

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

February 11, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Morin called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Chairman Morin 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 Giggey 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. Gitschier, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou, Mr. O'Hare, Mr. Tatseos, Mr. Giggey, Mr. Morin

Members Absent: Mr. LeMay

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director
Michael Barton, Assistant Superintendent-Director
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator
Tracy Encarnacao, Director of Guidance & Counseling Services
Alison Rihani, Director of Special Education
Kathryn Palladino, Cluster Chair of ELA/ELL/Reading & Social Studies
Carol Chisolm, Cluster Chairperson of Mathematics & Science (Remotely)
Christine Messina, Director of Practical Nursing & Continuing Education Programs
David Bradley, District Treasurer (Remotely)
Recording Secretary

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Chairman Morin stated that the public appearance portion will be suspended and going right into the meeting.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

There were no School Committee communications.

REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Due to a prior commitment, Student Representative Karen Vinal was unable to attend the meeting. A copy of the report of upcoming and recently held events was distributed to the committee members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 21, 2021.

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

REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER

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

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

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier seconded by Mr. Tatseos to approve expenditures for the sum of \$3,147,990.17 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2091-B	dated 01/27/21	Payroll Warrant #783	1,064,914.04
Warrant 2092-A	dated 02/12/21	Payroll Warrant #785	990,943.00
Warrant 2092	dated 02/05/21	Accounts Payable	358,847.06
Warrant 2092-2	dated 02/05/21	Lowell Five Debit Card	150.00
Warrant 2092-4	dated 02/05/21	Lowell Five Credit Card Fees	588.09
Warrant 2092-6	dated 02/05/21	Disbursement – Swipe It	95.70
Warrant 2092-7	dated 02/05/21	Disbursement – Google Voice	3,020.19
Warrant 2092-5	dated 02/05/21	Mass Bay Health	729,432.09

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

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 currently has 95 senior students participating in cooperative education employment opportunities as of January 31, 2021 which represents 18% of the Class of 2021.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that she was looking for their approval of the Memorandum of Agreement to participate in a planning grant with the Lowell Public Schools to expand our current After Dark program. The expansion includes continuing in the 21-22 school year with Machine Tech and Programming & Web Development and moving forward with a planning grant to add HVAC and Auto.

MOTION: by Mr. Bahou seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Lowell Public Schools to participate in a planning grant to expand our current After Dark program.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6 Yes, 1 No (Mr. Gitschier), 1 Absent (Mr. LeMay)

Superintendent Davis continued by seeking the committee's approval of the revised Fall Reopening Plan which includes revisions to transitioning back to hybrid learning for students on February 22, 2021. Superintendent Davis asked Assistant Superintendent/Principal Michael Barton to join her in providing an update on the revisions. The committee members were provided a copy of the revised plan which outlined the additions and/or revisions. Updates discussed included, but not limited to: Hybrid Learning & Instructional time, Hybrid Model Period Schedule, Freshman Exploratory, Cooperative Education Program, Athletics, Support Services, ELE, Traveling or Returning from Out-of-State Travel, Ventilation & HVAC System, Response to Symptomatic Student or Staff, Response to Positive COVID Test for Student/Staff/Close Contacts, BinaxNOW Diagnostic Testing, Pool Testing, Community Health Metrics, and Food Services.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the Revised Fall Reopening Plan.

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

Superintendent Davis was seeking the committee's approval of the FY22 Student Opportunity Act (SOA) Plan. Superintendent Davis asked Assistant Superintendent/Principal Michael Barton, as well as the Director of Guidance & Counseling Services, the Director of Special Education, Cluster Chairperson of Math & Science, and the Cluster Chair of ELA/ELL/Reading & Social Studies to provide an overview and answer any questions. Mr. Barton provided the committee with a brief explanation of the additions and/or revisions to the FY22 Student Opportunity Act (SOA) Plan from the previously approved FY21 SOA Plan which was put on hold by the state due to the COVID pandemic.

Mr. Barton spoke about our diverse student population which has a wide range of student needs, noting how the plan remained focused on funding for additional personnel to best support improved student performance, as well as monitor and ensure progress for the student subgroups (students with disabilities subgroup, Asian subgroup, low income students subgroups, English Learner subgroup, students with high needs subgroup). Information taken into account for instructional positions included supporting student needs, increasing inclusion/co-teaching

sections in order to lower classroom ratios for students with disabilities, balance level teams for English Language Learners and improve interventions to support social-emotional learning, as well as equity of opportunity and learning.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the FY22 Student Opportunity Act (SOA) Plan.

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

REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER

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 \$80,438.87.

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

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

Mr. Knight continued by seeking the committee's approval to increase the hourly rate for the LPN clinical instructors from our current rate of \$38.00 hour to \$45.00 per hour. He asked the Director of Practical Nursing & Continuing Education Programs, Christine Messina, to join him in providing information regarding the request. He informed the committee that, due to the new requirements for additional teachers in the LPN program, filling these positions have been very difficult. After looking further into this, it was determined that our current hourly pay rate for these positions are well below the market rate in comparison to other area programs. Mr. Knight provided the members with a listing of hourly rates currently paid by surrounding area programs as a comparison.

Concern for our ability to attract qualified candidates to fill the position given the difficulties was discussed, as well as being able to substantiate the cost of the increase. After questioning and discussion surrounding the budget and the proposed increase this would create for the budget, Mr. Knight noted he felt the budget would be able to cover the increase in the hourly rate.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to increase the pay for the LPN clinical instructors to \$50.00 per hour.

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

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 were no sub-committee reports.

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan seconded by Mr. Gitschier to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Colette Edmonds
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents:

Meeting Notice
Agenda
Minutes for Approval:
January 21, 2021
January 2021 Cooperation Education Report
Copy of Memorandum of Agreement regarding Planning Grant Expansion
Copy of revised Reopening Plan
Copy of Student Opportunity Act
Copy of Budget Transfer List
Memo from Mr. Knight regarding LPN Clinical Instructor Salary
Year-to-Date Budget Report