

# GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## **FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING**

### Minutes of February 12, 2026 Meeting

#### CALL TO ORDER

Sub-Committee Chairman Gitschier called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Gitschier, Mr. Bahou, Mr. Sheehan

Members Absent: Mr. Nocco

Also Present: Jill Davis, Superintendent-Director  
Michael Barton, Assistant Superintendent-Director  
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator  
Recording Secretary

Sub-Committee Chairman Gitschier stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the FY27 budget.

Superintendent Davis and School Business Administrator Michael Knight presented the preliminary FY27 budget to the Finance Sub-Committee members. She began by informing the subcommittee that the preliminary budget was developed based on the Governor's House Budget Proposal, as well as data and input from administrators, teachers, parents, and community partners and centered around improving student achievement in order to develop confident learners and skilled workers.

Ms. Davis reminded the members that the Massachusetts House, Senate and Governor approved a change in the state funding formula for public education in 2015 with the Student Opportunity Act. The bill provided an investment of \$1.5 billion into schools over six (6) years (originally seven years but was reduced to six years last year) and this is the last year of funding under the current plan. This bill is aimed at tackling inequity, specifically for school districts with higher percentages of low-income students, English language learners and Special Education students in order to close the achievement gap. The base rate for a vocational student was increased by \$692.67, the rate for a special education student was increased by \$1,131.26 and the rate for ELL students was increased by \$408.28. Also noted was the low-income percentage (currently at 50.87% – down from 54.11%) which places us in category 9 (dropping from 10); therefore, receiving \$7,932.63.

Superintendent Davis continued with the new rates of pupil expenditures set by the state and our current enrollment; the Foundation Budget increased by \$964,511, which is a 1.75% increase over this year's budget. She added that this amount is all net school spending required funding that needs to be spent each year in addition to future budget increases.

Superintendent Davis noted the significant drop from last year could be attributed to the reduction in LPN enrollment based on restrictions placed on the LPN program, as well as the decrease in low income students which changed our low-income category.

Superintendent Davis and Mr. Knight spoke briefly on the revenue budget consisting of Excess and Deficiency, Other School Revenue, Assessment to the Towns, and State Aid. Ms. Davis informed the members that the assessment to the towns includes an increase of \$1,046,168 from last year. Mr. Knight reminded the members that last year, excess transportation funds were put into a revolving account to offset this year's budget. However, that could not be duplicated for the FY27 budget.

Superintendent Davis reviewed the proposed budget priorities as follows, detailing the priorities in each of the following areas:

- High Quality Curriculum Instruction and Authentic Assessment
- Student Supports and Advanced Learning
- Equipment and Technology for Innovative Learning Environments
- College & Career Planning and Community Partnerships

Mr. Knight spoke regarding the proposed FY27 expenditure budget; noting the proposed preliminary budget of \$61,126,858 represents an increase of \$2,006,056, which is a 3.39% increase. He added that instructional and academic/technical spending continues to dominate the budget expenditure, as well as increases to insurance and transportation; no offset and a new bus contract. This also includes investments in programmatic resources, supports, and interventions to meet the needs of our diverse learners and deepen learning for all students as well as supporting educational equity and opportunity.

School Business Administrator, Michael Knight reviewed non-personnel notable expenditures. Decrease in funding were to supplies, equipment and texts, the Plant Services budget, and debt services, with school choice funding being leveled. Increase in expenditures included salaries and substitutions, transportation, fringe benefits & retirement, and utilities.

Superintendent Davis reviewed the proposed personnel expenditures to allow for the new Veterinary Science Program, as well as position reductions by attrition, and eliminations in order to balance the budget due to funding constraints. Reductions by attrition included one (1) Advanced Manufacturing Instructor. Current instructor is retiring and position is not being refilled due to reduced numbers in the program. Additional reductions include one (1) part-time Hall Monitor and one (1) Grounds Keeper. Position eliminations include four (4) tutors (2 ELE and 2 Math) and one (1) Human Resources Generalist. Additional positions include one (1) Veterinary Science Instructor.

Mr. Knight spoke regarding FY27 funding changes and the use of Excess and Deficiency. His recommendation to use \$525,000 comes from the need to meet net school spending. Expenses that do not qualify for net school spending include Medicaid filing (\$7,000), OPEB contribution (\$25,000), and operating budget support (\$493,000). Without this minimum amount added to the budget, we would not meet net school spending.

Superintendent Davis and Mr. Knight provided a summary of the proposed FY27 budget as follows:

The preliminary FY27 total budget would be \$61,126,858, which is a 3.39% increase over FY26.

Operating Budget	57,115,233
Transportation	2,759,395
Debt Service	1,227,230
OPEB	25,000

The preliminary FY27 Budget assessment would be:

Min. Local Contribution	17,424,745	Chapter 70	38,740,488
Transportation Assessment	1,259,395	Chapter 71 (transportation)	1,500,000
<u>Debt Assessment</u>	<u>1,227,230</u>	Excess & Deficiency	525,000
		<u>Other School Income</u>	<u>450,000</u>
Total Assessment	19,911,370	Total Budget	61,126,858

**MOTION:** by Mr. Bahou seconded by Mr. Sheehan to recommend to the School Committee approval of the FY27 budget of \$61,126,858.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 3 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. Nocco)

A school committee meeting (6:30 p.m.) and public hearing on the budget (5:45 p.m.) will take place on Thursday, March 19, 2026.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to adjourn at 6:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 3 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. Nocco)

Respectfully submitted,



Colette Edmonds  
Recording Secretary