

# GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## **FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING**

### Minutes of February 11, 2021 Meeting

#### CALL TO ORDER

Sub-Committee Chairman Bahou called the meeting to order at 4:42 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Bahou, Mr. Gitschier, Mr. Giggey

Members Absent: Mr. Sheehan

Also Present: Superintendent-Director- Jill Davis, School Business Administrator – Michael Knight, Committeeman Morin, Asst. Superintendent/Principal – Michael Barton, Director of Guidance & Counseling Services – Tracy Encarnacao, Director of Special Education – Allison Rihani, ELA/ELE & Social Studies Cluster Chair – Kate Palladino, Math & Science Cluster Chair – Carol Chisolm (remotely), Recording Secretary

Chairman Bahou stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the FY22 budget.

Superintendent Davis started by asking School Business Administrator Michael Knight to join her in presenting the preliminary FY22 budget. She began by updating the subcommittee on the approval of the Student Opportunity Act by the Massachusetts House and Senate and Governor which had temporarily been put on hold due to the COVID pandemic last school year. The bill provides an infusion of \$1.5 billion into schools over a 7-year period and is aimed at tackling inequity, specifically for school districts with higher percentages of low-income students, English language learners and Special Education. The foundation formula reflects an increased per pupil expenditure for vocational students, ELL, and Special Education, as well as low income which was broken down into categories that were added in FY22 that did not exist in FY21.

With this additional funding, districts are required to provide 3 year plans with measurable targets and goals for closing the achievement gap.

The preliminary FY22 total budget would be \$50,258,546, which is a 6% increase over FY21.

Operating Budget	46,353,451
Transportation	2,441,000
Debt Service	1,364,095
OPEB	100,000

The preliminary FY22 Budget assessment would be:

Min. Local Contribution	14,497,120	Chapter 70	31,756,332
Transportation Assessment	984,495	ESSER Reduction to MLC	571,102
<u>Debt Assessment</u>	<u>1,364,094</u>	Chapter 71 (transportation)	1,456,505
Total Assessment	16,274,607	<u>Excess &amp; Deficiency</u>	<u>200,000</u>
		Total Budget	50,256,546

Superintendent Davis reviewed some notable expenditure changes which include increases to the Health/Dental Insurance (despite the Health Trust), as well as the Retirement System Assessment, SOA Related items, and HVAC instructional equipment.

Superintendent Davis reviewed the proposed budget priorities which focused on teaching and learning. Instructional, technical, and academic spending dominated the budget expenditure increase as a result of the Student Opportunity Act.

Superintendent Davis reviewed the proposed personnel expenditures, noting revisions made to the personnel expenditures previously approved by the committee last year. These were to allow for program improvements, high level instruction, & interventions based on increased enrollment and increased student needs and services to address gaps in learning. The Director of Special Education (Mrs. Rihani), Math/Science Cluster Chair (Ms. Chisolm), ELA/ELE/Social Studies Cluster Chair (Mrs. Palladino), and Director of Guidance (Ms. Encarnacao), were present to answer questions by the committee.

Detailed information taken into account for instructional positions included: improved programs/services for special education students resulting in decreased number of students in inclusion classes, the increase in ELL students, targeted reading/writing assistance, ability to provide small group/individual interventions, etc. The proposed addition of the Cosmetology technical area instructor is primarily due to state compliance. Massachusetts Cosmetology state compliance requires two (2) licensed instructors for the first 25 students with an additional instructor for each 25 students thereafter. This would also allow for an additional student seat based on current numbers.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee 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. Mr. Bahou asked if the discussion regarding E&D and OPEB contributions could be continued further at the next meeting.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Bahou to adjourn at 5:48 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 3 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. Sheehan)

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Colette Edmonds  
Recording Secretary