

# GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

February 17, 2022 – 6:30 P.M.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Giggey called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m. 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 O'Hare and Committeeman LeMay will be participating at tonight's meeting remotely.

### **ROLL CALL**

Members

Present: Mr. Tatseos, Mr. Morin, Mr. O'Hare, Mr. LeMay, Mr. Gitschier, Mr. Bahou, Mr. Giggey

Members Absent: Mr. Sheehan

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director  
Michael Barton, Assistant Superintendent/Principal  
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator  
David Bradley, District Treasurer (remote)  
Recording Secretary

### **PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

There was no public appearance.

### **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. Morin, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 20, 2022.

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

## **REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER**

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

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

**MOTION:** by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve expenditures for the sum of \$4,213,294.69 allocated as follows:

|                |                |                              |              |
|----------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Warrant 2103-B | dated 01/28/22 | Payroll #835                 | 1,169,732.26 |
| Warrant 2104-A | dated 02/11/22 | Payroll #837                 | 1,058,563.97 |
| Warrant 2104   | dated 02/04/22 | Accounts Payable             | 408,700.23   |
| Warrant 2104-1 | dated 02/18/22 | Accounts Payable             | 812,102.46   |
| Warrant 2104-3 | dated 02/04/22 | Mass Bay Health              | 759,292.31   |
| Warrant 2104-2 | dated 02/04/22 | Sales Use / Meals Tax        | 1,694.19     |
| Warrant 2104-4 | dated 02/04/22 | Lowell Five Credit Card Fees | 1,278.80     |
| Warrant 2104-5 | dated 02/18/22 | Dotcom Communications        | 132.40       |
| Warrant 2104-6 | dated 02/18/22 | Sales Use / Meals Tax Jan 22 | 1,414.10     |
| Warrant 2104-7 | dated 02/18/22 | Lowell Five Debit Card       | 383.97       |

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

## **REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL**

There was no report of general counsel.

## **REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR**

Superintendent Davis began by asking Assistant Superintendent/Principal Michael Barton to join her in recognizing a team of four (4) students (Trevor Brown, Evan Phoumyvong, Samiullah Sultani, and Seyla Var) from the Engineering Program that were recently announced as winners of a NASA-sponsored National High School Competition to test a project on a NASA rocket. These students were awarded \$1,500 to develop their project for their rocket test this spring. Ms. Davis and Mr. Barton presented the students with a Certificate of Appreciation for their innovation and best wishes in the development of their project.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that the number of senior students participating in cooperative education employment opportunities reported as of January 31st has increased from 171 senior students to 181 senior students as of the night of the meeting, which represents approximately

38% of the class of 2022. Ms. Davis also noted that there were also 14 junior students also participating in cooperative education employment opportunities as well.

Superintendent Davis provided the following update on the General Health and Safety Practices and Protocols. She began by informing the committee members that on February 9, 2022 the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education announced the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education would not be renewing the State Mask Requirement after it expires on February 28, 2022. The Commonwealth's high vaccination rates and widespread availability of COVID-19 testing for school personnel and students supported their decision. Ms. Davis included the Commissioner would continue to monitor public health data, consult with medical experts and state health officials, and issue further guidance and/or requirements as needed. Ms. Davis stated as a result, beginning February 28<sup>th</sup>, the students and staff would no longer be required to wear a mask in the school building, although any member of our school community who wishes to continue to wear a mask, would be supported in that choice. Ms. Davis added that it was important to note that all students and staff would still be required to wear a mask on a school bus, as this remains a federal order.

Superintendent Davis provided an update regarding the new statewide testing program option. As a result of the feedback received from staff and families and based on our close contact and test and stay data, over 70% responded to shift. Ms. Davis also included that our data showed that the majority of our close contacts in our 'Test & Stay' were negative. Therefore, the decision was made to shift to the new statewide testing program recommended by DESE beginning February 28, 2022. Any student or staff regardless of vaccination status can opt in to participate via the opt-in form distributed to staff and families via docu-sign. Superintendent Davis continued with participants who opt in the program will be given a test kit biweekly, each containing two tests. These participants are asked to take the test before reporting to school each Monday and to report positive results only to one of the school nurses. Ms. Davis included that in addition to the at-home antigen test kit, symptomatic testing for those students and/or staff who get sick while at school, as well as pool testing, will continue. Test and Stay and contact tracing for in-school close contacts will be discontinued. Superintendent Davis noted this new at-home testing opportunity is voluntary and only those who opt-in will receive tests. Ms. Davis also noted that current mitigation strategies would continue which include voluntary vaccination clinics, maintaining good hand hygiene and good cleaning practices, as well as, maintaining our ventilation and HVAC System and staying home when sick.

### **REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER**

Mr. Knight provided the committee with a brief explanation of the transfer requests within the various departments and asked for approval totaling in the amount of \$174,684.00

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

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

## **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**

There was no new business.

## **COMMITTEEPERSON MOTION**

There were no committeeperson motions.

## **REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

Finance Sub-Committee Chairman Bahou commented that the sub-committee met earlier in the evening to review the proposed FY23 budget. Due to time constraints, the sub-committee will be meeting again to finish the proposal and will elaborate more at the next school committee meeting.

## **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 – Support Staff.

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

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

Mr. Giggey noted that votes on ratification of any contract(s) discussed will be taken in open session after Executive Session.

The meeting ended to go into Executive Session at 7:11 p.m. with a roll call vote of 7 present, 1 Absent (Mr. Sheehan).

The meeting reconvened at 8:30 p.m. with a roll call vote of 6 present, 2 Absent (Mr. Sheehan, Mr. O'Hare).

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Sheehan, Mr. O’Hare)

**MOTION:** by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Tatseos to move the Public Hearing for the FY23 Budget and the School Committee Meeting to March 22, 2022.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Sheehan, Mr. O’Hare)

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Tatseos to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Sheehan, Mr. O’Hare)

Respectfully submitted,

  
Colette Edmonds  
Recording Secretary

**Meeting Documents:**

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval:

January 20, 2021

January 2022 Cooperation Education Report

Budget Transfer Request

Year-to-Date Budget Report