



# GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

October 17, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Sheehan called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Chairman Sheehan announced that Committeeman Morin would be participating in the meeting remotely.

### ROLL CALL

Members

Present: Mr. Morin (remote), Mr. Hogan, Mr. LeMay, Mr. Gitschier, Mr. Bahou,  
Mr. Sheehan

Members Absent: Mr. Nocco, Mr. Richardson

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director  
Michael Barton, Assistant Superintendent/Principal  
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator  
Greg Haas, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment  
Alison Rihani, Director of Special Education  
Kathryn Palladino, Director of Language Acquisition  
Ariana Arfanakis, Math & Science Cluster Chair  
Paul Myette, ELA & Social Studies Cluster Chair  
Recording Secretary

### PUBLIC APPEARANCE

There was no public appearance.

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

There were no School Committee communications

### REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Chairman Sheehan informed the committee that the student representative was unable to be at the meeting and the report has been provided to the members to review at their leisure.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** by Mr. LeMay, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 19, 2024.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Nocco, Mr. Richardson)

**MOTION:** by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. LeMay to approve the minutes from the meeting of September 27, 2024.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Nocco, Mr. Richardson)

### **REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER**

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Nocco, Mr. Richardson)

**MOTION:** by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. LeMay to approve expenditures for the sum of \$4,444,202.86 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2136A	dated 10/04/2024	Payroll # 975	\$1,264,059.22
Warrant 2136B	dated 10/18/2024	Payroll # 977	\$1,390,777.01
Warrant 2135-1	dated 09/27/2024	Accounts Payable	\$543,128.22
Warrant 2136	dated 10/11/2024	Accounts Payable	\$447,094.62
Warrant 2135-4	dated 09/27/2024	Sales Use/Meals Tax (Aug-24)	\$11.75
Warrant 2136-3	dated 10/11/2024	Sales Use/Meals Tax (Sep-24)	\$1,326.89
Warrant 2136-4	dated 10/11/2024	Lowell Five Cr Card Fees	\$4,653.12
Warrant 2136-2	dated 10/11/2024	Mass Bay Health	\$793,152.03

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Nocco, Mr. Richardson)

### **REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL**

There was no report of general counsel.

### **REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR**

Superintendent Davis began by inviting senior student Madisyn Koza from the Information Technology program to share her experience about being accepted into the Broad Summers Scholar Program which is a highly competitive program for students interested in science and research. Next, Superintendent Davis invited senior student Nichollas Morais from the CADD Program to share his experience about participating in the MITES program through MIT which is a highly competitive program with less than 10% get accepted. Lastly, Superintendent Davis invited sophomore student Rowen Murphy from the Health Assisting & Pre-Nursing Program to share her experience with attending the Woman2Woman Conference at Emerson College specifically geared toward empowering young women to be leaders in their community. Ms. Davis added that Rowen was also selected to be a member of the 24-25 Teen Advocacy Council for Girls Inc. and was one of the few girls chosen to

participate in this program nationwide. The students shared their thoughts and involvement, highlighting specific details of their experiences through their participation individually to the committee. Upon the completion of their contributions, the Superintendent and members of the committee congratulated them on their accomplishments and future pursuits.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that the number of senior students participating in cooperative education employment opportunities reported as of September 30<sup>th</sup> has increased from 175 senior students to 196 as of the night of the meeting which is 35% of the class of 2025.

Superintendent Davis asked Assistant Superintendent/Principal Michael Barton and Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment – Mr. Gregory Haas to provide the yearly MCAS Performance update. Also present were Alison Rihani, Ariana Arfanakis, Paul Myette, and Kathryn Palladino to provide clarification and feedback, if needed.

Mr. Haas' presentation included the scores from the MCAS 2024 administration before moving into the accountability scores. Mr. Haas started by explaining some of the changes that occurred from last year's MCAS to this year's MCAS which included raising the requirements to pass MCAS. There were two changes in this past year, one being a change to the scaled score that students needed to earn. Last year in ELA it was a 455 and for the class of 2026 it went up to a 470. The second change was a change to the raw to scaled score requirement with students having to earn an additional 15% in the English test that they wouldn't have had the year prior, they raised expectations on the Math MCAS 10% and the Biology MCAS by 5%. Mr. Haas added that for the class of 2030, DESE will be raising it again and the expectation is that students are on a 500 scaled score.

With the change in the scaled score and the conversation, we did see a little bit of an impact in Math and English from 2023 MCAS to 2024. English was minimal and went down 4% with the state seeing a decline, and Math seeing a 3% decline with the state seeing a 2% decline in meeting or exceeding expectations. Science saw tremendous improvement and went up 9% and have matched the state average putting us directly on par with the Commonwealth in terms of Science.

