



# GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

December 14, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Gitschier called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

### **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mr. Hogan, Mr. LeMay, Mr. Nocco, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou, Mr. Morin, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Gitschier

Members Absent: None

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director  
Michael Barton, Assistant Superintendent/Principal  
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator  
Lisa Martinez, Director of Technology, Enrollment and Information  
Madison Harris-Parks, School Legal Counsel  
Recording Secretary

### **PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

There was no public appearance.

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no School Committee communications.

### **REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Student Representative, Cameron Koza provided an update of recently held clubs and sporting events.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve the minutes from the meeting of November 16, 2023.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

**REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER**

**MOTION:** by Mr. LeMay, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to waive the reading of the warrant.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

**MOTION:** by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve expenditures for the sum of \$5,522,822.70 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2126A	dated 12/01/2023	Payroll #931	1,253,824.40
Warrant 2126B	dated 12/15/2023	Payroll #933	1,394,808.92
Warrant 2125-1	dated 11/22/2023	Accounts Payable	678,542.19
Warrant 2126	dated 12/08/2023	Accounts Payable	1,394,254.98
Warrant 2126-3	dated 12/01/2023	*Special* NY Child Support	2,530.92
Warrant 2126-6	dated 12/12/2023	*Special* GHA Technology	16,538.20
Warrant 2125-3	dated 11/22/2023	Sales Use/Meals Tax Oct. 23	2,528.84
Warrant 2126-2	dated 12/08/2023	Mass Bay Health	777,249.75
Warrant 2125-4	dated 11/22/2023	Lowell Five Credit Card Fees Oct.	2,544.50

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

**REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL**

There was no report of general counsel.

**REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR**

Superintendent Davis began by recognizing senior student Julia Canario for being selected as the first-place entry in the essay category of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual MIAA Student Sportsmanship Essay/Multimedia Contest. This award was presented to Julia on November 9<sup>th</sup> at the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual MIAA Sportsmanship Summit held at the Gillette Stadium in Foxborough. As the first-place award winner, Julie received a \$400 check and a recognition plaque. Julia was congratulated and invited up to the table to read her award-winning essay to the committee.

Superintendent Davis continued with the next item on her agenda which is the overview of the LPN Program cost increase. Ms. Davis referred to the cost sheet with the only change being the addition of the \$50 graduation fee. This fee was collected from the students at the end of the year; however, after polling the students, it was their request to have the fee added to the cost upfront rather than paying it separately later in the year.

Committeeman Bahou requested to speak and began by commending the program and the services it has provided to many students throughout the years. He highlighted the three separate costs pertaining to the program; in-district, out-of-district, and out-of-state cost before asking if the cost to start the program for in-district students could be reduced to approximately 65-70%. He noted that the residents of Lowell may have a harder time paying the upfront cost due to other financial commitments and is looking to make it more equitable.

Superintendent Davis noted she was not prepared to comment on Mr. Bahou's request and recommended inviting the Director of LPN Program and her team to the next meeting for a further discussion. After additional conversation, Superintendent Davis requested clarification on Committeeman Bahou's request. Mr. Bahou stated he was looking to change/reduce the upfront cost required for September 1<sup>st</sup> in order for it to be less costly for an in-district student.

Committeeman Hogan asked for the numbers pertaining to the students in-district vs out-of-district students. Superintendent Davis replied that she did not have that information available with her but would be able to have the LPN Director provide that data at the next meeting.

After further discussion, the committee agreed to vote on the addition of the \$50 graduation fee to the LPN program cost and have the Director of the LPN Program present at the next meeting to revisit the discussion on Mr. Bahou's request.

**MOTION:** by Mr. LeMay, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve the LPN Program cost increase beginning 2024-2025 school year.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that the number of senior students participating in cooperative education employment opportunities reported as of November 30th has increased from 205 senior students to 250 senior students as of the night of the meeting which is 39% of the class of 2024.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that Greater Lowell was awarded a Federal Targeted Special Education Program Improvement Grant Award in the amount of \$20,498. These funds will be used for professional development and training regarding implementation for the new Individualized Education Program for our Special Education staff.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that Greater Lowell was awarded another grant; the CTE Partnership Implementation Grant in the amount of \$156,770. These funds will be used to supplement the After Dark Program by purchasing supplies for the Metal Fabrication, Joining & Welding technical area.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that Greater Lowell was awarded an anonymous grant award in the amount of \$415,000. These funds will be targeted toward the procurement of building trades, engineering, and automotive technology & repair equipment.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that she would be seeking their approval of the revised Admissions Policy, as well as the After Dark Program Admission Policy. She asked Ms. Lisa Martinez, the Director of Technology, Enrollment and Information to present the changes and answer any questions.

Ms. Martinez reminded the members that each year the admissions policy requires their approval. She noted there were no major revisions, with changes consisting only of wording and

clarification. Upon completion of reviewing the individual changes with members and answering a few clarifying questions, Ms. Martinez asked for their approval.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the Greater Lowell Admission Policy for the 2024-2025 school year.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

Ms. Martinez continued with the After Dark Program Admission Policy, noting there was only one change and again making it consistent with the Greater Lowell policy so it is the same.

Upon completion of review and questions pertaining to the After Dark Program from the committee, Ms. Martinez asked for their approval.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve the After Dark Program Admission Policy for the 2024-2025 school year.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

### **REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER**

School Business Administrator Michael Knight informed the committee that the Graphics DVC Department was looking for approval to dispose of a 25-year-old screen printing setup. The press is very old and has since been replaced by industry current equipment. It is not estimated to hold any real value due to its age and condition.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to authorize declaring the Workhorse Screen Printing Press surplus and move it to disposal.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

Mr. Knight informed the committee that he was looking for their approval to accept a donation of a display cabinet from the Sudbury Historic Society to be used in the library for student work displays.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the donation of a display cabinet from the Sudbury Historic Society.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

Mr. Knight provided the committee with an update on the building expansion project; noting there was a building expansion committee meeting held earlier in the evening to discuss the proposal received for the project. He informed the members that after a positive vote was received to move forward, he will now begin finalizing the contract and working with the proposer on record with the anticipation of having the new building open in August for the start of next school year.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Outstanding Items from Previous Meetings**

1. Superintendent's Wall (O'Hare)
2. Building Security (Sheehan)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

## **COMMITTEEPERSON MOTION**

There were no committeeperson motions.

## **REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

There were no reports of sub-committees.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Gitschier requested a motion to enter into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares – Greater Lowell Technical High School Committee v. Greater Lowell Regional Teachers Association – Appeals Court Case No. 23-P-220.

**MOTION:** by Mr. LeMay, seconded by Mr. Richardson to enter into executive session.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

Mr. Gitschier noted there would be no vote needed as a result of the executive session; therefore, he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

## **ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

Respectfully submitted,



Colette Edmonds  
Recording Secretary

**Meeting Documents:**

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval: November 16, 2023

November 2023 Cooperation Education Report

Copy of Special Education Program Improvement Grant Award Letter

Copy of CTE Partnership Implementation Grant Award Letter

Copy of Revised Admission Policy and After Dark Program Admission Policy

Copy of Memo from Mr. Knight regarding Surplus Equipment Disposal

Copy of Memo from Mr. Knight regarding donation approval

Year-to-Date Budget Report