

# GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

October 21, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Giggey called the meeting to order at 6:29 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. Sheehan, Mr. Gitschier, Mr. Bahou, Mr. Tatseos, Mr. Morin, Mr. O'Hare, Mr. LeMay, Mr. Giggey

Members Absent: None

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director  
Michael Barton, Assistant Superintendent/Principal  
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator  
Lisa Martinez, Director of Technology, Enrollment & Information  
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. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 16, 2021.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

**REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER**

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

**MOTION:** by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve expenditures for the sum of \$5,069,380.13 allocated as follows:

|                |                |                        |              |
|----------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Warrant 2099-B | dated 09/24/21 | Payroll #817           | 1,115,710.37 |
| Warrant 2100-A | dated 10/08/21 | Payroll #819           | 1,027,396.06 |
| Warrant 2100-B | dated 10/22/21 | Payroll #821           | 1,142,417.62 |
| Warrant 2100   | dated 10/01/21 | Accounts Payable       | 565,634.95   |
| Warrant 2100-1 | dated 10/15/21 | Accounts Payable       | 459,504.68   |
| Warrant 2100-3 | dated 10/01/21 | Mass Bay Health        | 753,721.45   |
| Warrant 2100-4 | dated 10/15/21 | Lowell Five Debit Card | 3,995.00     |

**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 \$500 grant on behalf of the Collision Repair Education Foundation Grant Award for student fees for the I-CAR curriculum.

Superintendent Davis asked for the committee’s approval to accept the donation of a 2014 Hyundai Elantra Sedan to the Automotive Technology shop from Mr. William Lewis to use as an educational tool within the program.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. LeMay to approve the donation of the 2014 Hyundai Elantra Sedan.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

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 87 senior students to 114 senior students as of the night of the meeting, which represents 22% of the class of 2022.

Superintendent Davis provided an update on the General Health and Safety Practices and Protocols. On September 27, 2021, the Commissioner of Education extended the mask mandate through at least November 1, 2021. In addition, as of October 15, 2021, if a school demonstrates a vaccination rate of 80% or more of all students and staff in the school, then vaccinated individuals in the school would no longer be subject to the mask requirement. However, Ms. Davis noted unvaccinated students and staff would continue to be required to wear masks in alignment with statewide guidance. Ms. Davis included that the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education will continue to work with medical experts and state health officials to review and consider additional metrics to determine when individuals in schools would no longer be subject to the mask requirement. Chairman Giggey asked if we've reached or were close to the 80% threshold. Ms. Davis responded we are not. Superintendent Davis noted; however, we are still in the process of collecting this information, as students and staff have been asked to bring proof of vaccination for verification to the school nurse.

For the next item on Superintendent's report, Ms. Davis asked Lisa Martinez, the Director of Technology, Enrollment & Information to provide an enrollment update to the committee. Ms. Martinez began by presenting 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: 595; 10<sup>th</sup> grade: 593; 11<sup>th</sup> grade: 564; 12<sup>th</sup> grade: 527; and Special Population 'SP': 18 – totaling 2297 active students. Committeeman Bahou inquired about the numbers for juniors and seniors being slightly lower than the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. Ms. Martinez noted that, particularly this year, there were a significant number of students in those particular grades who withdrew due to moving out of state or out of district. Ms. Martinez also provided the current number of students on the wait-list which included 386 students for 9<sup>th</sup> grade and 59 students for 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Ms. Martinez included a slide of the wait-list data fields required to be submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education twice a year. She reviewed the individual fields broken down into the following categories: Directory Information (name, dob, town, grade, etc.), Component Scores (attendance, academic, discipline, counselor recommendation), Eligibility (total application/component score, complete application?), and Admissions & Waitlist (student offered admission, student accepts, waitlist). Upon being asked what the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does with this information, Ms. Martinez responded that the Department of Education compiles the information and sends the data back to us which is then used to look for trends and track that data to ensure that our admission policy is equitable. Committeeman Bahou asked how many applications were submitted. Ms. Martinez responded that currently there were 1,349 9<sup>th</sup> grade applications and 137 10<sup>th</sup> grade applications.

Chairman Giggey asked about the admissions criteria and if there were weighted areas. Ms. Martinez responded that the rubric consists of 30% attendance, 30% academic, 30% discipline and 10 points for a guidance recommendation. Ms. Martinez also noted that with the new admissions policy standards, the admissions process will change and is currently being updated. Ms. Davis informed the committee that once the updated admissions policy has been finalized, they will be provided with an updated report and will be submitted to the committee for approval.

Superintendent Davis asked the Asst. Superintendent/Principal – Michael Barton to provide a brief overview of the out-of-state professional development requests submitted for approval. Mr. Barton informed the committee that there were three separate requests needing approval. The first was for Early Childhood Education instructor Susan O’Hare to attend an OSHA Trainer Update Course in Manchester, NH from December 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup>. The course is required for renewal of Ms. O’Hare OSHA Trainer License which authorizes her to provide OSHA 10-Hour Card programs to students in the ECE program. Mr. Barton noted that the training site that handles this area is Keene State in Manchester, NH with a cost of \$795 for the course.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the out-of-state travel for Early Childhood Education instructor Susan O’Hare.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 7 Yes, 1 Abstain (G. O’Hare)

Mr. Barton continued with the next request for Mathematics instructors Helen Sullivan and Special Education instructor Andrea Collins to attend a seminar “Making Best Use of DESMOS to Strengthen Your Math Instruction” also in Manchester, NH. Mr. Barton informed the committee that the seminar is to train the instructors in the use of the Desmos online calculator and activity builder lessons tool to enhance learning and instruction for their students.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. LeMay to approve the out-of-state travel for Math instructor Helen Sullivan and Special Education instructor Andrea Collins.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

Mr. Barton informed the committee that the last request was for Science instructors Alex Eden and Tara Alcorn to attend and present at the National Association of Biology Teachers’ Conference in Atlanta Georgia from November 11<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Barton included that Mr. Eden would be showcasing an interactive ecology project developed and implemented at Greater Lowell including what his students were able to accomplish and Ms. Alcorn would be presenting research on engaging students in citizen science through the Harvard Forests’ Hemlock Woolly Adelgid program. Both instructors would also be attending multiple professional development sessions to improve their own practice and content knowledge to support them in their areas. The conference, although runs from November 11<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>, would only affect the school day of November 12<sup>th</sup>, as the 11<sup>th</sup> is a holiday and the 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> fall on the weekend.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. LeMay to approve the out-of-state travel for Science instructors Tara Alcorn and Alexander Eden.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

### **REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER**

There was no report of business manager.

## **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.

## **ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

Respectfully submitted,



Colette Edmonds  
Recording Secretary

### **Meeting Documents:**

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval:

September 16, 2021

Copy of Collision Repair Education Foundation Grant Award

Copy of Donation Letter

September 2021 Cooperation Education Report

Year-to-Date Budget Report