Mr. Haas continued with MCAS growth data which indicated a shift in English from the previous year. Writing standards took a little bit of a dip and that is where the lower growth was shown in English. Strategies have already been put in place to adjust that. Math growth has continued to increase year over year and have exceeded the state. Mr. Haas continued with the scores from the English Learners. Greater Lowell English Learners made significant improvements across the board and all of them are now surpassing the state average. Students with disabilities population showed a little bit of a decline in English, Math decline of 1%, and Science & Technology showing a shift with an 8% gain.

Additional information presented included data on low income students which show above the state average in all of them (English, Math and Science) with a little bit of decline in English from last year with the other two showing improvements. The Asian group saw improvements and is now out of the watch level and, although still consistently below the state average, have seen the improvements the school has been looking for. The Hispanic group is exceeding state averages, above them in all three content areas. There was some decline in English and Math; however, so did the state average. This group also saw major gains in Science from the prior year.

Mr. Haas reviewed the areas of strength and growth, as well as the improvement efforts in ELA, Mathematics, and Biology areas respectively. He continued on to the accountability ratings with a breakdown on how the state looks at different targets; MCAS Achievement (40% of accountability metrics), Growth (20%), High School Course Completion (20%), English Language Proficiency (10%), and Absenteeism/Advanced Coursework (10%) which is similar to what was done last year. Assistant Superintendent/Principal Barton noted that the overall percentile ranking in terms of taking all of the data (attendance, dropout rate, graduation rate), which is that it is put together to get a percentile rank and is anywhere from 99 to as low as 1. He added the school's percentile rank is 52% which is the highest it has ever been in the history of the school and, when compared to other vocational and comprehensive high schools, Greater Lowell is achieving at a really good pace. Mr. Haas provided a brief explanation of how the scores and rankings are determined by the state resulting in obtaining 60% of our possible points for our all students, 52% for our lowest performing group, and then the state averages those out to 56% target percentage. In terms of actual accountability percentile, the stage merges last year score which was 80% (which did not factor in the lowest performing group) resulting in meeting 65% of our progress toward target, giving us a classification of 'not requiring assistance or intervention' due to substantial progress toward targets. Additional data was reviewed in relation to comparison with technical high schools across the state, including accountability percentiles, school enrollment, and enrollment of low-income students.

For the last item on the Superintendent's agenda, Ms. Davis asked Assistant Superintendent/Principal Barton to provide a brief summary of the proposed changes to the Technical Service Program Catalog. Assistant Superintendent/Principal Barton informed the members that there were minimal changes and reflected only minor language revisions. With no further discussion or questions, Mr. Barton asked for approval.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve the Technical Service Program Catalog.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Nocco, Mr. Richardson)

### **REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER**

School Business Administrator Michael Knight informed the committee members that the Health Assisting & Pre-Nursing Department requested to declare surplus and dispose of 10 Diamedical hospital beds and mattresses. The beds were originally purchased over five years old and currently have various broken and nonworking parts. They have since been replaced with new beds to maintain industry standards. Mr. Knight added the beds are not estimated to hold any real residual value due to age and condition.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to authorize declaring 10 Diamedical Vantage Tutor Hospital beds and mattresses surplus and move it to disposal.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Nocco, Mr. Richardson)

School Business Administrator Michael Knight informed the committee members that GLTHS has the opportunity to offset next year's assessment FY25 to the member communities for transportation. An

excess transportation reimbursement over the budgeted amount of \$770,000 was received in FY24. Mr. Knight added that this funding would need to be moved to the revolving account established in 2021 in order to offset the assessment.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Hogan to move the \$770,000 excess revenue in Chapter 71 transportation reimbursement received in FY24 to the Regional Transportation Reimbursement Fund.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Nocco, Mr. Richardson)

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Outstanding Items from Previous Meetings**

1. Superintendent's Wall (O'Hare)
2. Building Security (Sheehan)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

## **COMMITTEEPERSON MOTION**

There were no committeeperson motions.

## **REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

There was no report of sub-committees.

## **ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Hogan to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Nocco, Mr. Richardson)

Respectfully submitted,



Colette Edmonds

Recording Secretary

### **Meeting Documents:**

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval: September 19, 2024, September 27, 2024

Copy of 2024 Cooperative Education Report

Copy of MCAS Data Presentation

Memo regarding Surplus Equipment Disposal

Memo regarding Funding Regional Transportation Reimbursement Fund