



GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

January 19, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bahou called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

ROLL CALL

Members

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

Members Absent: Mr. Nocco

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director
Michael Barton, Assistant Superintendent/Principal
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator
David Bradley, Treasurer
Michael Maccaro, Legal Counsel
Recording Secretary

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

There was no public appearance.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Bahou welcomed the newly elected members of School Committee; Mr. Kelly Richardson – representing the Town of Dunstable, Mr. Ralph Hogan – representing the City of Lowell, and Mr. Steven Nocco – representing the Town of Tyngsboro.

REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Student Representative Nellie Chan provided an update of recently held clubs and sporting events.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: by Mr. LeMay, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the minutes from the meeting of December 15, 2022.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. Nocco)

REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. Nocco)

MOTION: by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve expenditures for the sum of \$5,338,532.14 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2114-M	dated 12-21-2022	Payroll # 2114M	3,861.07
Warrant 2114-C	dated 12-30-2022	Payroll # 883	1,297,230.86
Warrant 2115A	dated 1-13-2023	Payroll #885	1,148,119.89
Warrant 2114-1	dated 12-23-2022	Accounts Payable	640,159.04
Warrant 2115	dated 1-6-2023	Accounts Payable	265,380.93
Warrant 2115-1	dated 1-20-2023	Accounts Payable	1,145,148.17
Warrant 2114-6	dated 12-23-2022	Sales Use/Meals Tax	2,339.54
Warrant 2115-6	dated 1-20-2023	Sales Use/Meals Tax	2,052.59
Warrant 2115-4	dated 1-20-2023	Lowell Five Credit Card	3,197.20
Warrant 2114-5	dated 12-23-2022	Lowell Five Debit Card	9,515.13
Warrant 2115-3	dated 1-6-2023	Lowell Five Debit Card	3,213.84
Warrant 2115-5	dated 1-20-2023	Lowell Five Debit Card	9,515.23
Warrant 2115-2	dated 1-6-2023	Mass Bay Health	808,798.65

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. Nocco)

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL

There was no report of general counsel.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

Superintendent Davis began by informing the committee that Greater Lowell Tech was awarded an additional \$186,000 from the Commonwealth Corporation to run a second round of Adult Training. This grant opportunity will fund Electrical and Welding training for 24 participants this summer and for 12 Carpentry students in the Fall.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that Greater Lowell has been awarded a Career Technical Initiative Grant in the amount of \$144,000. Greater Lowell will provide training to 24 participants for Plumbing and Culinary positions. They will partner with Lenzi's, NEW ERA Plumbing and HVAC, Marcoux Plumbing and Heating, Inc., Stones Hospitality Group, The Yolk Grill, Owen and Ollies, Primo Pizza and Restaurant, and Middlesex 3 Coalition

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that the number of senior students participating in cooperative education employment opportunities reported as of December 30th increased from 174 senior students to 176 seniors as of the night of the meeting representing 33% of the class of 2023.

For the last item on the Superintendent's report, Ms. Davis asked Assistant Superintendent/ Principal - Mr. Barton to provide information regarding the out-of-state travel request and answer any questions before asking for approval. Asst. Superintendent/Principal Barton informed the committee that he was looking for approval to send Honors & AP Biology Instructor Aparna Sharma to the NSTA (National Science Teaching Association) Conference in Atlanta, GA from March 22nd- 25th. Mr. Barton noted that Ms. Sharma is not only the primary instructor for the AP Biology course, but is also the instructor who designed the course and supports her participation in the professional development event.

MOTION: by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the out-of-state travel request for Aparna Sharma to attend the NSTA Conference in Atlanta, GA.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. Nocco)

REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER

School Business Administrator Michael Knight began his list of agenda items with the SMART Boards surplus disposal. Mr. Knight informed the committee that the Media Department is moving forward with the replacement schedule based on the useful life cycle of approximately seven (7) years. There are currently seventeen (17) SMART boards that have reached their end of life; therefore, looking to declare surplus and move to the district disposal process. Due to the addition of a few new committee members, Mr. Knight reviewed the process for surplus disposal before asking for the committee's approval to declare the seventeen (17) SMART boards surplus.

