GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

June 18, 2026 – 6:32 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman LeMay called the school committee meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
Chairman LeMay announced that Committeeman Nocco would be participating in tonight's meeting remotely.

ROLL CALL

Members
Present: Mr. Morin, Mr. Bahou, Mr. Nocco, Mr. Gitschier, Mr. LeMay

Members Absent: Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan

Also
Present: Michael Barton, Assistant Superintendent/Principal
Michael Knight, School Business Administrator
Lisa Martinez, Director of Technology, Enrollment, and Information
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. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Morin to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 21, 2026.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan)

REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan)

MOTION: by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve expenditures for the sum of $10,242,979.28 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2155C	dated 05/29/2026	Payroll # 1061	1,702,253.19
Warrant 2156A	dated 06/12/2026	Payroll # 1063	1,413,748.04
Warrant 2156LS	dated 06/12/2026	Payroll # 1063LS	4,871,949.21
Warrant 2156V	dated 06/12/2026	Payroll # 2156V	- 4,947.65
Warrant 2156M	dated 06/17/2026	Payroll # 2156M	2,088.25
Warrant 2156	dated 06/05/2026	Accounts Payable	716,931.42
Warrant 2156-1	dated 06/19/2026	Accounts Payable	643,856.41
Warrant 2156-2	dated 06/05/2026	Cafeteria Plan (2155C)	6,656.84
Warrant 2156-3	dated 06/19/2026	Cafeteria Plan (2156A)	6,656.84
Warrant 2156-7	dated 06/19/2026	Cafeteria Plan (2156LS)	24,462.40
Warrant 2155-7	dated 05/29/2026	Mass Bay Health	853,232.63
Warrant 2156-6	dated 06/05/2026	Lowell Five Cr Card Fees	3,294.60
Warrant 2156-5	dated 06/19/2026	Sales Use/Meals Tax	2,797.10

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan)

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL

There was no report of general counsel.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that Greater Lowell Technical High School and UMass Lowell recently received official Early College Designation from the Commonwealth, recognizing the strength of the partnership and the commitment to expanding college access for students. Ms. Davis highlighted that since launching as a pilot in 2023, the program has grown to 244 students, with more than 300 students expected to participate next school year. Superintendent Davis added that 98% of Greater Lowell students who enrolled at UMass Lowell in the Fall of 2025 had previously participated in early college. This initiative has also contributed to increased participation in advance coursework, rising from 80.9% in 2022 to 88.6% in 2024-2025. Special recognition was extended to Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Greg Haas, along with Francine Koston and Kate Kopens from UMass Lowell for their contributions to the program.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee she would be seeking their approval for a donation in the amount of $5,000 from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation grant, designated on behalf of Mark & Elisia Saab. The designated funds will be used to support the school's summer program, and a letter of gratitude would be sent to the Saab family for their support.

MOTION: by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to accept the donation from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation Grant on behalf of Mark & Elisia Saab.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan)

Superintendent Davis informed the committee she would be seeking their approval for a donated 2014 Ford Fusion Hybrid. The vehicle would be used in the automotive department, providing students with hands-on experience working on a hybrid model.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Morin to accept the donation of a 2014 Ford Fusion Hybrid.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan)

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that the Cooperative Education report provided indicates 92 junior students are participating in cooperative education, representing 17% of the class of 2027. Ms. Davis noted that additional students were being placed for summer co-op placements beyond the reported figures. Acknowledgment was given to Ms. Bezanson and Mr. Jones for their efforts in securing co-op placements, particularly for students in the construction cluster.

Superintendent Davis informed the committee she would be seeking their approval of the proposed 2026-2027 School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding, with the primary change addressing digitally altered AI images and videos, commonly known as deepfakes. Ms. Davis reviewed the changes which included allowing the school to communicate with resource officers and seek their guidance if situations involving deepfake content arise, particularly regarding any criminal law implications, as well as the school resource officers' involvement in professional development related to AI, deepfake images, sexting, and cyberbullying.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Morin to approve the 2026-20727 School Resource officer MOU.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan)

Superintendent Davis invited the Director of Technology, Enrollment, & Information, Lisa Martinez, to join the meeting to review the changes outlined below to the proposed Student Acceptable Use Policy before asking for their approval. Ms. Martinez reviewed and answered questions pertaining to the following updates:

- The policy expands the definition of electronic devices to include modern wearable technology such as smart glasses, smart watches, smart rings, fitness trackers, and wireless earbuds.
- A new section was introduced establishing ground rules for the use of AI tools, specifying that students may only use district- or teacher-approved tools and are prohibited from entering personal or school information into those tools.
- Students are explicitly forbidden from using AI tools to create fake images, audio, or video of real people without consent, or to generate explicit or harassing content.
- The policy warns students that AI outputs can be inaccurate or biased and emphasizes the continued need for critical thinking and verification of information.
- Updated digital misconduct provisions explicitly ban deepfakes and sexting, and educate students on the Massachusetts state law classifying possession or sharing of explicit images of a minor as a criminal offense carrying the same penalties as real photographs.
- Students are reassured that reporting illegal explicit images to a trusted adult or law enforcement is not a criminal act.

