

# GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

September 17, 2020 – 6:30 P.M.

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Morin called the meeting to order at 6:35 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, Mr. 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. Giggey, Mr. Gitschier, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. O'Hare, Mr. Tatseos, Mr. LeMay and Mr. Morin.

Members Absent: Mr. Bahou (was not present at the time of roll call, but arrived remotely @ 7:06 p.m.)

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director  
Michael Barton, Interim Assistant Superintendent-Director  
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator  
Mark Byrne, Director of Facilities  
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

There were no School Committee communications.

### REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Chairman Morin noted there was no report of the student representative at tonight's meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** by Mr. LeMay, seconded by Mr. Giggey to approve the minutes from the meeting of August 20, 2020.

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

**REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER**

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Bahou, Mr. O’Hare (technical difficulties))

**MOTION:** by Mr. Giggey seconded by Mr. LeMay to approve expenditures for the sum of \$3,203,617.59 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2086-B	dated 08/26/20	Payroll Warrant #761	330,779.96
Warrant 2087-A	dated 09/09/20	Payroll Warrant #763	969,275.26
Warrant 2087	dated 09/04/20	Accounts Payable Warrant	659,946.54
Warrant 2087-1	dated 09/18/20	Accounts Payable Warrant	516,043.52
Warrant 2087-2	dated 09/04/20	Accounts Payable Warrant	723,220.80
Warrant 2087-4	dated 09/04/20	Accounts Payable Warrant	412.95
Warrant 2087-5	dated 09/18/20	A/P Debit Card Warrant (1049)	3,290.00
Warrant 2087-6	dated 09/18/20	A/P Google Direct Disbursement (1058)	489.85
Warrant 2087-7	dated 09/18/20	Lowell Five Credit Card Fees (1050)	158.71

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Bahou, Mr. O’Hare (technical difficulties))

**REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL**

There was no report of general counsel.

**REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR**

Superintendent Davis began by informing the committee that we had recently been notified by Governor Baker’s office that Greater Lowell Tech has been awarded a Remote Learning Technology Essentials Grant of \$465,093. The funding was granted to ensure access to technology for students in remote learning environments during the 20-21 school year.

Superintendent Davis asked for the committee’s approval to revise the Fall Reopening Plan to reflect recent guideline changes pertaining to the Cooperative Education Program. She informed the committee that the students are now allowed to be placed in nursing/medical facilities and there were safeguards added for students in health career programs, as well as early childhood education programs.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the Fall Reopening Plan updates.

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

Superintendent Davis continued by asking the Director of Facilities, Mark Byrne to join her to provide the committee with an update regarding surface swab sampling following deep cleaning.

Mr. Byrne provided the committee a copy of the proposal received from Cashins & Associates outlining the costs and swab sanitizing details. Mr. Byrne noted that Cashins & Associates was a company that has been utilized by the school in the past with a positive experience. The proposal included sampling of 30 areas (classrooms, stairwells, bathrooms, kitchens, etc.) of which could be altered if requested. Mr. Byrne noted that samples would be analyzed by an independent testing area and would only detect infectious or noninfectious detection of bacteria. Ms. Davis noted that results would not be COVID virus specific. Results would take approximately a couple of days. The cost would be \$2,600 per round of testing (\$5,200/month if completed 2x/month.)

Committeeman Tatseos asked what would occur if any of the swab testing results returned positive. Mr. Byrne replied that the area(s) would be closed down and re-sanitized based on the protocols outlined.

Committeeman Sheehan noted his concern about the high cost. He commended the facilities staff of the tremendous job cleaning and sanitizing the building. Committeeman Gitschier agreed, noting since the results would not be able to detect COVID, he suggested the money be utilized within the department to continue current cleaning and sanitizing needs.

Superintendent Davis continued with the next item on her agenda and provided an update to the committee on instituting temperature checks. The cost would be approximately \$3,000 for each station and would require purchasing at least 5 to cover the entry points resulting in at least \$15,000. She added that we would also need trained staff with knowledge of putting on/taking off PPE properly, verification of results, proper clean of equipment, and following health & safety protocols if someone tested above the temperature limit. Superintendent Davis continued by referring to the current guidelines from the CDC, the American College of Pediatrics, DESE, the Health Department, and our school physician, who do not support temperature checks as a helpful method for identification of individuals with COVID-19 for several reasons. She briefly highlighted the individual reasons and lastly noted she had also reached out to Superintendents across the state and none of the schools who responded are conducting temperature checks at this time.

Superintendent Davis asked Interim Assistant Superintendent/Principal, Mr. Barton to present the 2020-2021 Student Handbook for approval. Mr. Barton gave a brief overview of the proposed changes to the committee members, highlighting the key areas that had significant change which included areas of bullying/harassment and sexual harassment.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the 2020-2021 Student Handbook.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

### **REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER**

Mr. Knight asked for the committee's approval to remove and dispose of approximately forty-four (44) older computer tables from some of our third floor classrooms. He noted while the tables are still in usable condition, they are showing some age and with the adoption of the use of Chromebooks, the wire management is not needed and student desks will better suit the classroom space.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. LeMay to declare the old tables are surplus and follow the protocols of disposal per school committee policy.

**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**

There was no new business.

### **COMMITTEEPERSON MOTION**

There were no committeeperson motions.

### **REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

There were no sub-committee reports.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. LeMay 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.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

The meeting reconvened at 9:38 p.m. with a roll call vote of 8 present.

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Sheehan seconded by Mr. Gitschier to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

Respectfully submitted,



Colette Edmonds  
Recording Secretary

**Meeting Documents:**

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval:

August 20, 2020

Copy of Remote Learning Technology Grant Award Letter

Copy of Fall Reopening Plan updates

Copy of Temperature Checks update

Copy of 2020-2021 Student Handbook

Memo from Mr. Knight regarding disposal of surplus computer tables

Year-to-Date Budget Report