

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING

March 18, 2021 – 5:45 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Morin called the Public Hearing to order at 5:47 p.m.

Chairman LeMay 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. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Governor's Order. Individuals that would like to have access should join by calling 1-650-667-2644 (when prompted, enter Pin: 830340138#).

ROLL CALL

Members

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

Members Absent: None

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator
David Bradley, District Treasurer (Remotely)
Recording Secretary (remotely)

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to open the Public Hearing.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Superintendent Davis, along with School Business Administrator Michael Knight, presented a brief overview of the FY22 preliminary budget of \$50,258,546. The presentation began by noting that the proposed budget was developed based on the Governor's January Budget Proposal, referencing the Student Opportunity Act – one of the biggest impacts to our FY22 proposed budget. Data and input was taken from administrators, teachers, parents, and community partners and centered around improving student achievement in order to develop confident learners and skilled workers. Superintendent Davis reviewed the proposed budget priorities which focused on teaching and learning, as well as instructional, technical, and academic spending which dominated the budget expenditure.

The revised foundation budget formula reflected an increased per pupil expenditure resulting from increased numbers of ELL, Special Education, and low income students.

Mr. Knight gave a brief overview of the revenue budget, via slide presentation, noting the decrease and increase in assessments, as well as the increase in Chapter 70 aid. Mr. Knight pointed out the two biggest changes with regards to the expenditure budget, instructional spending where the majority of the funding of the Student Opportunity Act is focused, as well as the fixed charges increase as a result of significant savings last year due to the pandemic and was therefore not utilized in the FY21 budget and is now included back into the FY22 budget.

Superintendent Davis reviewed the proposed personnel expenditures, as well as the revisions made to the personnel expenditures previously approved by the committee last year. The additional personnel would allow for program improvements, high level instruction, & interventions based on increased enrollment and increased student needs and services to address gaps in learning. Proposed personnel expenditures outlined in the presentation included the addition of various positions, some of which included instructors, paraprofessionals, school counselor, assistant principal, clerical support, and athletic coaches.

Mr. Knight continued by informing the committee that the use of Excess and Deficiency was decreased from \$300,000 to \$200,000 and comes from the need to meet net school spending and contribute to OPEB funding. Without a minimum of this amount added to the budget, we would be unable to meet net school spending and potentially face loss of state funding in the future. This would also provide a cushion in the event budget estimates for projected expenses are not as expected.

Discussion among the members continued with regards to the OPEB contribution. Questions raised include whether there is a minimum contribution percentage required in order to remain at a favorable rating. Mr. Knight noted that currently there is no hard formula and no clear definition from OPEB. Committeeman Bahou asked if it were a possibility to contribute less to OPEB in order to have additional funds available to our students without affecting the school's rating. Mr. Knight commented that all budget items requested were sustainable in the FY22 budget, and when asked, was comfortable with the contribution amount set aside for OPEB. Committee members were in agreement to keep the current amount and further review for additional information to determine contribution without negatively affecting our bond rating for next year's budget. A suggestion was made to review similar educational school budgets who are funding OPEB as a comparison.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any public participants wishing to speak on the FY22 budget. There was no one to speak on the FY22 budget. Mr. Morin stated the vote on the preliminary FY22 Budget would take place in open session during the regular School Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. LeMay to close the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Morin called the school committee meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. following a short recess after the Public Hearing and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Chairman LeMay stated in accordance with 940 CMR 29.10 (remote participation) adopted by the Greater Lowell Technical School Committee April 17, 2014, Committeeman O’Hare, Committeeman LeMay, 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. LeMay, Mr. Giggey, Mr. Gitschier, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou, Mr. O’Hare, Mr. Tatseos and Mr. Morin

Members Absent: None

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator
David Bradley, District Treasurer (participating remotely)
Recording Secretary

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Chairman Morin 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. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. LeMay to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 11, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Tatseos to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 3, 2021.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Tatseos to approve expenditures for the sum of \$4,596,282.01 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2092-B	dated 02/26/21	Payroll #787	1,43,923.06
Warrant 2093-A	dated 03/12/21	Payroll #789	987,445.01
Warrant 2092-1	dated 02/19/21	Accounts Payable Warrant	783,508.62
Warrant 2093	dated 03/05/21	Accounts Payable Warrant	487,571.84
Warrant 2093-1	dated 03/19/21	Accounts Payable Warrant	468,980.34
Warrant 2092-3	dated 02/19/21	Sales Use/Meals Tax	162.78
Warrant 2093-4	dated 03/19/21	Sales Use/Meals Tax	205.76
Warrant 2093-6	dated 03/19/21	Lowell Five Debit Card	1,919.72
Warrant 2093-3	dated 03/05/21	Lowell Five Credit Card Fees	478.85
Warrant 2093-2	dated 03/05/21	Disbursement – Swipe It/Google Voice	246.22
Warrant 2093-7	dated 03/19/21	Disbursement – Swipe It	117.00
Warrant 2093-5	dated 03/05/21	Mass Bay Health	721,722.81

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL

There was no report of general counsel.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that Greater Lowell had recently been selected to receive two (2) separate Project Lead The Way Grants with funding being distributed over a two year period. The first is the PLTW Engineering grant award totaling \$16,320. The second is the PLTW Biomedical Science award totaling \$45,000.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that Greater Lowell had also been awarded a Growing Literacy Equity Across Massachusetts (GLEAM) Grant in the amount of \$3,000, as well as a FAFSA Completion Opportunity Grant in the amount of \$15,000 to increase the completion of FAFSA and provide access to post-secondary opportunities.