- Academic honesty provisions clarify that using AI tools to complete assignments without teacher permission constitutes plagiarism, and that teacher-approved AI use must be disclosed and cited as a source.
- Network usage rules have been updated to include AI-generated deepfake images, and mandatory reporting obligations for staff involving sexting, deepfakes, and cyberbullying to law enforcement and the Department of Children and Families are outlined.
- The glossary has been expanded to include definitions for artificial intelligence, deepfake, sexting, and cyberbullying.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Bahou to approve the Student Acceptable Use Policy.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan)

Superintendent Davis invited Assistant Superintendent/Principal Michael Barton to review the following proposed Plans: School Improvement Plan, Vocational-Technical Health & Safety Plan, Bullying Prevention & Intervention Plan, and Substance Use Prevention & Education Plan, before asking for your approval on each individual item. Ms. Davis added that Mr. Barton will also be discussing two out-of-state travel requests after reviewing the proposed plans.

Assistant Superintendent/Principal Barton began with the proposed School Improvement Plan, reviewing each particular goal. The first goal focused on strengthening clarity and consistency in assignment design, assessment, and feedback, driven in part by student council feedback requesting clearer communication about grading decisions. Efforts under this goal include standardizing expectations within curriculum teams at the grade and content level, and providing students with structured time to reflect on their activities and projects.

Mr. Barton continued with the second goal, which addressed the revitalization of the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan, ensuring teachers actively reference and implement its strategies throughout the year rather than only at the start of the school year. A response to intervention framework is also being introduced to proactively support struggling students with study skills, self-management, and self-advocacy before further referrals are made. Artificial intelligence represents the third goal, with the school examining AI through two lenses including its application to technical programs and its role in professional development and curriculum development. Consultation with UMass Lowell has been initiated to better understand the direction of AI in technical fields, and a consultant is being brought in during the summer to help cluster chairs revamp technical frameworks using AI tools. The established operating principle communicated to parents requires instructors to clearly communicate to students when AI may or may not be used in the classroom, with the teacher serving as the governing authority on appropriate use. Instances of non-compliance are addressed through educational conversations involving the teacher, guidance counselor, student, and parent, with the goal of correcting behavior rather than punitive action. Committee Chair LeMay raised concerns about parents' limited familiarity with AI and the potential challenges this creates when issues arise, acknowledging that the administration has taken steps to keep parents informed.

Continuing on, the fourth goal involved the implementation of the MyCAP platform, a state-required My Career and Academic Plan supporting college and career planning for students from grade 9 through grade 10, covering assessments, resumes, portfolios, and career exploration. Family engagement events are being planned to ensure parents are informed about the MICAP platform, and the school counseling department has been recognized for its proactive work in preparing for this requirement.

Assistant Superintendent/Principal Barton addressed the fifth goal which was regarding student well-being by providing education on healthy relationships, the risks of teenage gambling, and the impact of digital environments, with a particular focus on combating increased loneliness among teens linked to excessive social media and technology use. Mr. Barton noted an uptick in teenage gambling has been observed both locally and nationally, with incidents related to gambling occurring within the school building, prompting plans for professional development for staff and educational programming for the junior class. Plans include a potential guest speaker for students, a guest speaker for staff, and a parent education evening focused on gambling awareness. Committee member Bahou suggested possibly adding education on the increased potency of marijuana and its interaction with medications to the school improvement plan, given its relevance to student well-being and mental health.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Morin to approve the 2026-2027 School Improvement Plan.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan)

Assistant Superintendent/Principal Barton continued with the next item; the proposed Vocational-Technical Health & Safety Plan. Mr. Barton began with informing the committee that the three-year plan was updated to reflect proper cluster names and to replace references to vocational technical high school with the current school name for consistency across documents. Safety language was revised so that restrictions on long hair and loose jewelry are framed in terms of required precautions rather than prohibitions, in alignment with equipment safety standards. Updates were made to connect the plan with existing medical and behavioral health emergency plans, and a requirement was added that all outside guests and visitors must be approved by the Superintendent-Director with visitor forms completed prior to arrival. Lastly, the Vet Tech program was added to the plan along with its program safety compliance checklist, and redundant content in the graphics section was streamlined. Mr. Barton asked the committee if they had any questions before moving to request their approval.

MOTION: by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the 2026-2029 Vocational-Technical Health & Safety Plan.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan)

Assistant Superintendent/Principal Barton continued with the next item; the proposed Bullying Prevention & Intervention Plan. Mr. Barton informed the members that the two-year plan was updated to include language protecting hair texture, hair length, and protective hairstyles associated with race, as well as provisions addressing AI-generated deepfake images were incorporated into the plan, mirroring the language presented in the updated Student Acceptable Use Policy.

