

# GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING

March 22, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Giggey called the Public Hearing to order at 5:04 p.m.

Chairman Giggey stated in accordance with 940 CMR 29.10 (remote participation) adopted by the Greater Lowell Technical School Committee April 17, 2014, Committeeman LeMay and School Business Administrator – Michael Knight will be participating at tonight’s meeting remotely.

### ROLL CALL

Members

Present: Mr. Bahou, Mr. Tatseos, Mr. Morin, Mr. LeMay (5:14 arrival), Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Gitschier, Mr. Giggey

Members Absent: Mr. O’Hare

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director  
Michael Barton, Assistant Superintendent/Principal  
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator (Remotely)  
Recording Secretary

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to open the Public Hearing.

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

Superintendent Davis, along with School Business Administrator Michael Knight, presented an overview of the FY23 preliminary budget of \$53,310,415. The presentation began by noting that the proposed budget was developed based on the Governor’s House Budget Proposal, as well as data and input from administrators, teachers, parents, and community partners and centered around improving student achievement. She also included that the Massachusetts House, Senate and Governor approved a change in the state funding formula for public education which provides an investment of \$1.5 billion into schools over the next seven (7) years. The funding is aimed at tackling inequity, specifically for school districts with higher percentages of low-income students, English language learners and Special Education students in order to close the achievement gap. As a result, the base rate for a vocational student was increased \$744.93, the rate for a special education student was increased \$1,270.35 and the rate for ELL students was increased \$350.95. Low income categories

added in FY21 continue to be maintained in FY23 and places us in category 10; therefore, receiving \$5,842.64, which is an increase of \$673.70.

Superintendent Davis informed the members that the Budget includes more than 3,000,000 in additional spending, which is a 6.36% increase over this year's budget. She noted that this is year 2 of a 6-year SOA implementation; therefore, expecting roughly the same budget increase over the next four (4) years. Ms. Davis included that only 2% (\$289,918) of this is through our town assignments/minimum required contribution. She also noted that \$2,952,770 is all net school spending required funding that needs to be spent each year in addition to future budget increases.

School Business Administrator - Michael Knight gave an overview of the three (3) categories of revenue, via slide presentation, which include Excess & Deficiency, Assessment, and State Aid, noting the decrease in Transportation Reimbursement, as well as the increase in Chapter 70 aid.

Superintendent Davis reviewed budget priorities which included allocating staffing to address the achievement gap; keeping class size manageable; supporting inclusion; creating more effective student-teacher ratios; improving social-emotional well-being of students; professional development and coaching; technical equipment purchases; and supporting educational equity & opportunity.

Mr. Knight reviewed notable expenditure changes such as increases to retirement, as well as health/dental insurance and benefits, noting insurance costs continue to rise at a faster rate despite below market increase due to our position in the Mass Bay Health Trust. Mr. Knight also included we would not have excess transportation reimbursement in FY22 to reduce the cost needed to assess in FY23. The use of Excess and Deficiency was decreased from \$200,000 to \$100,000 and comes from the need to meet net school spending.

Superintendent Davis reviewed the proposed personnel expenditures. The additional personnel would allow for program improvements, high level instruction, & interventions based on increased enrollment and increased student needs and services to address gaps in learning. Proposed personnel outlined in the presentation included the following by department:

Human Resources	Coordinator of Talent Acquisition & HR Systems
Special Education	(3) instructors, (2) worksite aides, (1) school psychologist, (2) daily substitutes
ELE	Director of Language Acquisition, (2) instructors, (1) paraprofessional
Language Arts	(2) instructors
Social Studies	(1) instructor
Math	(1) instructor, (1) instructor/coach
Title I Reading	(1) paraprofessional
Science	(2) instructors
Hospitality	(1) instructor
Health Services	(1) school nurse
Physical Education	(1) instructor
Health	(1) instructor
HVAC	(1) instructor
School Counseling	(1) adjustment counselor

Maintenance	increase from part-time to full-time position
Security	increase from 10-month to 12-month position
Athletics	Asst. Cheer Coach, Asst. Cross Country Coach, Asst. Indoor Track Coach, Freshman Volleyball Coach

Mr. Knight continued by informing the committee that the use of Excess and Deficiency was decreased to \$100,000 and comes from the need to meet net school spending. This is to maintain balance in the event contingencies come up for future capital projects and construction.

