

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

April 16, 2020 – 6:00 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, and pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Greater Lowell School Committee is being conducted via remote participation by the following members: Committeemen Mr. Giggey, Mr. Gitschier, Mr. Tatseos, Mr. O'Hare, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou, Mr. LeMay and Mr. Morin. The following members and individuals are present: Interim Superintendent-Director Jill Davis, Interim Assistant Superintendent Michael Barton. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted.

ROLL CALL

Members

Present: Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou, Mr. O'Hare, Mr. Tatseos, Mr. Giggey, Mr. Gitschier, Mr. LeMay and Mr. Morin.

Members Absent: None

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Interim Superintendent-Director
Michael Barton, Interim Assistant Superintendent-Director
Recording Secretary (remotely)

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

Interim Superintendent Davis noted that due to the school closure, there would not be a report of the student representative at tonight's meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

MOTION: by Mr. LeMay, seconded by Mr. Tatseos to approve expenditures for the sum of \$3,184,439.93 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2081-B	dated 03/27/20	Payroll Warrant #739	1,080,177.69
Warrant 2082-A	dated 04/10/20	Payroll Warrant #741	922,881.21
Warrant 2082	dated 04/03/20	Accounts Payable Warrant	973,353.87
Warrant 2082-1	dated 04/17/20	Accounts Payable Warrant	207,148.21
Warrant 2082-3	dated 04/03/20	Lowell Five Credit Card Warrant	878.95

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL

There was no report of general counsel.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

Interim Superintendent Davis asked Interim Assistant Superintendent Mr. Barton to provide a few words in recognition of Massachusetts Vocational Student of the Year 2020 for Greater Lowell - student Enrico N. Nuttoli V. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the recognition ceremony at Mechanics Hall in Worcester has been cancelled; therefore, Ms. Davis and Mr. Barton wanted to recognize Enrico and spoke of his many accomplishments to the committee members.

Interim Superintendent Davis asked the committee for approval of the 2020-2021 School Committee Meeting schedule.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Tatseos to approve the 2020-2021 School Committee Meeting schedule.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Interim Superintendent Davis asked for committee for approval to extend the Assistant Principal's contract due to the timeline of her retirement. The existing contract would extend from June 30, 2020 until her retirement August 20, 2020.

MOTION: by Mr. LeMay, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the extension of the Assistant Principal's contract to August 20, 2020.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Interim Superintendent Davis asked Interim Assistant Superintendent Mr. Barton to provide the committee with an overview of the Remote Learning Plan. Mr. Barton provided the members with an outline of the plan and how it addresses continuity of learning during the school closure period. Mr. LeMay asked if the model was adopted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and if everyone was adapting to this? Mr. Barton stated that remote learning varies from district to district; however, yes it is adopted and the staff and students are adapting well.

Interim Superintendent Davis recommended to the committee members that all full-time and all non-exempt hourly employees on paid active status at the time the school closure began on March 16, 2020 and remain on paid active status continue to be paid their regular compensation and benefits until school reopens. She noted the faculty and staff are working to implement our Remote Learning Plan and ensure that our students continue learning, are supported and stay connected with our school community. Interim Superintendent Davis asked for the committee's approval.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve all full-time employees and non-exempt hourly employees on paid active status and remain on paid active status be paid their regular compensation and benefits until school reopens.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Interim Superintendent Davis asked the committee members to approve revising the 2019-2020 school calendar by removing four days of April vacation and having staff work on these days which would count toward our 185 days, making the last day of school June 12, 2020. This approval would allow the staff to continue the momentum with fully implementing the Remote Learning Plan and student's continuity of learning.

MOTION: by Mr. LeMay, seconded by Mr. Tatseos to approve revising the 2019-2020 school calendar by removing four days of April vacation.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER

There was no report of the business manager.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bahou noted that at the previous meeting, the committee approved the proposed FY21 budget. He asked Interim Superintendent Davis if the state was going to be making any funding changes due to COVID-19. Interim Superintendent Davis informed the committee that at this time, there will be some revisions anticipated; however, we do not know what those revisions will be as of yet. There are currently 3 scenarios and we are prepared for the revisions.

Mr. Bahou asked for the committee to be informed by Interim Superintendent Davis as information is received regarding any change in the Chapter 70 aid, as well as for a more detailed update at the next School Committee meeting.

Mr. Gitschier asked Interim Superintendent Davis for a potential cost savings estimate with regards to school not reopening. Ms. Davis stated she would look into this and get back to the committee.

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.

COMMITTEEPERSON MOTION

There were no committeeperson motions.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Morin informed the members that a new date for the Facilities Naming Committee meeting has been tentatively set for May 14, 2020 pending the current situation of the Coronavirus.

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Giggey to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Colette Edmonds
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents:

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval:

March 19, 2020

Proposed FY21 School Committee Meeting Dates

Copy of Remote Learning Plan

Year-to-Date Budget Report