

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of February 27, 2020 Meeting

Sub-Committee Members Present: Mr. Giggey, Mr. Gitschier, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou
(5:49 p.m. arrival)

Others Present: Interim Superintendent-Director Jill Davis, School Business Administrator Michael Knight, Interim Asst. Superintendent/Principal Michael Barton, Senior Assistant Principal Jamie Costa, Dean of Students Ron Vercellone, ELA/ELE/Social Studies Cluster Chair Kate Palladino, Math/Science Cluster Chair Carol Chisolm, Construction Cluster Chair Dan Hamel, Director of Special Education Alison Rihani, Mr. Morin, Mr. LeMay (Remote Participant), Recording Secretary

Meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

Sub-Committee roll call: Present – Mr. Giggey, Mr. Gitschier, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Bahou
(5:49 p.m. arrival)

Mr. Giggey asked Ms. Davis to proceed with her presentation of the proposed FY21 budget.

Interim Superintendent Davis recommended we begin with the topic of the Excess & Deficiency and return to the Personnel Expenditure discussion after the arrival of Mr. Bahou. She informed the members that the E&D use recommendation is necessary to meet net school spending and contribute to OPEB.

In summarizing the FY21 Expenditure Budget and FY Revenue Source, Mr. Giggey asked Mr. Knight where the Debt Service stands and if projected to go down. Mr. Knight commented it has decreased (approximately \$40K) and is projected to continue to decrease more next year.

Interim Superintendent Davis continued the discussion from the previous meeting regarding Personnel Expenditures and noted that upon the request of some committee members, there were several administrators present tonight to answer any questions.

Interim Superintendent Davis proposed an increase in the daily substitute wage, which includes reorganizing the scale, in order to be equitable to surrounding school districts. There is currently a substitute shortage and the increase would potentially attract more interested substitutes.

Interim Superintendent Davis asked Senior Assistant Principal Costa and Dean of Students Vercellone to join the discussion of the proposed addition of an Asst. Principal position. Mr. Bahou asked for information regarding the advantages of having an additional assistant principal. Mr. Costa spoke on the need of the additional position, noting the difficulty to be

proactive rather than reactive. More visible in the shops/halls, as well as making connections with students/teachers would potentially help with deterring/resolving incidents before they occur and not just when they occur. Additional functions are now coming through the Main Office than previously (i.e. graduation, clubs/advisory, busing, increased mandates.) Ms. Davis also touched on some of the recent issues that the impact the office (social media, vaping, mental health.)

Discussion continued regarding the justification of the proposed addition of positions within the Special Education, Mathematics, English, and Guidance departments, as well as technical shop areas. The Director of Special Education (Mrs. Rihani), Math/Science Cluster Chair (Ms. Chisolm), ELA/ELE/Social Studies Cluster Chair (Mrs. Palladino), Director of Guidance (Ms. Encarnacao), and Construction Cluster Chair (Mr. Hamel) were present and asked to join the discussion to answer questions by the committee.

Ms. Encarnacao spoke regarding the additional of a school counselor, as well as an adjustment counselor. Current school ratios are high based on recommended ratios. Additional positions would allow for the restructuring the counselor to be more intervention based and increased assistance and support with mental health.

Detailed information taken into account for instructional positions included failure rates, increased classroom % of special education students in inclusion classes, significant increase in ELL students, RTI (response to intervention) - the need for immediate feedback, immediate help, and 1:1 which is the most efficient way to close the achievement gap. The proposed addition of technical area instructors is primarily due to the increased #'s and the ability to expand the current number of available seats, allowing additional students to get their 1st/2nd shop picks.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the Interim Superintendent's proposed budget for FY21.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 4 Yes, 0 Absent

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 4 Yes, 0 Absent

Respectfully submitted,

Colette Edmonds
Recording Secretary