

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

May 20, 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 Student Representative Karen Vinal will be participating at tonight's meeting remotely. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted.

ROLL CALL

Members

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

Members Absent: Mr. Bahou (was not present at the time of roll call, but arrived @ 7:00 p.m.)

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director
Michael Barton, Assistant Superintendent/Principal
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator
Stacy Bezanson, Director of Cooperative Education
Tracy Encarnacao, Director of Guidance and Counseling Services
Lisa Martinez, Director of Technology, Enrollment & Information
David Bradley, District Treasurer (participating remotely)
Recording Secretary

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Chairman Giggey stated the public appearance portion was suspended and going right into the meeting.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

There were no School Committee communications

REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Student Representative Karen Vinal provided an update of upcoming and recently held clubs and sporting events.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the minutes from the meeting of April 15, 2021.

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

REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER

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

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

MOTION: by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve expenditures for the sum of \$5,241,963.33 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2094-B	dated 04/23/21	Payroll #795	1,155,819.67
Warrant 2095-A	dated 05/07/21	Payroll #797	942,231.65
Warrant 2095-B	dated 05/21/21	Payroll #799	1,092,990.25
Warrant 2095-M	dated 05/21/21	Payroll #799	810.00
Warrant 2094-2	dated 04/30/21	Accounts Payable	692,240.29
Warrant 2095	dated 05/14/21	Accounts Payable	612,360.95
Warrant 2094-10	dated 04/30/21	Lowell Five Debit Card	3,849.50
Warrant 2095-2	dated 05/14/21	Lowell Five Debit Card	361.25
Warrant 2095-3	dated 05/14/21	Mass Bay Health	739,208.65
Warrant 2095-5	dated 05/14/21	Lowell Five Cred Card Fees	533.64
Warrant 2094-9	dated 04/30/21	Disbursement – Swipe It	345.00
Warrant 2095-6	dated 05/14/21	Disbursement – Swipe It	236.10
Warrant 2095-4	dated 05/14/21	Sales Use/Meals Tax	976.38

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

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL

There was no report of general counsel.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

Superintendent Davis began by inviting Assistant Superintendent/Principal, Michael Barton to present and recognize the Top Ten students of the Class of 2021. She extended her congratulations to all of these students for demonstrating academic and technical excellence and earning the honor of being in the top of their graduating class. Mr. Barton presented a slideshow, providing individual highlights and accomplishments of each student.

Top Ten Students of the Class of 2021:

Valedictorian – Lexi Cotto	6 th Ranked – Kaitlyn Sullivan
Salutatorian – Zachary Varzea	7 th Ranked – Jenisse De Jesus
3 rd Ranked – Billy Chin	8 th Ranked – Thu Do
4 th Ranked – Sarah Toth	9 th Ranked – Samantha Barnes
5 th Ranked – Karen Vinal	10 th Ranked – Patrick Sexton

Superintendent Davis continued her agenda by inviting the Director of Cooperative Education, Stacy Bezanson to present and recognize the 2020-2021 Cooperative Education Students of the year. Ms. Davis offered her congratulations to these students as well for demonstrating outstanding performance at their cooperative education placements. Ms. Bezanson also presented a slide of the three award recipients, providing highlights and accomplishments of each student.

Cooperative Education Students of the Year:

Diego Rivera Marisa Rutledge Dylan Forys-Houde

Superintendent Davis invited Ms. Bezanson to present the Cooperative Education report to the committee. Ms. Bezanson informed the committee that, as of the night of the meeting, Greater Lowell currently has a total of 137 students (107 senior students representing 20% of the class of 2021 and 30 junior students) participating in cooperative education opportunities.

Superintendent Davis provided an update on the After Dark Program for the 2021-2022 school year. She informed them that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recently approved our application to expand our After Dark program to include Automotive Technology and noted the distribution flyer created to showcase the program.

Superintendent Davis asked for the Committee’s approval to accept a \$3,926 donation from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation grant made possible through the recommendation of donor-advised funds. Of the \$3,926 donated, \$1,000 was donated from the Merrimack Valley Rotary Club for the Lawrence L. Day Memorial Scholarship Fund for tools scholarship(s) and \$2,926 from Mark & Elisia Saab for the GLTHS Student Activities Fund to provide annual support for student activities.