Chairman Giggey asked if there were any public participants wishing to speak on the FY23 budget. There was no one to speak on the FY23 budget. Ms. Davis noted the vote on the preliminary FY23 Budget would take place in open session during the regular School Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Bahou to close the Public Hearing at 5:38 p.m.

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

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Giggey called the school committee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. following a recess after the Public Hearing and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Chairman Giggey stated in accordance with 940 CMR 29.10 (remote participation) adopted by the Greater Lowell Technical School Committee April 17, 2014, Committeeman LeMay and School Business Administrator – Michael Knight will be participating at tonight's meeting remotely.

### **ROLL CALL**

Members

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

**Members Absent:** Mr. O'Hare

Also

**Present:** Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director  
Michael Barton, Assistant Superintendent/Principal  
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator (Remotely)  
Recording Secretary

### **PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

There was no public appearance.

Chairman Giggey made a request to the members to go out of order on the agenda and hear from the School Business Administrator at this time. Mr. Giggey requested a roll call.

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

### **REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER**

Mr. Knight informed the committee that the Medical Assisting Department has a Burdick Eclipse EKG machine that is fifteen (15) years old and reached its useful life. A replacement machine has already been purchased and is requesting to dispose of the old existing unit to free up space.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Giggey, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the disposal of the Burdick Eclipse LE EKG Machine.

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

Mr. Knight requested approval of the transfer requests totaling in the amount of \$700,899.06.

**MOTION:** by Mr. LeMay, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the budget line item transfers totaling \$700,899.06.

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

Mr. Knight spoke briefly to the committee, noting the Public Hearing on the proposed FY23 budget that occurred prior to the start of the School Committee meeting. With no further questions pending, he asked for approval of the proposed FY23 budget as presented at the Public Hearing.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the presented FY23 budget of \$53,310,415.

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

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no School Committee communications

### **REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Student Representative Thomas Sperounis provided an update of recently held clubs and sporting events.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Tatseos to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 17, 2022.

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

**REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER**

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

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

**MOTION:** by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve expenditures for the sum of \$4,443,120.31 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2104B	dated 2/25/2022	Payroll # 839	1,287,128.31
Warrant 2105A	dated 3/11/2022	Payroll # 841	1,035,688.16
Warrant 2105	dated 3/4/2022	Accounts Payable	711,953.85
Warrant 2105-1	dated 3/18/2022	Accounts Payable	622,534.18
Warrant 2105-2	dated 3/4/2022	Mass Bay Health	772,406.69
Warrant 2105-7	dated 3/18/2022	Sales Use/Meals Tax	1,226.85
Warrant 2105-5	dated 3/18/2022	Lowell Five Credit Card Fees	1,550.21
Warrant 2105-4	dated 3/18/2022	Dotcom Communications	236.60
Warrant 2105-3	dated 3/4/2022	Lowell Five Debit Card	8,470.12
Warrant 2105-6	dated 3/18/2022	Lowell Five Debit Card	1,925.34

**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 informed the committee that Greater Lowell was awarded a Skills Capital Grant in the amount of \$200,000 for Metal Fabrication and Advanced Manufacturing to upgrade their tools and equipment to meet industry standards.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that Greater Lowell was also awarded a Benchmark Grant funded by the Enterprise Holdings Foundation through the Collision Repair Education Foundation in the amount of \$2,500. The funds will be used to purchase tools for the Auto Collision shop.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that Greater Lowell Technical High School entered into a partnership with the MassHire Lowell Career Center and a contract was executed in the amount of

\$22,285. Greater Lowell will provide a Certified Nurse Assistant Program after school for up to ten (10) enrollees between March 2022 and June 2022.

