

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

September 17, 2026 – 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

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

Chairman LeMay announced that Committeeman Hogan, Gitschier, Richardson, and Nocco would be participating at tonight's meeting remotely.

ROLL CALL

Members

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

Members Absent: Mr. Gitschier (remote @ roll; however, call dropped due to bad connection @
6:35 p.m.)

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

Superintendent Davis took a moment to introduce new student representative, Ryan Sniezek, a senior in the Graphic Design & Visual Communication Program, as well as the President of the Chess & Table Top Gaming Club. Superintendent Davis asked Ryan to provide some information about himself, which included his middle school connection to Greater Lowell, his enrollment in the DVC program, and his overall thoughts on vocational education. Ryan was welcomed by the committee and will present a full report at the next school committee meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the minutes from the meeting of August 20, 2026.

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

REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER

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

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

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Morin to approve expenditures for the sum of \$4,387,251.54 allocated as follows:

Warrant 2159A	dated 09/04/2026	Payroll # 1065	1,396,588.37
Warrant 2159B	dated 09/18/2026	Payroll # 1067	1,372,849.80
Warrant 2158-1	dated 08/28/2026	Accounts Payable	336,372.61
Warrant 2159	dated 09/11/2026	Accounts Payable	317,721.50
Warrant 2158-3	dated 08/28/2026	Cafeteria Plan	1,930.36
Warrant 2159-2	dated 09/11/2026	Cafeteria Plan	6,976.07
Warrant 2158-7	dated 08/28/2026	Mass Bay Health	950,726.81
Warrant 2159-4	dated 09/11/2026	Lowell Five Cr Card Fees	4,073.39
Warrant 2159-5	dated 09/11/2026	Sales Use/Meals Tax	12.63

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

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL

There was no report of general counsel.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

Superintendent Davis informed the committee that she would be seeking their approval of a donation of various fitness equipment from Middlesex School in Concord, MA, as they have a new facility being constructed and will be outfitted with new machines. The fitness equipment has estimated value of \$9,500, is in good working order and would be a welcome addition to our physical education department and athletics program.

MOTION: by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to accept the donation of fitness equipment from Middlesex School.

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

Superintendent Davis invited the Director of Technology, Enrollment, & Information, Lisa Martinez, to join the meeting to review the changes to the proposed 2026-2027 Admission Policy before asking for

their approval. Ms. Martinez presented the following updates to the proposed 2026-2027 admissions policy, noting the policy requires annual approval.

- Changes to the policy were described as primarily clarifying in nature, with routine housekeeping updates including revised dates, shifted timelines, improved language readability, and updated contact and personnel information.
- The seat allocation process for grade nine enrollment was clarified to reflect the regional agreement and data received from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding the number of students available in each sending district.
- Grade ten lottery procedures were updated to clarify that students selected through the lottery for a technical program with expected available seats are placed on a waiting list rather than being formally accepted into the school.
- Wording was updated to clarify that students accepted after grade nine are placed into a lottery for each specific program based on available seats and lottery ranking.

Committeeman Richardson asked for clarification on the seat allocation process. Ms. Martinez replied that the resident community seat allocation is derived from the regional agreement and annual DESE enrollment data, with allocations distributed proportionally across sending districts such as Lowell, Dracut, Dunstable, and Tyngsborough.

Committeeman Bahou asked for a recap on the attendance weighting process, with Ms. Martinez informing the committee as being based on 27 unexcused absences across six quarters spanning seventh and eighth grade, with students having fewer than 27 unexcused absences receiving an additional weight. Information pertaining to the weighting system was also noted as follows:

- Students who meet none of the additional criteria but complete the student awareness requirement are placed into the lottery with a base weight of one.
- Additional weights were available to students who demonstrate interest through school tours, open houses, online information sessions, or the DESE module, as well as to students who submit a personal essay, audio submission, or recommendation letter.
- Conduct criteria were noted as a further factor in the weighting system, with students who avoid suspensions or expulsions under sections 37H and 37H 1/2 eligible for an additional weight.