MOTION: by Mr. LeMay, seconded by Mr. Tatseos to accept the \$3,926 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. Bahou)

Superintendent Davis invited the Director of Guidance & Counseling Services, Tracy Encarnacao to provide a brief summary of the recent changes to the Homeless Students: Rights & Services Policy and, upon completion, will be asking for approval of the revised policy.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the updated Homeless Students: Rights & Services Policy.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that she was asking for their approval of the revised 'Close Contact' portion of the Reopening Plan. She informed the members that on April 26th, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education updated the close contact guidelines. Close contacts who were exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in the classroom/shop or on the bus while both individuals were masked do not have to quarantine unless they were within 3 feet of distance of the COVID-19 positive individual for a total of 15 minutes during a 24-hour period. This does not apply if someone was identified as a close contact outside of the classroom or bus (e.g., in sports, extracurriculars, lunch, etc.) or if masks are not worn by both persons at the time of the exposure. All other close contacts must follow the standard protocol for when a close contact may return to school.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the revisions to the Reopening Plan as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Superintendent Davis asked the committee if there were any questions regarding the proposed 2021-2022 School Calendar. With no questions asked, she asked for their approval.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. LeMay to approve the 2021-2022 school calendar.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Superintendent Davis asked for approval to support the decision to participate in School Choice for the 2021-2022 school year as outlined in our current Admissions Policy. If the committee chose to not participate in school choice, the Admissions Policy would need to be revised and resubmitted to the State for approval. She reported that each school district is annually responsible for submitting a decision on whether or not they will accept school choice. She noted that School Choice is subject to the availability of openings and district residents would be given priority of available openings.

MOTION: by Mr. Tatseos, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the participation in School Choice for the 2021-2022 school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Superintendent Davis asked for the committee's approval of four (4) professional days for Cosmetology instructor Deborah Lagasse to attend an out-of-state training in Ellicott City, Maryland. The conference called "Texture vs. Race" is focused on textured hair services, which is part of the Cosmetology frameworks and is being held May 24th through May 26th, including an individual training session after the conference closes for the members of the Massachusetts team. The conference is being fully funded through MAVA; therefore, there is no cost to the district.

MOTION: by Mr. LeMay, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the out-of-state travel request for Cosmetology instructor Deborah Lagasse.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER

Mr. Knight asked for the committee's approval to offer the purchase of the no longer supported Chromebooks to the seniors for a dollar. He noted that the versions the seniors currently have are no longer being supported by Google next school year due to the age of the Chromebooks. This, in turn, means that they will no longer produce upgrades to security or the google platform on these devices. Mr. Knight added that as a matter of maintaining safety in the district network, devices that are not supported to stay in use on the network will not be allowed. Mr. Knight also noted that the option of resale back to Google was researched and was not a feasible possibility due to the existing volume currently in stock. Therefore, because these devices still have life in them and could carry a student through another year or potentially longer, Mr. Knight would like to offer the seniors the opportunity to purchase the Chromebook in as is condition from the school should they have the use for it.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Tatseos to approve to offer the purchase of the Chromebooks to seniors for a dollar (\$1).

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

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 \$1,546,551.41.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

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. Alternative Energy Subcommittee meet to discuss the possibility of securing additional net metering credits. (Boutin)
5. Superintendent examine feasibility regarding card swipe security for each employee and associated cost to implement same. (Giggey)
6. 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)(2) – to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel – Nonunion personnel.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

The meeting ended to go into Executive Session at 7:19 p.m. with a roll call vote of 8 present.

The meeting reconvened at 8:24 p.m. with a roll call vote of 7 present, 1 absent (Mr. O’Hare).

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Morin to approve equalizing the salary and the job responsibilities of the two Network Computer Specialist positions.

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

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 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:

April 15, 2021

April 2021 Cooperation Education Report

Copy of After Dark Program Approval to Expand Letter and Flyer

Copy of Greater Lowell Community Foundation Donation Letter

Copy of Revised Homeless Students: Rights and Services Policy

Copy of Proposed Updates to Reopening Plan

Copy of Proposed FY22 School Calendar

Copy of Budget Transfers

Memo from Mr. Knight regarding Chromebook Disposal Method

Year-to-Date Budget Report