Superintendent Davis updated the committee regarding the Cybersecurity Awareness Training 2020 final report card. She noted the report card compares Greater Lowell’s performance to the performance of all participating organizations throughout the Commonwealth. She reported Greater Lowell did extremely well in the first round of training and exceeded the State average in many areas. She informed the committee that Greater Lowell has also been selected to participate in the next phase of the competitive Cybersecurity Awareness grant as well.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that Greater Lowell currently has 102 senior students participating in cooperative education employment opportunities as of February 28, 2021 which represents 19% of the class of 2021.

Superintendent Davis reviewed the proposed updates to the Technical Program Service Catalog. Items updated focused on price changes within the Automotive Technology and Pre-School programs. She provided the committee with rationale for the areas of service affected which include increases in materials, maintaining equipment in keeping up with industry standards, as well as the addition of newly offered services and prices. Ms. Davis also informed the committee that the proposal included a \$25 increase in the rate plans for the Pre-School program. She noted the increase still remains competitive to other child care centers in the community. After review, Superintendent Davis asked for the committee's approval of the proposed Technical Program Service Catalog.

MOTION: by Mr. Giggey, seconded by Mr. Tatseos to approve the Technical Program Service Catalog.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Superintendent Davis provided the committee members with an overview of the items outlined in the Paraeducator Organization Memorandum of Agreement. The MOA outlines the transition to hybrid learning and future transitions moving forward to full return. Also included was information regarding BinaxNOW and Pool Testing available to all staff who give consent to participate.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. LeMay to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Greater Lowell Technical High School School Committee and the Greater Lowell Paraeducator Organization.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Abstain (Mr. O'Hare)

Superintendent Davis provided the committee members with an overview of the items outlined in the Greater Lowell Educational Support Staff Memorandum of Agreement. The MOA outlines the transition to hybrid learning and future transitions moving forward to full return and clarifies that since in-person learning will occur on Wednesdays, all support staff will now be working from the school building. Also included was information regarding BinaxNOW and Pool Testing available to all staff who give consent to participate.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Tatseos to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Greater Lowell Technical High School School Committee and the Greater Lowell Educational Support Staff.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER

Mr. Knight spoke briefly to the committee regarding the Public Hearing on the proposed FY22 budget that occurred prior to the start of the School Committee meeting. With no further questions pending, he asked for approval of the proposed FY22 budget as presented at the Public Hearing.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Giggey to approve the proposed FY22 budget of \$50,258,546.

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

Chairman Morin stated that it was time for the annual re-organization of the Board to be effective April 1, 2021.

MOTION: by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. LeMay to nominate Mr. Giggey for Chairman.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, he stated that nominations were closed.

BALLOT VOTE: Number of votes cast was 8. Mr. Giggey received 8.

MOTION: by Mr. Tatseos, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to nominate Mr. Bahou for Vice Chairman.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, he stated that nominations were closed.

BALLOT VOTE: Number of votes cast was 8. Mr. Bahou received 8.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. LeMay to nominate Mr. Gitschier for Secretary.

Chairman Morin asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, he stated that nominations were closed.

BALLOT VOTE: Number of votes cast was 8. Mr. Gitschier received 8.

COMMITTEEPERSON MOTION

There were no committeeperson motions.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

MOTION: by Mr. Tatseos, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2021 Finance Sub-Committee meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Morin 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 – Teachers, Paraeducators.

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 7:08 p.m. with a roll call vote of 8 present.

The meeting reconvened at 7:23 p.m. with a roll call vote of 8 present.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve four (4) days of compensation time to instructional staff that worked with students with disabilities during the pandemic while school community was in full remote learning.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6 Yes, 2 Abstain (Mr. O’Hare, Mr. LeMay)

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Giggey to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Respectfully submitted,



Colette Edmonds
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents:

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval:

March 3, 2021, February 11, 2021

Copy of Grant Award Letters: Project Lead The Way, GLEAM, FAFSA

Copy of Cybersecurity Awareness Training Report Card

Copy of Cybersecurity Awareness Training Grant Selection Letter

February 2021 Cooperation Education Report

Copy of Technical Program Service Catalog

Copy of Memorandum of Agreement with Paraeducators

Copy of Memorandum of Agreement with Greater Lowell Educational Support Staff

Year-to-Date Budget Report