

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

November 20, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Morin called the school committee meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members

Present: Mr. Gitschier, Mr. LeMay, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Morin

Members Absent: Mr. Nocco, Mr. Bahou (absent @ roll call – arrived @ 6:45 p.m.)

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director
Michael Barton, Assistant Superintendent/Principal
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator
Gregory Haas, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment
Tracy Encarnacao, Director of School Counseling
Alison Rihani, Director of Special Education
Ariana Arfanakis, Math/Science Cluster Chair
Paul Myette, ELA/Social Studies Cluster Chair
Kathryn Palladino, Director Language Acquisition
Jamie Costa, Senior Assistant Principal
Nick Beauchamp, Assistant Principal
Jennifer Santiago, Assistant Principal
Ron Vercellone, Dean of Students
Recording Secretary

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

There was no public appearance.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

There were no School Committee communications

REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Student Representative, Anna DiBona provided an update of recently held clubs and sporting events.

Superintendent Davis added her congratulations to Coach Dave MacLaughlan who is being inaugurated into the 2025 Massachusetts Baseball Coaching Hall of Fame.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the minutes from the meeting of October 20, 2025.

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

REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER

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

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

MOTION: by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve expenditures for the sum of \$6,389,797.55 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2148C	dated 10/31/2025	Payroll # 1030	1,458,959.72
Warrant 2149A	dated 11/14/2025	Payroll # 1032	1,432,651.27
Warrant 2148-1	dated 10/24/2025	Accounts Payable	653,145.22
Warrant 2148-6	dated 10/24/2025	Cafeteria Plan (2148B)	5,465.98
Warrant 2148-7	dated 10/24/2025	Accounts Payable	4,160.00
Warrant 2149-2	dated 10/24/2025	Mass Bay Health (Nov)	843,010.13
Warrant 2149	dated 11/07/2025	Accounts Payable	668,825.48
Warrant 2149-4	dated 11/07/2025	Lowell Five Cr Card Fees	2,926.29
Warrant 2149-5	dated 11/07/2025	Cafeteria Plan (2148C)	5,680.98
Warrant 2149-1	dated 11/21/2025	Accounts Payable	458,536.27
Warrant 2149-3	dated 11/21/2025	Sales Use/Meals Tax	3,348.17
Warrant 2149-6	dated 11/21/2025	Cafeteria Plan (2149A)	5,680.98
Warrant 2149-7	dated 11/21/2025	Mass Bay Health (Dec)	847,407.06

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

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL

There was no report of general counsel.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

Superintendent Davis began by welcoming Mathematics instructor – Robin Tylim and students from Team MOAD MK who presented their WBLA Design Challenge winning project. Team members included Engineering students - Markus Fechner, Aiden Simmons, Oliver McCarthy, and Danny Un (unable to attend), as well as Electrical students – Khristian Carleton and Mya Zepkowski. Superintendent Davis highlighted that Team MOAD MK won the state-wide

competition with their urban farming project for the City of Lowell area. She noted the project focused on designing a sustainable farm using solar panels and aquaponics to feed the community year-round. Team members presented their individual roles and contributions to the project; highlighting project details (including the design of a 6,000 square foot facility with vertical farms, greenhouse with aquaponic system, chicken coop, and compost area); project technical specifications (including budget, power calculations, and aquaponic setup of four 2,000 gallon tanks); impact and partnerships (including the plan to serve 75 families monthly by the end of five years and the industrial professionals collaborated with).

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that MassHire Lowell Career Center was awarded a Youth Works Grant and set aside \$40,000 to partner with Greater Lowell Tech to run an adult Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Program after school for up to 20 adults.

Superintendent Davis informed the School Committee that Greater Lowell Tech was awarded a MEFA Pathways grant from the Department of Education and Secondary Education in the amount of \$7,000 to develop curriculum and resources that will support students in completing their pathways portfolios.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that the number of senior students participating in cooperative education employment opportunities reported as of October 31st indicates 179 senior students; however, as of the meeting date, the number has increased to 210 senior students which is 39% of the class of 2026.

Before asking the Assistant Superintendent/Principal and the Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment to join the table to provide the 2025 MCAS results and Accountability overview, Superintendent Davis took a few moments to express her appreciation. Superintendent Davis informed the committee that this year's Accountability Rating is at the 64th percentile, the highest rating in the school's history. Ms. Davis thanked Assistant Superintendent/Principal – Mr. Barton, the entire Administrative team, and every member of our staff for their hard work, dedication, and professionalism. Superintendent Davis continued by introducing the present members of the Administrative team before moving forward with the presentation.

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment – Mr. Greg Haas provided the 2025 MCAS Results & Accountability overview through a slide presentation with a summary of the data provided below.

