

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

December 18, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Morin called the school committee meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Morin began by asking for a moment of silence for long-time former School Committeeman and friend Mr. George O'Hare.

ROLL CALL

Members

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

Members Absent: Mr. Bahou

Also

Present: Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director
Michael Barton, Assistant Superintendent/Principal
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator
Jennifer Machado, Director of Practical Nursing
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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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

REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER

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

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

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve expenditures for the sum of \$5,341,224.87 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2149B	dated 11/28/2025	Payroll # 1035	1,510,073.91
Warrant 2150A	dated 12/12/2025	Payroll # 1037	1,374,433.60
Warrant 2150M	dated 12/17/2025	Payroll # 2150M	1,618.11
Warrant 2150	dated 12/05/2025	Accounts Payable	626,619.46
Warrant 2150-1	dated 12/19/2025	Accounts Payable	974,342.42
Warrant 2150-5	dated 12/05/2025	Cafeteria Plan (2148B)	5,930.98
Warrant 2150-6	dated 12/19/2025	Cafeteria Plan (2150A)	5,680.98
Warrant 2150-2	dated 12/19/2025	Mass Bay Health (Jan)	834,704.00
Warrant 2150-4	dated 12/05/2025	Lowell Five Cr Card Fees	4,778.53
Warrant 2150-3	dated 12/19/2025	Sales Use/Meals Tax	3,042.88

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

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL

There was no report of general counsel.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

Superintendent Davis began by inviting the Boys & Girls Cross Country Teams and their coaches (Head Coach – Matt Murphy; Assistant Coaches Nick Villani and Peter Fortunato) to the podium. Superintendent Davis added that their presence this evening was to recognize their athletic abilities and accomplishments during the Fall Cross Country season.

Superintendent Davis provided the following highlights and accomplishments: Boys & Girls Cross Country Teams both earned the titles of CAC Champions, State Vocational Champions, and MIAA Division 3A Champions. The Girls Cross Country Team went on to capture the MIAA Division 3 All-State Championship, the first in the history of the school, while the Boys placed 5th! Ms. Davis then asked the student athletes to step forward individually, introduce themselves, and share a personal accomplishment. Superintendent Davis included the following athletes were named Lowell Sun All-Stars: 9th grade student, Hannah Levesque; 9th grade student, Lillian Zurkus; 10th grade student, Teagan Galvagni; 12th grade student, Maurice King, Jr.; and 11th grade student, Matthew Guerin.

Superintendent Davis continued by congratulating Coach Murphy who was named the Lowell Sun's Coach of the Year, as well as the Mass. Track & Field Coaching Association Coach of the Year! Ms. Davis added Coach Murphy's career mark of approximately 38-4 in the CAC in his 8 years of coaching.

Superintendent Davis was pleased to recognize Model United Nations advisors Ms. Jillian Shipulski and Mr. Richard Callahan along with the student delegates for their outstanding accomplishments and for representing Greater Lowell Technical High School with exceptional distinction. Superintendent Davis asked each student to introduce themselves and indicate the year they are in and what technical program. She informed the committee that at the UMass-Lowell Model United Nations Crisis Conference a few weeks ago, these students earned multiple individual awards including 2 Best Delegate awards (first place), 2 Outstanding Delegate awards (2nd Place), and Honorable Mentions (3rd place). Superintendent Davis highlighted that Greater Lowell was the only technical high school in attendance and the only school where Model UN operates as a club rather than a full academic course. Ms. Davis commended both advisors; noting they had volunteered their time for four (4) years before becoming a full-fledged club, as well as thanking Social Studies and English Chairperson Mr. Myette who initiated the club and worked to bring it to fruition.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that the number of senior students participating in cooperative education employment opportunities reported as of November 30th indicates 215 senior students; however, as of the meeting date, the number has increased to 235 senior students which is 44% of the class of 2026.

Superintendent Davis asked Ms. Jennifer Machado, Director of Practical Nursing to review changes to the 2025-2026 Greater Lowell Technical School of Practical Nursing Student Handbook before asking for your approval. Ms. Machado began by informing the committee that the Board of Nursing voted on December 10th to remove the admission cap and warning status for the Practical Nursing Program; adding the program can now return to full capacity with 40 students in the day cohort and 40 students in the evening cohort. Superintendent Davis commended Ms. Machado for successfully restoring the program to full approval status after several months of intensive work.

