

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

December 16, 2020 – 5:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Morin called the meeting to order at 5:31 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, Committee Chairman Morin, Committeeman O'Hare, Committeeman Sheehan, 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. Bahou, Mr. O'Hare, Mr. Tatseos, Mr. Giggey, Mr. Gitschier, Mr. Sheehan and Mr. Morin.

Members Absent: Mr. LeMay (was not present at the time of roll call, but arrived @ 5:34 p.m.)

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director
Michael Barton, Assistant Superintendent-Director
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator
Lisa Martinez, Director of Technology, Enrollment & Information
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

Student Representative Karen Vinal gave an update of upcoming and recently held events.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: by Mr. Giggey, seconded by Mr. LeMay to approve the minutes from the meeting of November 19, 2020.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve expenditures for the sum of \$3,496,860 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2090-A	dated 12/04/20	Payroll Warrant #775	961,394.03
Warrant 2090-B	dated 12/18/20	Payroll Warrant #777	1,096,928.14
Warrant 2089-1	dated 11/25/20	Accounts Payable Warrant	176,514.22
Warrant 2090	dated 12/11/20	Accounts Payable Warrant	513,663.17
Warrant 2089-2	dated 11/25/20	Sales & Meals Tax October 20	394.02
Warrant 2090-7	dated 12/11/20	Accounts Payable Warrant (Mass Bay)	739,811.18
Warrant 2090-2	dated 12/11/20	Lowell Five Debit Card (1049)	4,267.12
Warrant 2090-4	dated 12/11/20	Lowell Five Transfer Fees (1063)	20.00
Warrant 2090-5	dated 12/11/20	Lowell Five Credit Card Fees (1050)	952.39
Warrant 2090-3	dated 12/11/20	Direct Disbursement of Google Voice (1058)	2,915.73

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 Skills Capital Grant in the amount of \$250,000 for Electronics and Engineering Technology to upgrade the engineering STEM lab to support students, afternoon youth programs, and adult evening students to meet the growing industry demand in electronics and engineering programs.

Superintendent Davis also informed the committee that Greater Lowell Tech has been awarded a Secondary School Virtual Coursework Grant in the amount of \$67,572 to support access to online course options for students who cannot participate in the in-person learning opportunities offered due to health, safety, or family reasons.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that Greater Lowell currently has 96 senior students participating (and 6 pending) in cooperative education employment opportunities as of the meeting. Ms. Davis noted that cooperated education has been approved for junior students and are now eligible to go out after February 8th. Specific details from the Director of Cooperative Education will be forthcoming.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that she was seeking approval to amend the Admission Policy for the 2020-2021 school year as a result of COVID-19. Ms. Davis asked Ms. Martinez - Director of Technology, Enrollment & Information to join the discussion to speak in more details and present the proposed changes.

Ms. Martinez reviewed the changes with the committee which revolved around general language due to the pandemic, as well as the consideration of term 1 and 2 only for 7th grade attendance and academic achievement. She noted that we typically consider all 4 terms; however, because terms 3 and 4 were remote learning, they would not be considered this year.

MOTION: by Mr. Bahou seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the amended Admission Policy for the 2020-2021 school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Superintendent Davis asked Assistant Superintendent/Principal Michael Barton to present the 2020-2021 School Improvement Plan for approval.

MOTION: by Mr. LeMay seconded by Mr. Giggey to approve the 2020-2021 School Improvement Plan.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Superintendent Davis gave the committee a brief update on the Reopening Task Force which included working on a hybrid plan to give upperclass students additional learning time in their technical programs by increasing the number of days per week when it is safe to return. Additional updates will be given as the Task Force continues to meet to work through several challenges.

REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER

Mr. Knight provided the committee with an update of the continuation of solar leasing/development at GLTHS and if there was a feasible option to continue to do so. Mr. Knight informed the committee that he has been working with Solect Energy who works with Power Options, a spin off not-for-profit that procures energy and energy services through state approved RFPs. Two preliminary options were provided by Solect Energy about solar power generation on campus. Option one was the installation of a solar array utilizing the roof of the school and tied into our electric meter directly, with a preliminary estimated financial benefit of \$48,000 annually.

Mr. Knight noted that this would be a 20-year commitment and would be removed by Solect at the end of the 20-year term. Option 2 is the installation of a solar canopy over the majority of the parking area in the rear of the building. The preliminary estimated revenue would be \$29,000 per year despite greater solar production due to the cost of construction, as footings and steel supports would need to be installed. This array would need to be tied directly to the utility rather than the school, resulting in the majority of the power to be sold to other municipalities.

Mr. Knight continued by informing the members that this information is only preliminary. In order to lock in the proposed benefit rate before the annual rate change occurs in January, a vote would be required to accept the Letter of Intent.

Concerns raised by committee members included the question of incurred costs, if any, should there be a decision not to pursue, utilization of the recently replaced roof, weighing the benefits of installing the solar equipment on the roof and possible damage that could occur, as well as the 20-year commitment for the projected savings.

After discussion amongst the members, as well as input from the school attorney and representatives from Solect Energy, the following motion was made.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier seconded by Mr. Giggey to authorize the Business Administrator to execute the letter of intent with Solect Energy upon negotiation of final terms of the letter of intent acceptable to the Business Administrator and School Counsel.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 Yes, 5 No (Mr. Bahou, Mr. O'Hare, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. LeMay, Mr. Morin)

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 updated the committee regarding the Facilities Naming Committee meeting held on November 24th. He informed the members that the Facilities Naming Committee met to approve the minutes from the October 7th meeting, as well as to review and approve the draft

meeting minutes from the February, 2016 and March, 2016 meetings. Mr. Morin noted that the minutes developed were based on documentation to reconstruct events that occurred regarding the naming of the gymnasium floor due to the change in members since the time of those meetings. Minutes were approved and have been posted on the school's website.

COMMITTEEPERSON MOTION

There were no committeeperson motions.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES


There were no sub-committee reports.

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier seconded by Mr. Giggey to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Respectfully submitted,


Colette Edmonds
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents:

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval:

November 19, 2020

Copy of Secondary School Virtual Coursework Grant Email and Eligibility Letter Notification

November 2020 Cooperation Education Report

Copy of Proposed Changes to Admissions Policy for SY20/21

Copy of 2020-2021 School Improvement Plan

Memo from Mr. Knight regarding Solar Leasing/Development at Greater Lowell Tech

Year-to-Date Budget Report