MCAS Results Overview:

- Greater Lowell achieved its highest accountability rating in history at the 64th percentile despite statewide declines in MCAS performance
- Results showed minimal negative impact compared to dramatic shifts seen across the state when MCAS was no longer tied to graduation requirements.
- Mathematics performance exceeded state averages for the first time in school history.

English Language Arts Performance

- Current performance is only 3% below state average, representing significant improvement from a 28% gap in 2019.
- Greater Lowell saw slight decline from previous year but maintained much better performance than state trends.
- Growth metrics showed return to above state average for the third year since pandemic ended.

Mathematics Achievement Breakthrough

- Greater Lowell scored 31% in meeting and exceeding expectations compared to state's 24%, marking first time above state average.
- All four exam categories showed improvement with algebra moving from 7% below state to above state average.
- Geometry remained the highest performing category, improving from 4% to 7% above state average.

Mathematics Program Improvements

- Chemistry moved to 10th grade year providing more algebra-based learning that aligns with MCAS timing.
- Support classes were restructured for 9th and 10th grades to address gaps earlier rather than waiting until junior or senior year.
- Final exams were implemented for all students in 9th and 10th grades to better prepare for assessments.

Student Subgroup Performance in Mathematics

- Low-income students performed 48% higher than state average while Hispanic students scored 57% higher.
- English Language Learners achieved 80% higher performance than state average.
- Student growth percentile reached 61%, the highest ever recorded and tied with top performing schools statewide.

Biology and Science Results

- Biology performance increased 31% from 2019 levels in meeting and exceeding expectations categories.
- All Biology categories showed improvement with school outperforming state average by 5% in ecology.
- Low-income students outperformed state peers by 34% while Hispanic students exceeded by 65%.

Biology Program Enhancements

- Saturday boot camps replaced traditional after-school review sessions with 73 students attending first session and 54 attending second.
- New format reached 64 students per hour of instruction compared to only 4 students per hour in previous format.

- Final exams were introduced and timed strategically before MCAS administration to identify knowledge gaps.

Student Growth and Achievement Metrics

- English Language Arts growth returned above state average while Mathematics growth continued upward trajectory.
- Greater Lowell's performance across all subgroups showed significant improvements with English Learners matching state in ELA and exceeding in Math and Biology.
- Students with disabilities maintained strong performance despite slight decline, with gap between school and state performance continuing to close.

Attendance and Engagement Success

- Daily attendance rate reached 95.8% with graduation rate at 97.5% and dropout rate at only 0.1%.
- Chronic absenteeism improved dramatically from 21% in 2022 to 7.5% in 2025.
- Greater Lowell consistently maintains attendance above 95% threshold through celebration programs and community building efforts.

Accountability Rating Components

- Greater Lowell earned full points in four-year cohort graduation, engagement rate, annual dropout rate, and English language proficiency.
- Advanced coursework participation met targets through dual enrollment, early college, AP, and project lead the way courses.
- Chronic absenteeism performance exceeded state targets while attendance celebrations and support systems maintained high engagement.

Comparative Performance Analysis

- Greater Lowell ranks among top vocational schools statewide with 64th percentile accountability rating compared to 50th percentile average.
- Performance exceeds all 10 most similar schools when comparing factors like enrollment size, low-income percentage, and English learner population.

Superintendent Davis asked the Assistant Superintendent/Principal Michael Barton to provide information regarding the out-of-state travel request and answer any questions before asking for approval. Assistant Superintendent/Principal Barton informed the committee that Mr. Haas was recently awarded a very prestigious Fellowship to participate in the Fulbright Leaders for Global Schools Program. He continued by noting that Mr. Haas was selected competitively by hundreds, if not thousands, of applicants to go to Finland and participate in professional development, going to vocational schools, businesses, industry, and comprehensive schools. Mr. Barton added that Mr. Haas is requesting eight (8) professional development days to attend this program at no cost to the district and wholeheartedly recommend approval.

MOTION: by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Richardson to approve the out-of-state travel request for the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment – Mr. Greg Haas

to participate in the Fulbright Leaders for Global Schools Program in Finland from January 18-29, 2026.

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

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 \$104,950.

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

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

School Business Administrator Mr. Knight informed the committee that he was looking for their approval to dispose of the spray booth purchased in 2022 for the Graphics department. He noted the booth did not work for the intended program and was unable to find any other internal use for it within the building.

MOTION: by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to dispose of the spray booth via auction following the School Committee Disposal Policy.

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

School Business Administrator Mr. Knight informed the committee that he was withdrawing the solar energy proposal from the agenda due to insufficient financial benefits despite federal program availability.

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. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Colette Edmonds
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents:

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval: October 20, 2025

Copy of MassHire Lowell Career Center Grant Award Letter

Copy of 2025 Cooperative Education Report

Copy of MCAS Accountability Presentation

Copy of out-of-state travel documentation

Budget Transfer Request

Copy of memo from Mr. Knight re: Paint Hood & Cabinet Disposal

Year-to-Date Budget Report