



## GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

October 20, 2022-6:30 P.M.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

#### **ROLL CALL**

Members

Present: Mr. Morin, Mr. LeMay, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Gitschier, Mr. Giggey, Mr. Tatseos, Mr. Bahou

Members Absent: Mr. O'Hare

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director  
Michael Barton, Assistant Superintendent/Principal  
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator  
Erik Gitschier, Director of Plant Services  
Greg Haas, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
Alison Rihani, Director of Special Education  
Kathryn Palladino, Director of Language Acquisition  
Carol Chisolm, Math/Science Cluster Chair  
Paul Myette, ELA/Social Studies Cluster Chair  
David Bradley, Treasurer  
Recording Secretary

#### **PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

There was no public appearance.

#### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no School Committee communications.

#### **REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Chairman Bahou informed the members that the student representative was not available at tonight's meeting due to an athletic game commitment. He noted members were given a copy of the club/athletics highlights to review on their own.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Morin to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 15, 2022.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare)

**MOTION:** by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Morin to approve the minutes from the special meeting of September 15, 2022.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare)

**REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER**

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare)

**MOTION:** by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. LeMay to approve expenditures for the sum of \$5,799,477.21 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2111B	dated 09/21/2022	Payroll# 869	1,238,367.23
Warrant 2112A	dated 10/07/2022	Payroll # 871	1,177,702.72
Warrant 2112B	dated 10/21/2022	Payroll# 873	1,281,007.02
Warrant 2111-2	dated 09/30/2022	Accounts Payable	681,085.03
Warrant 2112-2	dated 10/07/2022	Canobie Lake Field Trip	9,799.00
Warrant 2112	dated 10/14/2022	Accounts Payable	562,890.37
Warrant 2112-3	dated 10/14/2022	Lowell Five Debit Card	674.55
Warrant 2111-10	dated 09/30/2022	Lowell Five Debit Card	214.75
Warrant 2112-4	dated 10/14/2022	Mass Bay Health	846,816.66
Warrant 2112-5	dated 10/14/2022	Sales Use/Meals Tax	919.88

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare)

**REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL**

There was no report of general counsel.

**REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR**

Superintendent Davis provided the members with a security/safety assessment update. Ms. Davis informed the committee that she and the Plant Services Director have researched and spoken with several businesses that provide full security/safety building assessment services. After reviewing the proposals, both Ms. Davis and Mr. Gitschier agreed to recommend moving forward with Smart Security Partners to conduct the assessment for Greater Lowell. Superintendent Davis introduced and invited security consultant Mr. Michael Gagnon from Smart Security Partners who was present at the meeting to provide the members with an overview of the security assessment process.

Mr. Gagnon's presentation included the company's background information, current certifications, as well as in-depth information regarding the school security assessment they provide. Mr. Gagnon informed the committee that the assessment is an objective and critical on-site evaluation that identifies risks, vulnerabilities or deficiencies, makes determinations, and provides recommendations. He referenced the primary components, which were environmental security, physical security, electronic security, and procedural security. After the process is completed, a security assessment report will be provided which identifies vulnerability areas and recommended solution(s) and given in terms of priority and the amount of risk for each one. School committeeman Giggey asked Mr. Gagnon what the timeframe for putting the assessment together. Mr. Gagnon responded two to four weeks dependent on the overall availability of those involved.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that the number of senior students participating in cooperative education employment opportunities reported as of September 30<sup>th</sup> has increased from 110 senior students to 134 senior students as of the night of the meeting, which represents 25% of the class of 2023.

Superintendent Davis provided a brief update on the General Health and Safety Practices and Protocols. She informed the committee members that Health and Medical day students, as well as LPN students, who go out on clinical to long-term care facilities are now required to get the new Bivalent Booster by December 1<sup>st</sup> in order to continue their participation.

For the next item on the Superintendent's report, Ms. Davis asked Lisa Martinez, the Director of Technology, Enrollment & Information to provide an enrollment update to the committee. Ms. Martinez presented the current enrollment data which included the total numbers broken down by grade level of active students, as well as the percentages for each grade in comparison. Current numbers as follows: 9<sup>th</sup> grade: 576; 10<sup>th</sup> grade: 595; 11<sup>th</sup> grade: 574; 12<sup>th</sup> grade: 538; and Special Population 'SP': 20 - totaling 2303 active students. In comparison of the enrollment data of the prior school year, Ms. Martinez noted we were currently meeting the school-wide goal for filling available 10<sup>th</sup> grade seats, as well as the retention of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Chairman Bahou asked Ms. Martinez if she could send a breakdown of the enrollment numbers by town to the members. Ms. Martinez responded she would do so.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that Greater Lowell is in the initial stages of applying for a planning grant to enter into a Chapter 74 After Dark partnership with Dracut. She added she would keep them informed of any updates as they occurred.

