



## **GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL**

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**November 21, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Sheehan called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Chairman Sheehan announced that Committeeman Nocco and Richardson would be participating in the meeting remotely.

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members**

**Present:** Mr. Bahou, Mr. Morin, Mr. Richardson (remote), Mr. Hogan, Mr. Nocco (remote), Mr. Gitschier, Mr. Mr. Sheehan

**Members Absent:** Mr. LeMay (absent @ roll call – arrived @ 6:38)

##### **Also**

**Present:** Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director  
Michael Barton, Assistant Superintendent/Principal  
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator  
Lisa Martinez, Director of Technology, Enrollment & Information (remote)  
Director of Greg Haas, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment  
Cheryl Bomal, Title I Facilitator/Grant Writer  
Recording Secretary

#### **PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

Chairman Sheehan was informed by Committeeman Bahou that Mr. Brad Buitenhuys, Executive Director for the Lowell Litter Krewe, had signed up to speak to the committee. Mr. Sheehan asked Mr. Buitenhuys to come forward to speak. Mr. Buitenhuys informed the committee that they are a volunteer organization out of Lowell and host volunteer opportunities and spoke about Operation Rosebud. This is snow shoveling assistance program in conjunction with the Lowell Mayor's Office and Senior Center which provides snow shoveling to the elderly and disabled in need of assistance. Mr. Buitenhuys is looking for assistance in contacting more students. He added that Greater Lowell Tech has sent more students than any other school, but would like to expand that as there is currently an extensive waiting list and more volunteers are needed. Superintendent Davis informed Mr. Buitenhuys that she would be more than happy to put the information on our school website and also on our social media platforms and would be more than happy to support their efforts.

## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no School Committee communications

## **REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Student Representative, Tyler Phath Cano provided an update of recently held clubs and sporting events.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Bahou to approve the minutes from the meeting of October 17, 2024.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

## **REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER**

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

**MOTION:** by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Morin to approve expenditures for the sum of \$10,165,631.34 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2137A	dated 11/01/2024	Payroll # 979	\$1,377,821.11
Warrant 2137B	dated 11/15/2024	Payroll # 982	\$1,403,833.72
Warrant 2136-1	dated 10/25/2024	Accounts Payable	\$4,097,382.95
Warrant 2137	dated 11/08/2024	Accounts Payable	\$743,704.71
Warrant 2137-1	dated 11/22/2024	Accounts Payable	\$1,764,347.36
Warrant 2137-3	dated 11/22/2024	Sales Use/Meals Tax	\$3,186.43
Warrant 2137-4	dated 11/08/2024	Lowell Five Cr Card Fees	\$2,964.91
Warrant 2137-5	dated 11/22/2024	Lowell Five Cr Card Fees	\$26.99
Warrant 2137-2	dated 11/08/2024	Mass Bay Health	\$772,363.16

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

## **REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL**

There was no report of general counsel.

## **REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR**

Superintendent Davis began with the first item on her agenda and informed the committee that the number of senior students participating in cooperative education employment opportunities reported as of October 31<sup>th</sup> has increased from 208 senior students to 234 senior students as of the night of the meeting which is 41.5% of the class of 2025.

Superintendent Davis asked Ms. Cheryl Bomal, Title I Facilitator/Grant Writer to join the meeting to speak to the committee about the recent CTE Skills Capital Grant Award. Ms. Bomal informed the committee that Greater Lowell Tech was awarded \$1,000,000 dollars from the Skills Capital Lab Modernization Grant with supports the purchase of equipment to upgrade and expand CTE programs aligned regional economic and workforce priorities. She noted the funding will be used to make improvements to the Electrical program, such as expanding and remodeling shop space, installing work stations to accommodate 5 additional students each week, and the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment. Superintendent Davis and the committee commended Ms. Bomal for her work on this grant, as well as the many other grant awards we have received due to her efforts in the past.

Superintendent Davis stated the next item on her agenda was regarding the revised Admission Policy. Ms. Davis informed the committee that Career Technical Education (CTE) Admissions has been a topic in the forefront of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education since 2021 when they voted to amend the regulations for admissions of students to CTE schools with the goal of providing flexibility for CTE schools to develop data informed policies that promote equitable access. She added that for many years, there has been an increased interest in CTE state-wide; however, there are not enough seats to fulfill the interest resulting in extensive waiting lists. Recently, DESE is strongly recommending that Regional Vocational CTE Schools shift to a lottery Admissions system to resolve perceived disproportionality. However, Superintendent Davis stated that simply admitting students at random risks shifting rather than solving the issue that there are simply not enough seats to meet the demand of students and families who want to attend vocational schools. She added that using selective criteria of attendance, discipline and grades is indeed essential, especially given the unique demands of CTE.

Superintendent Davis continued in-depth with some of the reasons why these factors must be prioritized, highlighting each area of Attendance, Discipline and Grades. Ms. Davis included that GLTHS's mission is to train students in specific trades and genuine interest in CTE programs is essential for both students and teachers to achieve successful outcomes.

Superintendent Davis noted that this past year, DESE has determined that GLTECH does not meet their standard in one area of being proportional to demographics of the eligible pool. (English Learner) Mr. Gregory Haas, Director of Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction, spoke regarding factors impacting the validity of DESE's data in regards to students with disabilities and English Learners is the shift in student classification.

- Student classifications for students with disabilities or English Learner, can shift between the data collection period (October 1 SIMS) in their eighth-grade year and the October 1 SIMS data collection and reporting date in their ninth-grade year.
- Also, the mindset that every eligible eighth grade student in our sending school communities wants to apply to GLTHS is not true and is misrepresented in DESE's data.

Superintendent Davis continued by stating attendance, discipline, and grades are not merely arbitrary barriers, they are essential qualities that contribute to a productive, safe, and effective learning environment in a vocational setting. She added that by maintaining selective criteria and continuing to focus on supportive pathways for students with disabilities and English Learners in collaboration with

sending middle schools, GLTHS can better serve its mission in a way that aligns with the needs of its students and community.

After closer remarks, Superintendent Davis proposed submitting an updated admission policy for committee approval. She added that the policy incorporates findings from data analysis and aims to address disproportionality without compromising program quality or student preparedness. Superintendent Davis reviewed and highlighted the changes, which included, but not limited to, the elimination of the requirement of a recommendation from a counselor, revisions to the points awarded for grades, allowing an equivalent course to be considered, increasing the threshold for unexcused absences, and increasing the maximum points awarded to an application who does not have a conduct record of any major disciplinary infraction. Superintendent Davis asked if there were any questions before moving to approval.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Morin to approve the Admission Policy.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

### **REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER**

School Business Administrator Mr. Knight provided the committee with an explanation of the budget line transfers request and asked for approval totaling in the amount of \$340,912.

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

### **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**

Chairman Sheehan informed the committee that, due to an overlap of the School Committee meeting and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Open House scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup>, he would like to ask for a motion to change the December meeting from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the budget line item transfers.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

## **REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

There was no report of sub-committees.

## **ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes,

Respectfully submitted,

  
Colette Edmonds  
Recording Secretary

### **Meeting Documents:**

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval: October 17, 2024

Copy of 2024 Cooperative Education Report

Copy of the Grant Award Notification

Copy of the proposed Admission Policy