

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING

March 19, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman LeMay called the Public Hearing to order at 6:08 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Chairman LeMay 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. Morin and Mr. LeMay. The following members and individuals and members are present: Interim Superintendent-Director Jill Davis, School Business Administrator Michael Knight. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Governor's Order. Individuals that would like to have access should join by calling 1-413-341-4547 (Pin: 242531859#).

ROLL CALL

Members

Present: Mr. Giggey, Mr. Gitschier, Mr. Tatseos, Mr. O'Hare, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou, Mr. LeMay and Mr. Morin (due to technical difficulties, Mr. Morin was present, but was muted and unable to verbally participate.)

Members Absent: None

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Interim Superintendent-Director
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator
Recording Secretary (remotely)

Interim Superintendent Davis, along with School Business Administrator Michael Knight, presented a brief overview of the FY21 preliminary budget presentation previously shown to the committee.

Chairman LeMay asked if there was anyone at the meeting or though call-in remotely to speak on the FY21 budget. There was no one to speak on the FY21 budget. Mr. LeMay stated that the vote on the preliminary FY21 Budget would take place in open session during the regular School Committee meeting following the hearing.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Giggey to close the Public Hearing at 6:38 p.m.

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

Chairman LeMay announced that all public remote participants would now be disconnected.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman LeMay called the meeting back to order at 6:48 p.m. following a short recess after the Public Hearing and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Chairman LeMay 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 which would be noted during the roll call. The following members and individuals and members are present: Interim Superintendent-Director Jill Davis, Interim Asst. Superintendent/Principal Michael Barton, School Business Administrator Michael Knight. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Governor's Order.

ROLL CALL

Members

Present: Mr. Giggey, Mr. Gitschier, Mr. Tatseos, Mr. O'Hare, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou, Mr. Morin, Mr. LeMay (all members participating remotely)

Members Absent: None

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Interim Superintendent-Director
Michael Barton, Interim Assistant Superintendent/Principal
Michael Knight, Interim School Business Administrator
David Bradley, District Treasurer (participating remotely)
Recording Secretary (participating remotely)

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Chairman LeMay 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 gave an update of upcoming and recently held events on behalf of Student Representative Isaiah Carrasquillo who was unable to participate in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Bahou to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 13, 2020.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

MOTION: by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve expenditures for the sum of \$3,841,864.33 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2080-B	dated 01/29/20	Payroll Warrant #2080-B	1,126,058.49
Warrant 2081-A	dated 02/14/20	Payroll Warrant #2081-A	979,240.36
Warrant 2081	dated 01/24/20	Accounts Payable Warrant	1,317,573.68
Warrant 2081-1	dated 02/07/20	Accounts Payable Warrant	416,319.57
Warrant 2081-3	dated 01/24/20	Meals & Sales Use Tax Warrant (1058)	1,343.74
Warrant 2081-2	dated 03/20/20	Meals & Sales Use Tax Warrant Feb 20	998.49
Warrant 2081-4	dated 03/20/20	Debit Card Warrant (1049)	330.00

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 student Matthew Martineau for his accomplishment in obtaining Eagle Scout rank.

Interim Superintendent Davis informed the committee that Greater Lowell had recently been awarded \$2,876 from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation through the Mark and Elisia Saab GLTHS Student Activities Fund. Interim Superintendent David asked for approval to accept the grant of \$2,876 to be used for student activities at GLTHS to encourage and sustain the educational, social, and civic development of students.

MOTION: by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Giggey to accept the donation from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Interim Superintendent Davis informed the committee that Greater Lowell currently has 189 senior students participating in cooperative education employment opportunities as of February 29, 2020. This represents 38% of the class of 2020. She also noted that 4% of the junior class students are currently in co-op as well. Ms. Davis noted that due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, Cooperative Education has temporarily been suspended. However, students, along with the parents, are able to decide whether or not they will continue to work during the school closure.

Interim Superintendent Davis invited Interim Assistant Superintendent-Principal Michael Barton to provide a brief overview of the Student Opportunity Act Plan to the committee. Interim Superintendent Davis asked for the committee's approval of the proposed SOA Plan.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the Student Opportunity Act Plan.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

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 during the three-week closure period be paid their regular compensation and benefits. She noted the faculty and staff are working daily to ensure that our students/families are supported and provided with enrichment opportunities and resources that allow them to continue learning 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 during the current 3-week shutdown (March 16th through April 6th) be paid their regular compensation and benefits.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER

Mr. Knight spoke briefly to the committee regarding the Public Hearing on the preliminary FY21 budget that occurred prior to the start of the School Committee meeting. With no further questions pending, he asked for approval of the proposed FY21 budget.

MOTION: by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Giggey to approve the preliminary FY21 budget of \$49,377,957.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Mr. Knight provided an explanation of and reviewed the list of budget line transfers within various departments and asked for approval totaling in the amount of \$1,079,668.00.

MOTION: by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the budget line item transfers.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Gitschier asked to revisit the feasibility report regarding the card swipe security and asked Mr. Giggey for an overview of the outstanding item, as well as future implementation for all staff.

Mr. Morin stated that due to the current school closure, the Facilities Naming Committee meeting scheduled for April 2nd is postponed and will be re-scheduled once school is re-opened.

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

Chairman LeMay stated that it was time for the annual re-organization of the Board to be effective April 1, 2020.

MOTION: by Mr. LeMay, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to nominate Mr. Morin for Chairman.

Chairman LeMay asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, he stated that nominations were closed.

BALLOT VOTE: Number of votes cast was 8. Mr. Morin received 8.

MOTION: by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Morin to nominate Mr. Giggey for Vice Chairman.

Chairman LeMay asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, he stated that nominations were closed.

BALLOT VOTE: Number of votes cast was 8. Mr. Giggey received 8.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. LeMay to nominate Mr. Bahou for Secretary.
by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. LeMay to nominate Mr. Sheehan for Secretary.

Chairman LeMay asked if there were any other nominations.

BALLOT VOTE: Number of votes cast was 8. Mr. Bahou received 5 votes. Mr. Sheehan received 3 votes. Mr. LeMay, Mr. Morin and Mr. Sheehan asked to change their votes to Mr. Bahou make it unanimous at 8 votes.

Mr. Sheehan requested the language in the Student Handbook on excused absences for college entrance exams/placement exams be expanded to include union exams/civil service exams. Interim Superintendent Davis commented that although currently not in the handbook, those absences have been excused and the language will be updated in the 2020-2021 handbook.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Giggey to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2020 and February 7, 2020 Finance Sub-Committee meetings.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 8 Yes

Mr. Sheehan and Mr. Morin thanked Interim Superintendent Davis for all her hard work and the outstanding job she has been doing during this very difficult time.

Respectfully submitted,

Colette Edmonds
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents:

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval:

February 13, 2020

Donation Letter

February 2020 Cooperative Education Report

SOA (Student Opportunity Act) Plan

Memo from Mr. Knight regarding Transfer Request

Budget Transfer List

Year-to-Date Budget Report

Report of Student Representative Dated March 19, 2020