feel served, safe and seen.

**4. The school system budget process should include input from stakeholders.**

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree Nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

***Explain your answer.***

It actually does have a fair amount of committee input. Whether the school site councils, open SC meetings, etc. Now that's not to say we could tighten things up.

**5. Lowell Public Schools staff and teachers should reflect the population of Lowell and its students.**

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree Nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

***Why or why not? What are your proposals to address LPS staffing issues?***

Representation matters. I think knowing that there are people that can share different values or relate from shared or similar life experiences that color makes evident .

Proposals I've already made include specific job postings in areas more frequented, and also to hone in on HBCU presence option. Study districts that have addressed similar demographic issues.

**6. The creation of a Culturally and Linguistically Sustaining Practices program with a full-time coordinator and sustainable funding through the LPS budget is a critical step for LPS to take to engage, support, and recognize our diverse student population through hiring, curriculum, and other initiatives.**

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree Nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

***Why or why not? Please elaborate on your response.***

I've been a big proponent for and supporter of CLSP work in the district. This is integral in all the work that's done.

**7. What initiatives/steps would you take to support and ensure the social, emotional, and mental well-being of staff and students in our schools?**

I just recently made a motion to ensure that the district is checking in with our mental health, social workers, healthcare folks to ensure that we are doing the things that they need to be supported because we've asked so much of them in the past couple years specifically. The dashboard that I have been very vocal about can be used as a data tool to assist students.

**8. Systemic racism is a public health crisis in Lowell.**

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree Nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

***If so, why and how do you propose to answer the crisis in Lowell-specific ways?  
If not, why not?***

I think most will remember me advocating for Racism as a Public Health Crisis. Fortunate to do that both in my role as a leader in a non-profit, as a private citizen and as SC member. When you speak of Racism as the institution, you know dismantling a l

**9. Communications between the Lowell School administrators/School Committee and the students, parents, and teachers of Lowell needs to be improved.**

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree Nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

***If so, what ideas do you have to improve the communications between the Lowell administration and the students, parents, and teachers of Lowell. If not, why not?***

Regular listening sessions in languages that are most comfortable. I plan myself on kicking them off with a series called Sipping Tea with Stacey T. It is me going out. We have to meet people where they are most.

**10. High stakes standardized tests like MCAS are essential to determine student achievement and should be used to determine high school graduation.**

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree Nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

***Please elaborate on why you agree or disagree. What, if any, proposals do you have to modify this requirement?***

Data is important; it drives budget. It helps us get more money that we can then allocate in needed areas. However, as a person that is NOT a good test taker, one test is not a full indicator and what a person can achieve.

**11. Cafeteria offerings are an important part of student health and their ability to focus and learn.**

1. Strongly Agree
2. Agree
3. Neither Agree Nor Disagree
4. Disagree
5. Strongly Disagree

***How might the city focus on improving the nutritional value and quality of school meals?***

When I ran last time I had a concept that would take food and combine it with school work. So for example studying Cambodia, you eat food from there. It's a way to increase cultural competence and would take coordination with and buying from Aramark.

**12. The past two years have highlighted the problems with our building infrastructure. Air quality, temperature control, rodent infestations, and flooding emerged as major problems throughout the district. How will you engage with the City Council and city administration to make sure that school buildings are adequately cared for?**

I think that we are poised in a very do-it-now because we have 1-time , opportunities B

**13. Would you agree with the creation of a plan to revitalize unused spaces for special education? (YES/NO)**

YES.

**14. Do you think that emergency evacuation of students with disabilities, and other accessibility issues are a concern? (YES/NO)**

YES.

**Please share any additional thoughts on how our city meetings are run.**

I would love to hear more about specific details of how the differently abled experience maltreatment.

**15. Would you support a School Committee resolution in support of the Thrive Act, which would end MCAS tests in 10th grade and state takeover of school districts deemed to be failing? (YES/NO)**

[LEFT BLANK]

**16. When elected, will you agree to add a budget item for emergency transportation needs? (YES/NO)**

YES.

**17. What are your top budgetary requirements for the schools?**

HVAC in desperate disrepair, overall building, HR/staffing needs, staff support.

**18. What would be your top three policy priorities if elected?**

My platform has NOT changed because the need has not expired or dissolved. Stacey's three E's are Educational Excellence, Equity and Empowerment. I find those guiding principles are encompassing of so much of the work I've pushed through during my term.