Ms. Martinez continued with her review of the changes, which included the response window for parent and guardian notification was noted as shortening to three days beginning July 1, 2027, with outreach conducted via mail, email, and contact with the sending school; and home visits and language support were described as part of the process to ensure families have adequate opportunity and assistance to respond to enrollment notifications. Concerns were raised by committee members about the lottery system, with some members expressing that it does not adequately serve community demand for vocational technical education. Superintendent Davis acknowledged the lottery system as a legal requirement and noted that expanding the number of vocational technical high schools across the Commonwealth is the most effective path to addressing unmet demand.

MOTION: by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the 2026-2027 Admission Policy.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6 Yes, 1 No (Mr. Richardson), 1 Absent (Mr. Gitschier)

Superintendent Davis provided information regarding the proposed Protect Act Policy & Procedures before asking for approval. Ms. Davis noted, that in accordance with the Massachusetts Protect Act, procedures have been developed for staff to follow when interacting with federal immigration officers or other civil law enforcement officers. The procedures provide clear guidance on protecting student and staff information, responding to requests for access, and immediately referring any such request to the Superintendent-Director or designee in consultation with legal counsel. The goal is to ensure that our staff know exactly what to do while protecting the safety, privacy, and rights of our students and employees.

MOTION: by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Sheehan to approve the PROTECT Act Policy and Procedures.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 2 No (Mr. Hogan, Mr. Richardson),
1 Absent (Mr. Gitschier)

Superintendent Davis provided information regarding the proposed Diverse Educator Workforce Recruitment, Hiring and Retention Plan. Ms. Davis informed the committee that the purpose of this plan is to be more intentional about building and sustaining a highly qualified workforce that reflects the diversity of the students and communities we serve. The plan focuses not only on expanding where and how we recruit candidates, but also on equitable hiring practices and creating a supportive environment where employees feel valued, have opportunities to grow, and want to remain at Greater Lowell Tech.

MOTION: by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Bahou to approve the Diverse Educator Workforce Recruitment, Hiring and Retention Plan.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6 Yes, 1 No (Mr. Richardson), 1 Absent (Mr. Gitschier)

Superintendent Davis invited the Assistant Superintendent/Principal, Michael Barton, to join the meeting to review the out-of-state travel request before asking for their approval. Assistant Superintendent/Principal Barton informed the committee that he was seeking approval of an out-of-state travel request on behalf of Garid Flood, a twelfth-grade plumbing instructor. The requested travel involves attending an industry conference and factory training trip at Uponor's North American headquarters in Apple Valley, Minnesota, scheduled for October 21 through 23, 2026. Learning objectives for the trip include gaining knowledge of radiant and hydronic heating, plumbing distribution systems, installation techniques, and PEX-A system installation and equipment. Mr. Barton added that there would be no cost to the district associated with the travel request, and approval was recommended.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Bahou to approve the out-of-state travel request for Plumbing instructor – Garid Flood to attend the industry conference and factory training in Apple Valley, Minnesota from October 21-23, 2026.

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

REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER

School Business Administrator, Michael Knight presented a list of budget transfers included in the meeting packet, reflecting salary realignments following the return to school and the placement of teachers, including adjustments related to retiree replacements.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Bahou to approve the budget line item transfers totaling \$514,990.00.

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

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.

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.

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

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

Chairman LeMay inquired if the committee would need to return to open session for any votes resulting from the executive session. The committee confirmed it would reconvene in open session for possible votes on items discussed during the executive session.

The meeting ended to go into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. with a roll call of 7 present (1 absent, Mr. Gitschier).

The meeting reconvened at 7:15 p.m. with a roll call of 7 present (1 absent, Mr. Gitschier).

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Bahou to appoint Dr. Ariana Arfanakis as the next Assistant Superintendent/Principal pending successful contract negotiations.

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

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Bahou to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colette Edmonds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Colette" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Edmonds".

Colette Edmonds
Recording Secretary

Meeting Documents:

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes for Approval: August 20, 2026

Copy of proposed 2026-2027 Admission Policy

Copy of proposed PROTECT Policy and Procedures

Copy of Diverse Educator Workforce Recruitment, Hiring, and Retention Plan

Budget Transfer Request

Year-to-Date Budget Report