

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

October 15, 2020 – 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Morin called the meeting to order at 6:34 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 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. Tatseos, Mr. Giggey, Mr. Gitschier, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou, Mr. O'Hare, and Mr. Morin.

Members Absent: Mr. LeMay (was not present at the time of roll call, but arrived @ 6:39 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)
Atty. Paul King, School Attorney
Recording Secretary

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Morin began by welcoming and introducing this year's Student Representative – Karen Vinal. Superintendent Davis provided the committee members with a brief background on Karen's many accomplishments throughout her time at Greater Lowell.

REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Student Representative Karen Vinal started by reflecting on last year’s accomplishments. She continued with updating the members of upcoming and recently held events.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: by Mr. Tatseos, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 10, 2020.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

MOTION: by Mr. LeMay, seconded by Mr. Bahou to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 17, 2020.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve expenditures for the sum of \$4,030,270.39 allocated as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Warrant 2087-B | dated 09/24/20 | Payroll Warrant #765 | 1,054,401.94 |
| Warrant 2088-A | dated 10/09/20 | Payroll Warrant #767 | 971,762.08 |
| Warrant 2088 | dated 10/02/20 | Accounts Payable Warrant | 843,341.12 |
| Warrant 2088-3 | dated 10/02/20 | Accounts Payable Warrant | 763,708.08 |
| Warrant 2088-1 | dated 10/16/20 | Accounts Payable Warrant | 392,210.65 |
| Warrant 2088-4 | dated 10/16/20 | Lowell Five Credit Card (1049) | 3,766.12 |
| Warrant 2088-5 | dated 10/16/20 | September Sales & Meals tax (1058) | 39.68 |
| Warrant 2088-6 | dated 10/16/20 | Direct Disbursement for Swipe (1058) | 489.85 |
| Warrant 2088-7 | dated 10/16/20 | Lowell Five Credit Card Fees (1050) | 550.87 |

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 \$20,000 grant to support Machining and Engineering Students from the Gene Haas Foundation. The grant award can be used for scholarships (tuition) up to \$2,500 dollars per

person for Manufacturing and Engineering students, tool awards, NIMS Credentialing, and Skills USA CNC Machining.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that Greater Lowell currently has 54 senior students participating in cooperative education employment opportunities as of September 30, 2020. This represents 10.8% of the Class of 2021. She noted that due to current state guidelines, we are still currently unable to place Early Childhood Education students on co-op.

Superintendent Davis asked the Director of Technology, Enrollment & Information, Lisa Martinez, to provide the committee with an update on the FY21 enrollment. Through her presentation, she provided the committee with information pertaining to grade 9 applicants, acceptances, declines, and waitlist data, as well as grade 10 acceptances and waitlists. Ms. Martinez also updated the committee on information pertaining to the new Department of Elementary and Secondary Education waitlist data collection requirement.

Superintendent Davis asked the Assistant Superintendent, Michael Barton, to present the Health & Safety Plan to the committee for approval. Mr. Barton gave a brief overview of the proposed changes to the committee members, highlighting the key areas that had significant change, including the complete update to the Respiratory Protection Program.

MOTION: by Mr. Bahou seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the 2020-2023 Health & Safety Plan.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Superintendent Davis updated the committee regarding the Reopening Plan, the current health metrics, and the decision to transition to a full remote instructional model beginning October 19th. She highlighted several key areas, including closely monitoring the weekly public health report and the public health data for the City of Lowell which indicated an increasing trend in the average daily incident rate, noting the data reflects a community spread and not isolated to one demographic. She also noted the increased number of close contacts, symptomatic individuals & positive cases within our school community since the start of the school year. Ms. Davis informed the committee that participation numbers in the hybrid learning model have been declining with more students shifting to full remote learning. Ms. Davis commented the reopening plan was designed with flexibility to move to different instruction modes as necessary and moving to full remote learning is the safest learning environment for students, staff, and families at this time. She included that our cooperative education program will continue and would seek advisement from the MIAA as to whether or not it is permissible to finish off the Fall athletics season.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that if the data indicates a decline and the City of Lowell is in the yellow or green for 3 consecutive weeks, we would be able to transition back to hybrid learning mode B (students in grades 10-12 would attend two days of in-person learning on their technical week.)

REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER

Mr. Knight, upon the request of the committee, update the members on property that was declared as surplus. He informed the committee that a surplus notice was provided to the member communities for two items declared as surplus (Rack Body Truck and Freightliner Bus). The City of Lowell DPW expressed interest in the Rack Body Truck with no other communities expressing serious interest. The title was then transferred to the City of Lowell for their use. There was no member community interest in the freightliner bus and was listed on public auction. The bus sold for \$930.

Mr. Knight notified the committee of the recent retirement of the school district physician. After attempts were made to solicit services with no interest, the school was able to contract Dr. Caitlin Water through Merrimack Valley Internal Medicine. He noted Dr. Waters, in addition to being a physician certified in internal medicine, has a focus in sports medicine as well.

Mr. Knight requested that the money market account open with Enterprise Bank to the MMDT account which holds most of the cash and historically earns a better interest rate.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to close the money market account with Enterprise Bank and move the funds to MMDT.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Mr. Knight provided an explanation of the budget line transfer within the Construction department and asked for approval totaling in the amount of \$12,000.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the budget line item transfer.

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 updated the committee regarding the Facilities Naming Committee member appointments at the Facilities Naming Committee meeting held on October 7, 2020. He noted that, based on the policy, members should have been appointed to 3-year terms and some were not. In order to correct that, the following appointments were made by the Superintendent and Chairman Morin:

- Ms. Deb Lagasse was appointed to a 3-year term to fill the Current Teacher seat through FY22.
- Mr. Robert Dick was appointed to a 3-year term to fill the Current Retired Teacher seat through FY22.
- Mr. Tim Fallon was appointed to a 3-year term to fill the Current Retired Administrator seat through FY22.
- Mr. Michael Knight was appointed to a 3-year term to fill the Current Administrator seat through FY22.
- Committeeman Sheehan and Committeeman Tatseos were appointed to fill 3-year terms to fill two (2) of the Current School Committee member seats through FY22.
- In addition, Ms. Kimberly Febres was appointed to replace Mr. Dion as parent member for the remainder of the 3-year term. Ms. Febres will be replacing Mr. Dion who no longer has a student attending Greater Lowell.

COMMITTEEPERSON MOTION

There were no committeeperson motions.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

There were no sub-committee reports.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Morin 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 – Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(2) – to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel – School Business Administrator, and 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, Custodians, Maintenance/Security, Paraeducators, Support Staff, Cluster Chairpersons, Administrators.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

The meeting ended to go into Executive Session at 8:13 p.m. with a roll call vote of 8 present.

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier seconded by Mr. Giggey to adjourn the meeting from Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Respectfully submitted,


Colette Edmonds
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents:

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval:

September 17, 2020

September 10, 2020

Copy of Gene Haas Foundation Grant Award Letter

September 2020 Cooperative Education Report

Copy of Student Enrollment presentation

Copy of 2020-2023 Health & Safety Plan

Memo from Mr. Knight regarding update on disposal of surplus property

Memo from Mr. Knight regarding School Physician update

Budget Transfers

Year-to-Date Budget Report