Ms. Davis asked the Assistant Superintendent/Principal - Michael Barton, along with the Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment - Mr. Gregory Haas to provide an MCAS Performance update. Also present were Alison Rihani, Carol Chisolm, Paul Myette, and Kathryn Palladino to provide clarification and feedback, if needed.

Mr. Haas' presentation included the MCAS data from the Spring 2022 administration, highlighting significant growth areas in ELA and Math in comparing 2019 and 2022 (pre-pandemic and post-pandemic). Mr. Haas noted Biology results were not comparable to prior years, as 2022 was the first administration of the next-generation test (computerized) but the data does provide a new baseline in

moving forward. Mr. Haas continued with the gains in individual student groups, highlighting the English Language Learner group in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics both scoring above the state average in meeting/exceeding expectations. Moving to the Special Education student group, Mr. Haas noted this group was the most impacted across the state due to the pandemic which made it difficult for these students to access the general education curriculum. Statewide, students with disabilities population seeing a loss; however, Greater Lowell saw major gains (12% above) with students with disabilities. Mathematics annually the most challenging and in comparison to 2019, we're still a little below, but slowly recovering and moving in the right direction. Additional information presented included data on low income students, racial and ethnic student populations. Moving on to the accountability ratings, Mr. Haas noted that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is calling this 2022 Accountability-light, as this is their first year back into accountability post-pandemic. For the calculation of the 2022 accountability percentile, two years of data was used which included 2019 data. This data impacted our overall accountability but will drop off next year when data will reflect 2022 and 2023. Overall, Greater Lowell saw an improvement in all Accountability Measures.

### **REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER**

Mr. Knight provided the committee with an explanation of the transfer requests within the various departments, noting the redesign of the layout which was done to make it easier to read, and asked for approval totaling in the amount of \$593,781.32.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Morin to approve the budget line item transfers.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare)

Mr. Knight provided an update from the Building Expansion Committee who recently met to discuss the project. As a result of that meeting, the committee now has a better handle on the timeline. Mr. Knight asked for a vote from the school committee to proceed with hiring CMS as the Owner's Project Manager (OPM), keeping within the limitations set by the members at the Building Expansion Committee meeting.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Lee Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Giggey to give the School Business Administrator - Michael Knight authorization to negotiate the contract agreement with CMS.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare)

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Chairman Bahou noted that during the October School Committee meeting, the committee had a discussion with the Superintendent to extend her contract by three (3) years, but neglected to ask the Superintendent publicly if she would accept. Superintendent Davis responded she would be honored to accept.

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

- 1.—Athletic Hall of Fame (O'Hare) (Mr. Gitschier has requested the Athletic Hall of Fame be removed from Old Business, as this event has now been reactivated.)
2. Superintendent's Wall (O'Hare)
3. Building Security (Giggey)

### **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 a motion to enter into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c 30A, Section 21(a)(4) - to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto.

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare)

Chairman Bahou requested a motion 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 - nonunion personnel.

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare)

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.

The meeting ended to go into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. with a roll call vote of 7 present (1 Absent - Mr. O'Hare).

The meeting reconvened at 8:46 p.m. with a roll call vote of 7 present, 1 absent (Mr. O'Hare).

Chairman Bahou stated they have become aware that the Recording Secretary to the School Committee was overlooked and did not receive a pay increase and discussed approving the same pay increase received by the collective bargaining units and all other staff within the building which resulted in 2.5%, 2.5% and 2.5%.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Tatseos to approve the pay increases for the Recording Secretary to the School Committee.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare}

Chairman Bahou noted the salary of the Superintendent's personal secretary was also discussed and looked at other executive secretaries to the Superintendents across the region and decided to adjust the salary to make it more comparable.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve a salary adjustment for the Executive/Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare}

## **ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Giggey to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare}

Respectfully submitted,



**CE**

Colette Edmonds  
Recording Secretary

### **Meeting Documents:**

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval: September 15, 2022, September 28, 2022

September 2022 Cooperation Education Report

Copy of MCAS Data Presentation

Budget Transfer Request

Year-to-Date Budget Report