MOTION: by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Morin to approve the 2026-2028 Bullying Prevention & Intervention Plan.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan)

Assistant Superintendent/Principal Barton moved to the remaining plan for approval; the proposed Substance Use Prevention & Education Plan. Mr. Barton informed the members the primary update to the two-year plan clarifies that the school counseling staff is responsible for administering the behavioral health screening tool used to assess addiction and other risky behaviors, as well as updates to the behavioral services resources to include Leahy Behavioral Health, along with a corresponding link for reference.

MOTION: by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Morin to approve the 2026-2028 Substance Use Prevention & Education Plan.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan)

Assistant Superintendent/Principal Barton informed the committee that he would be seeking their approval for out-of-state travel for four staff members, including himself, to a three-hour leadership development training in Manchester, New Hampshire on August 13th, 2026. The training is facilitated by Brooklyn Rainey, whose professional development platform focuses on building healthy professional relationships with staff and students, and this specific session addresses building leadership programs for students. Mr. Barton added that attendees were selected based on their experience coaching student leaders within the school, and the training is intended to inform existing leadership programs such as Edge of Leadership and summer leadership initiatives. Assistant Superintendent/Principal Barton noted a correction regarding the cost, with the actual total cost being $1,580 rather than the $6,405 listed in the packet, calculated at $995 for the district and one attendee plus $195 for each additional participant.

MOTION: by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the out-of-state travel request for four (4) staff members to attend the 3-hour leadership development training in Manchester, NH on August 13, 2026.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan)

Assistant Superintendent/Principal Barton informed the committee that he would be seeking their approval for out-of-state travel for Electronics instructor Jerry Salinas to attend the IPC certification program from August 10th through 13th, covering electronics manufacturing assembly and circuit board compliance inspection. Mr. Barton noted Greater Lowell as one of the few in the state to offer this level of electronics training, making ongoing credentialing of instructors a priority.

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Bahou to approve the out-of-state travel request for Electronics instructor, Geraldo Salinas to attend the EPTC IPC-A Instructor Certification training in Salem, NH on August 10-13, 2026.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan)

Superintendent Davis took a moment to express her appreciation for the support of the committee, administration, faculty, and staff for another successful school year. Ms. Davis highlighted the 95% attendance rate that was reported for the school year, reflecting the commitment of faculty, staff, and students to being present and engaged in learning and finished with wishing everyone a safe and relaxing summer vacation. Chairman LeMay thanked Ms. Davis for her years of service. Committeeman Bahou acknowledged the Superintendent's role in uniting the student body and fostering a school culture that extends beyond academics to include clubs, events, leadership programs, and community involvement.

REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER

School Business Administrator Mr. Knight provided the committee with a list of end-of-year budget transfers, moving funds from deficient accounts to accounts with remaining surplus as part of the year-end book closing process.

MOTION: by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the budget line item transfers totaling $814,645.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan)

The motion to approve the budget transfers was passed, with a remote participant's vote confirmed upon reconnection to ensure an approved result.

OLD BUSINESS

Outstanding Items from Previous Meetings

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

Chairman LeMay inquired about item #1 listed under Old Business pertaining to the Superintendent's Wall initiated by former committeeman, Mr. O'Hare. Mr. LeMay noted this item has remained every month and inquired if there is something that can be done with it or needs to be done. Superintendent Davis replied there is nothing that needed to be done and stated if the committee chose to do so, it could be removed. Committeeman Gitschier requested, out of respect for Mr. O'Hare, for the item to remain listed under Old Business with nothing further needing to be done on the matter at this time.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman LeMay 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 – Assistant Superintendent/Principal; Superintendent-Director.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan)

A potential vote on ratification discussed during executive session may occur; therefore, the committee would be returning to open session.

The meeting ended to go into Executive Session at 7:29 p.m. with a roll call vote of 5 present (3 absent, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan).

The meeting reconvened at 7:36 p.m. with a roll call vote of 5 present (3 absent, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan).

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Morin to approve an addendum to the Assistant Superintendent/Principal's contract extending it by six months.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan)

MOTION: by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Gitschier to approve the contract for the Superintendent-Director as proposed for January 1, 2027 – June 30, 2030.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan)

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Mr. Gitschier, seconded by Mr. Morin to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Richardson, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Sheehan)

Respectfully submitted,

Colette Edmonds

Colette Edmonds
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents:
Meeting Notice
Agenda
Minutes for Approval: May 21, 2026
May 2026 Cooperation Education Report
Copy of Proposed School Resource Officer MOU
Copy of Proposed Student Acceptable Use Policy for Digital Information, Communication, and Technology Resources
Copy of Proposed 2026-2027 School Improvement Plan
Copy of Proposed 2026-2029 Vocational-Technical Health & Safety Plan
Copy of Proposed 2026-2028 Bullying Prevention & Intervention Plan
Copy of Proposed 2026-2028 Substance Use Prevention & Education Plan
Budget Transfer Request
Year-to-Date Budget Report