Ms. Machado continued by reviewing the changes made to the Student Handbook as a result of a site visit conducted by the Board of Nursing from October 14th through 16th where recommendations were made for program effectiveness improvements. Handbook updates reviewed by Ms. Machado included: additional layers of accommodations requiring multiple approvals rather than single-person decisions; veterans access choice information was added to align handbook content with website publications; curriculum development language and t-score discussions with the advisory committee resulted in handbook modifications; clinical placement language was updated to match online information and include collaboration with the Director of Human Resources; and support resources were expanded based on Board of Nursing recommendations, including counseling services for practical nursing students.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the revised 2025-2026 Greater Lowell Technical School of Practical Nursing Student Handbook.

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

Superintendent Davis asked the Assistant Superintendent/Principal Michael Barton and ELA/Social Studies Cluster Chair – Mr. Paul Myette to review the Competency Determination Policy with the

committee members and answer any questions before asking for approval. Assistant Superintendent/Principal Barton began with reviewing the change in Competency Determination and noting that in November of 2024, the Massachusetts voters decided to repeal MCAS as a graduation requirement, requiring districts to provide new competency determination requirements to prove that they have earned their competency in specific subjects to prove that.

Mr. Barton added that, as a result, a policy has been developed that combines two basic items; completion of coursework and end of year assessments.

- Class of 2026 must complete English language arts, mathematics, and science technology engineering requirements including specific courses and state-created end-of-year assessments. Students must successfully complete English 1, English 2, geometry, and algebra courses along with one science course and corresponding assessments.
- Class of 2027 will additionally require history coursework as part of the competency determination requirements.
- Safety nets include interventions, tutoring, credit recovery, summer programming, and an appeal process for students who struggle.
- Portfolio option allows students to compile schoolwork, projects, lab reports, and assessments for review committee evaluation if they cannot demonstrate mastery through traditional methods.
- Juniors will take competency determination assessments as midterms upon return from vacation, with retake opportunities at year-end if needed.
- History requirements present unique challenges since few juniors currently take history courses, requiring identification and placement of students needing additional coursework.
- Policy preserves technical programming time while ensuring students receive necessary academic content exposure for graduation competency.

After further discussion and review, a motion was made to support the policy.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve the Competency Determination Policy.

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

REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER

School Business Administrator Mr. Knight informed the committee that he was looking for their approval to declare a 2012 E450 bus with approximately 21,000 miles surplus and dispose of through the standard process. Mr. Knight added that the vehicle was replaced by one of the vans purchased and delivered over the summer and is no longer needed for operations; noting the disposal process involves offering the vehicle to community members first, followed by public auction if no local interest exists.

MOTION: by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to declare surplus and dispose of vehicles through the school committee policy when value is determined on vehicles.

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

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

Chairman Morin informed the members that the Facilities Naming Committee has six seats that have expired; two (2) School Committee member seats which are appointed by the School Committee Chair, and the Parent, Alumnus, Current Administrator and Current Teacher seats, which are appointed by the Superintendent. Chairman Morin appointed Committeeman Gitschier to fill the three-year Chairman term and Committeeman Richardson to fill the one-year term. Superintendent Davis appointed the remaining four seats as follows: Ms. Jennifer Knowlton to fill the three-year term of the Parent seat, Ms. Valerie Branco to fill the three-year term of the Alumnus seat, Mr. Michael Knight to fill the one-year term of the Current Administrator seat and Christopher Andros to fill the one-year term of the Current Teacher seat on the committee.

COMMITTEEPERSON MOTION

Committeeman Richardson proposed suspending heating in the building on December 26th and January 2nd when there are limited staff in the building and proposed allowing these staff to work from home. Chairman Morin opened for discussion. Superintendent Davis informed the members that we don't set a precedent to work from home and staff have the option to take vacation time or come to work on those days. Committeeman Gitschier noted previous year complications arose when building projects required overtime payments after giving staff days off, necessitating people in the building for project completion. After further discussion, Committeeman Richardson withdrew the motion.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

There was no report of sub-committees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Morin requested a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(2) – to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel – Superintendent-Director.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to enter into executive session.

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

Chairman Morin announced there may be a potential vote on ratification discussed during executive session; therefore, the committee would be returning to open session.

The meeting ended to go into Executive Session at 7:21 p.m. with 6 present (2 absent, Mr. Bahou, Mr. Richardson).

The meeting reconvened at 7:36 p.m. with a roll call vote of 6 present (2 absent, Mr. Bahou, Mr. Richardson).

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Hogan to approve the six-month extension of the Superintendent-Director contract from July 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026.

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

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Mr. Hogan, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Colette Edmonds
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents:

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval: November 20, 2025

Copy of 2025 Cooperative Education Report

Copy of revised 2025-2026 GLTS of Practical Nursing Student Handbook

Copy of Competency Determination & Graduation Requirements Policy

Copy of memo from Mr. Knight re: vehicle Disposal

Year-to-Date Budget Report