

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

November 18, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Giggey called the meeting to order at 6:34 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 Gitschier will be participating at tonight's meeting remotely.

ROLL CALL

Members

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

Members Absent: None

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director
Michael Barton, Assistant Superintendent/Principal
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator
Gregory Haas, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Kate Palladino, ELA, ELE and Social Studies Cluster Chair
Carol Chisolm, Math and Science Cluster Chair
Alison Rihani, Director of Special Education
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. LeMay to approve the minutes from the meeting of October 21, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Bahou to approve expenditures for the sum of \$4,377,334.58 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2101-A	dated 11/05/21	Payroll #823	1,119,153.30
Warrant 2101-B	dated 11/19/21	Payroll #825	1,170,891.55
Warrant 2100-2	dated 10/29/21	Accounts Payable	672,777.22
Warrant 2100-4	dated 10/29/21	Mass Bay Health	769,026.33
Warrant 2100-5	dated 10/29/21	Sales Use/Meals Tax	598.82
Warrant 2100-6	dated 10/29/21	Dotcom Communications	164.70
Warrant 2100-7	dated 10/29/21	Lowell Five Debit Card	886.60
Warrant 2101	dated 11/12/21	Accounts Payable	\$636,901.03
Warrant 2101-2	dated 11/12/21	Lowell Five Debit Card	\$2,029.01
Warrant 2101-3	dated 11/12/21	Lowell Five Credit Card Fees	\$3,503.39
Warrant 2101-5	dated 11/12/21	Sales Use/Meals Tax	\$1,242.93
Warrant 2101-6	dated 11/12/21	Dotcom Communications	\$159.70

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

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 has been awarded a Targeted Assistance Grant in the amount of \$15,000 which will be used for improving outcomes for those subgroups of students who are struggling.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that the number of senior students participating in cooperative education employment opportunities reported as of October 30th has increased from 120 senior students to 138 senior students as of the night of the meeting, which represents 27% of the class of 2022.

Superintendent Davis provided an update on the General Health and Safety Practices and Protocols. On October 26, 2021, the Commissioner of Education extended the mask mandate through at least

January 15, 2022. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will continue to review and consider additional metrics to determine when individuals in schools would no longer be subject to the mask requirement and notification would be made of any changes. In addition, Ms. Davis made note that we continue to mark our progress toward the 80% vaccination rate threshold for all students and staff in the school, as well as the beginning of Pool testing for registered students and staff.

Ms. Davis asked the Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment – Mr. Gregory Haas to provide an MCAS Performance update. Also present were Michael Barton, Alison Rihani, Carol Chisolm, and Kathryn Palladino to provide clarification and feedback, if needed.

Mr. Haas' presentation included the MCAS data from the Spring of 2020-2021 administration, highlighting areas needing continued improvement, as well as areas to celebrate. In terms of all students overall, Greater Lowell did fairly well comparatively, noting that statewide there was significant loss due to the pandemic. Areas of growth in ELA included overall, students Exceeding Expectations or Meeting Expectations up 15% from 2019; in Math, EL and former EL cohort performance above state average, Asian cohort up 8%, Hispanic cohort up 3%; and in Biology, 88% of student performance Proficient or Advanced outperforming the state average. Areas to grow highlighted strategies specific to the content areas of ELA, Mathematics, Biology, as well as school-wide. Mr. Haas noted that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education did not issue school, district, or state accountability determinations in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the current accountability report reflects 2019. Greater Lowell's overall classification remains at Not Requiring Assistance or Intervention, as moderate progress toward targets progress toward improvement targets is being made.

Ms. Davis asked the ELA/ELE and Social Studies Cluster Chair – Ms. Kate Palladino to provide an EL Program update. Mrs. Palladino's presentation consisted of EL Program data, as well as ACCESS testing results data. Currently, the EL program includes 199 students with a majority of students testing at the advanced level. Areas of growth included a 60% increase of students who FLEP'd (exited program), positive movement in intermediate and advanced category, as well as a decrease in EL dropout rate. Areas for improvement include minimal progress for levels 1 and 2 upper-class students, as well as lack of intermediate level movement in some long-term EL students.

REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER

Mr. Knight presented a new FY22 budget update to the committee. He informed the members that when the state finalized their budget in July, there was significant changes to the funding and budget for Greater Lowell. As a result, this also changed the minimal local contributions required from our member communities, resulting in an increase for the towns of Dunstable and Dracut. To offset that increase, we were able to utilize the additional funds provided for reimbursement of transportation, as well as money moved into the transportation revolving account last year. This allowed the assessments across the board to remain equal for all member communities or at a reduction to avoid asking them to reapprove budgets in their own municipalities due to the change in the state funding formula. Additional updates included salary budget adjustments due to settled contracts, retirements, newly hired staff, etc. Mr. Knight noted that detailed line by line changes with brief descriptions of the changes, along with the budget information showing the changes in assessment and expenditure by category were also provided.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Morin to approve the new FY22 Budget.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6 Yes (Mr. O'Hare no longer present due to connectivity difficulties; therefore, unable to vote) (Mr. LeMay exited meeting prior to vote at 6:55 p.m.)

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Mr. Giggey noted there would no votes needed in open session after Executive Session.

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Morin to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Colette Edmonds
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents:

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval:

October 21, 2021

Copy of Targeted Assistance Grant Award

October 2021 Cooperation Education Report

Copy of MCAS Data Presentation

Copy of EL Program Data Presentation

Copy of Revised FY22 Budget

Year-to-Date Budget Report