Superintendent Davis asked for the Committee's approval to accept a \$4,124 donation from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation grant made possible through the recommendation of donor-advised funds. Of the \$4,124 donated, \$1,000 was donated from the Merrimack Valley Rotary Club for the Lawrence L. Day Memorial Scholarship Fund for tools scholarship(s) and \$3,124 from Mark & Elisia Saab for the GLTHS Student Activities Fund to provide annual support for student activities.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Tatseos, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to accept the \$4,124 donation from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation Grant on behalf of the Merrimack Valley Rotary Club and Mark & Elisia Saab.

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

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that the number of students (senior and junior) participating in cooperative education employment opportunities reported as of February 28<sup>th</sup> increased from 204 students to 220 students as of the night of the meeting.

Superintendent Davis provided a brief update on the General Health and Safety Practices and Protocols. She began by informing the committee members that on February 25, 2022, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education announced that the CDC no longer required that masks be worn on school buses or vans for K-12 students. As a result, beginning February 28, 2022, students no longer were required to wear a mask when riding the school bus. Ms. Davis noted that any member of our school community who chooses to continue to wear a mask will be supported in that choice. Ms. Davis also included that beginning February 28, 2022, Greater Lowell shifted to the new COVID-19 testing program. Test kits are distributed bi-weekly to staff and students who opted into the program. She noted that as part of this shift, Test and Stay and contact tracing for in-school close contacts was discontinued.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

1. Policy Sub-Committee and the Superintendent develop a District Wellness Policy for the school that may include the distribution of condoms to students. (Boutin)
2. Athletic Hall of Fame (O'Hare)
3. Superintendent's Wall (O'Hare)
4. Superintendent examine feasibility regarding card swipe security for each employee and associated cost to implement same. (Giggey)
5. Superintendent research the probability of adding modular classrooms to the campus to develop comprehensive academic programs at Greater Lowell Technical High School.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Giggey stated that it was time for the annual re-organization of the Board to be effective April 1, 2022.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Giggey, seconded by Mr. LeMay to nominate Mr. Bahou for Chairman.

Chairman Giggey asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, he stated that nominations were closed.

**BALLOT VOTE:** Number of votes cast was 7 (1 Absent – Mr. O’Hare). Mr. Bahou received 7.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Tatseos to nominate Mr. Gitschier for Vice Chairman.

Chairman Giggey asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, he stated that nominations were closed.

**BALLOT VOTE:** Number of votes cast was 7 (1 Absent – Mr. O’Hare). Mr. Gitschier received 7.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Giggey, seconded by Mr. LeMay to nominate Mr. Sheehan for Secretary.

Chairman Giggey asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, he stated that nominations were closed.

**BALLOT VOTE:** Number of votes cast was 7 (1 Absent – Mr. O’Hare). Mr. Sheehan received 7.

## **COMMITTEEPERSON MOTION**

There were no committeeperson motions.

## **REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2022 and March 8, 2022 Finance Sub-Committee meetings.

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

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Giggey 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 – Paraeducators and Support Staff.

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

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

The meeting ended to go into Executive Session at 6:52 p.m. with a roll call vote of 7 present (1 absent – Mr. O'Hare).

The meeting reconvened at 6:58 p.m. with a roll call vote of 7 present (1 absent – Mr. O'Hare).

**MOTION:** by Mr. Tatseos, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the 3-year contract for the Greater Lowell Paraeducator Organization for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024 with a 2.5% salary increase for each of the 3 years.

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

**MOTION:** by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Greater Lowell Technical High School School Committee and the Greater Lowell Educational Support Staff

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

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Tatseos, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Colette Edmonds

Recording Secretary

**Meeting Documents:**

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval:

February 17, 2022, March 8, 2022

Copy of Skills Capital Grant Award Notification

Copy of Enterprise Holdings Foundation Benchmark Grant Award Notification

Copy of MassHire Lowell Career Center Partnership Letter

Copy of Greater Lowell Community Foundation Donation Letter

February 2022 Cooperation Education Report

Budget Transfer Request

Year-to-Date Budget Report