MOTION: by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. LeMay to declare seventeen (17) SMART boards surplus and move to the disposal process.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. Nocco)

Mr. Knight moved to the next item on his agenda which was to declare the display cases that were removed from the recently renovated Culinary Café and have those declared surplus. The cases were approximately six (6) years old and after a quick value search, it appears they will hold a value high enough to have to go through the MGL Ch. 30b process for the sale/disposal of the items.

MOTION: by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to authorize declaring two (2) Federal CGR5042DZ display cases as surplus.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. Nocco)

Mr. Knight's last surplus agenda item was regarding Metal Fabrication equipment surplus. He informed the committee that the Metal Fabrication shop evaluated their equipment and found they had two items that were no longer in need of using or have already replaced an older item. The first piece of equipment is a nonfunctioning Comeq roller from 1998. It has an electrical issue and likely carries no value other than scrap metal. The second piece of equipment is a Tennsmith F696-12 96 inch heavy duty steel break. They have two of these in the shop and is not a common item currently

used; therefore, only one is needed in the shop. This machine carries value enough that will also need to follow Chapter 30b and auction or advertise for sale.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. LeMay to declare both pieces of equipment surplus.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. Nocco)

Mr. Knight informed the committee that he was seeking approval to establish a capital stabilization account as allowable by MGL c71 s 16 ½. He added this account would also need to be approved at each member town member and sent to city council for approval as well by statute. The funds in this account can accumulate up to 5% of the assessed value (approx. 16 million) to the member communities (5% of 16 million). Mr. Knight noted this fund would create long-range savings for larger capital items that we may have in the future which would also offset the assessed cost of the projects to our member communities. It allows us a way to move money away from restricted funds and move them into this capital stabilization fund so they can be used when needed. He added that when they're held in the individual program funds, they are restricted in the way they can be used. Mr. Knight also noted the funds would remain under the control of the School Committee and require a vote of 2/3s of the committee approving use. The account would be funded by charging the Adult Ed programs for services such as utilities, IT, custodial, and security, adding that they have not been charged for these services in past and have built cash balances which are otherwise restricted in use. By establishing this account, it would allow us to use these funds for the financial benefit of the member communities and be better prepared for future financial needs.

Mr. Hogan asked for information regarding the source of the funds and what effect monetarily would this have on the students. Mr. Knight briefly explained the funds would come from programs that we run outside our core (9-12 school) which include adult education programs, post-secondary program (LPN/Nursing). There is no impact on what the students are paying, rather becomes a financial mechanism to help the school utilize those funds for capital projects.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the establishment of a Capital Stabilization account for the Greater Lowell Technical High School District.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. Nocco)

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 was no report of sub-committees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Bahou requested two separate motions to enter into executive session. The first motion was to enter into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(2) – to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel – Teaching Assistant.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. Nocco)

The second motion was to enter in 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 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, 2181CV04292 and American Arbitration Association Case No 01-20-0000-1722.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to enter into executive session.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. Nocco)

Mr. Gitschier asked if there would be a potential vote on ratification discussed during executive session. Superintendent Davis responded possibly; therefore, the committee would be returning to open session.

MOTION: by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Giggey to recess.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. Nocco)

The meeting ended to go into Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. with a roll call vote of 7 present (1 Absent – Mr. Nocco).

The meeting reconvened at 7:46 p.m. with 7 members present, 1 absent (Mr. Nocco).

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve revising the Teaching Assistant position to a Lead Teaching Assistant for the RISE Program and advertising as proposed.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. Nocco)

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Hogan to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. Nocco)

Respectfully submitted,



Colette Edmonds
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents:

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval: December 15, 2022

Copy of Career Technical Initiative Grant Award Letter

December 2022 Cooperation Education Report

Copy of Out-of-State Travel

Year-to-Date Budget Report