

# GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

January 20, 2022 – 6:30 P.M.

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Giggey called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 will be participating at tonight's meeting remotely.

### ROLL CALL

Members

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

Members Absent: Mr. Tatseos, Mr. Bahou (not present at the time of roll call, arrived @ 6:38 p.m.)

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 a virtual update of recently held clubs and sporting events.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. LeMay to approve the minutes from the meeting of December 16, 2021.

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

## **REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER**

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

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

**MOTION:** by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve expenditures for the sum of \$4,902,587.14 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2102-V	dated 12/16/21	Payroll #831	(2,212.41)
Warrant 2102-C	dated 12/31/21	Payroll #831	1,172,787.95
Warrant 2103-A	dated 01/14/22	Payroll #833	1,001,335.40
Warrant 2102-1	dated 12/23/21	Accounts Payable	910,352.25
Warrant 2103	dated 01/07/22	Accounts Payable	419,662.87
Warrant 2103-2	dated 01/07/22	Mass Bay Health	757,077.03
Warrant 2103-3	dated 01/21/22	Sales Use / Meals Tax	1,388.28
Warrant 2103-4	dated 01/21/22	Lowell Five Credit Card Fees	\$2,315.12
Warrant 2103-5	dated 01/21/22	Lowell Five Debit Card	\$993.00
Warrant 2103-1	dated 01/21/22	Accounts Payable	\$638,887.65

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

## **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 a Career and Technical Education Partnership Planning Grant in the amount of \$14,475. The grant award will be used to plan for After Dark for the 2022-2023 school year and we will be moving forward with Information Technology and Automotive Technology and are planning to add HVAC-R.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that the number of senior students participating in cooperative education employment opportunities reported as of December 31<sup>st</sup> has increased from 164 senior students to 170 senior students as of the night of the meeting, which represents approximately 33% of the class of 2022.

Superintendent Davis provided the following update on the General Health and Safety Practices and Protocols.

- On December 30<sup>th</sup>, the protocols for responding to COVID-19 were updated and the General Health & Safety Practices and Protocols have been updated to reflect these changes and are currently posted on our school website. The changes included:
  - a reduction in the isolation period for symptomatic individuals who test positive from ten (10) days to five (5) with a return on day six (6) if without fever and improvement in other symptoms, as well as masking for five (5) additional days when around others.
  - Asymptomatic close contacts who are part of the Test & Stay program can remain in school as long as asymptomatic and take rapid antigen test for five (5) days, previously seven (7).
  - Asymptomatic close contacts who are not part of Test & Stay program must isolate for five (5) days (previously seven (7)) and return on day six (6) if asymptomatic and monitor for symptoms through day ten (10).
- On January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Governor issued a public health emergency order which will go into effect on February 29<sup>th</sup>. This order may impact some our students in the Health and Medical programs out on Clinical and/or Co-Op at long-term health facilities, home care, and hospitals making eligible personnel required to get a booster.
- On January 10<sup>th</sup>, the Commissioner of Education extended the mask mandated through February 28<sup>th</sup>.
- On January 18<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Secondary Education, Department of Public Health, and Executive Office of Health and Human Services introduced a new COVID-19 testing program option. After their review of statewide testing program data in over 2,000 schools, the data revealed test positivity rates in Test & Stay indicate individuals identified as close contacts in school are very unlikely to contract or spread COVID. As a result, they are recommending a new COVID testing option to optimize in-person learning. Schools can now choose to continue what we are currently doing or choose to eliminate the Test & Stay and contact tracing portions and be supplied at-home rapid antigen testing kits to be distributed to students and staff who opted in to be used at home weekly with positive results required to be reported to school and their physician. Schools are given the between January 21, 2022 and April 1, 2022 to opt into this new program. Superintendent Davis noted that due to the very recent notification of this information, she recommended that it would be important for us to look at our own school data, survey our school community members, and discuss at the following school committee meeting before a decision to shift is made. The committee members agreed with Superintendent Davis' recommendation and follow-up discussion will be held at the February school committee meeting.

Ms. Davis asked Mr. Michael Barton, the Assistant Superintendent/Principal and Chair of our Spring 2021 NEASC Accreditation to join us to provide the committee with an update on the NEASC final report.

Asst. Superintendent/Principal Barton began by providing the committee with a brief explanation of the mission of the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) and their accreditation process. He noted that, due to the COVID pandemic, our accreditation process took nearly three (3) years to complete and their program was conducted entirely online. Mr. Barton praised the Steering Committee, as well as the numerous staff involved for their tremendous efforts and time spent on the planning and preparation.

Mr. Barton continued his presentation by summarizing the commendations and recommendations listed in the final report as follows:

**Commendations:**

- The core values of Respect, Effort, Accountability, Commitment, and Honesty (REACH), that were created by all stakeholders, are embedded in all aspects of the school community, which have reduced the number of discipline issues and office referrals.
- The welcoming and inclusive culture that supports high expectations for teaching and learning within a safe and positive environment.
- The wide range of targeted interventions for students such as the RISE program, the TOPs program, MCAS boot camps, after-school and summer programs, home tutoring and on-line courses which provide all students with an equal opportunity to achieve the school's learning objectives.
- The community and the district's governing body consistently providing dependable funding to support the school's mission.

**Recommendations:**

- Create and implement a plan to provide sufficient space to address overcrowding issues due to increased enrollment.
- Continue work in curriculum updating to include the use of common assessments and school-wide writing and associated rubrics.
- Create opportunities for instructors to collaborate on best practices both in discipline and across disciplines to promote school-wide learning expectations
- Continue the development of common assessments in both trade and academic areas to support a vertically and horizontally aligned curriculum.

**REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER**

Mr. Knight informed the committee that he was seeking their approval for disposal of an older Challenge brand drill press and a Hohner brand stitching machine. He informed the members that these machines are a safety concern with components are not working as they should and replacements are being ordered with all working safety features.

**MOTION:** by Mr. LeMay, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the disposal of the Challenge drill press and the Hohner stitching machine.

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

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 \$480,501.00

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

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

## **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**

There was no report of sub-committees.

## **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 – Administrators.

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. Tatseos), 1 Abstain (Mr. Gitschier)

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 7:39 p.m. with a roll call vote of 7 present, 1 absent (Mr. Tatseos).

The meeting reconvened at 8:05 p.m. with a roll call vote of 6 present, 2 absent (Mr. Tatseos, Mr. O'Hare).

**MOTION:** by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Morin to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Greater Lowell Technical High School School Committee and the Greater Lowell Technical High School Administrators Association.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 5 Yes, 1 Abstain (Mr. Gitschier), 2 Absent (Mr. Tatseos, Mr. O'Hare)

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. LeMay to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
Colette Edmonds  
Recording Secretary

**Meeting Documents:**

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval:

December 16, 2021

Copy of Career and Technical Education Partnership Planning Grant Award Letter

December 2021 Cooperation Education Report

Copy of NEASC Report Presentation

Memo from Mr. Knight regarding Equipment Disposal

Memo from Mr. Knight regarding Budget Transfers

Year-to-Date Budget Report