

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

February 12, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Deeb called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members

Present: Mr. Deeb, Mr. Desrosiers, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Laferriere, Mr. Lenzi, Mr. Martin, Mr. Tully

Absent: Mr. O'Hare

Also

Present: James Cassin, Superintendent-Director
John Lavoie, Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum
George Garabedian, School Business Administrator
David Bradley, District Treasurer
David Chouinard, Director of Assessment Services
Michael McGovern, Coordinator of School Information
Cheryl Gosselin, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

There was no one signed up for public appearance.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

Vice Chairperson Deeb read a communication from the Dunstable Fire Department.

REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Student representative Alicia Janowicz gave an update of upcoming and recently held activities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: by Mr. Hayden, seconded by Mr. Tully to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 15, 2008.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare), 1 Abstain (Mr. Deeb)

REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER

District Treasurer David Bradley distributed the Warrants to the Committee for their approval and signature.

MOTION: by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Hayden to approve expenditures for the sum of \$2,703,847.52 allocated as follows:

Warrant 1721-2	dated 01/30/09	Accounts Payable	420,682.37
Warrant 1726	dated 02/13/09	Accounts Payable	623,097.35
Warrant 1724	dated 01/30/09	Bank of America (December)	289.41
Warrant 1719	dated 12/19/08	November Meals Tax	536.42
Warrant 1725	dated 01/30/09	Sales Use Tax (Oct-Dec)	228.67
Warrant 1721-C	dated 01/30/09	Payroll Warrant #157	838,549.96
Warrant 1726-A	dated 02/13/09	Payroll Warrant #159	820,999.76

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare)

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL

There was no report of the general counsel. The grievances on the agenda under General Counsel were deferred to the next meeting.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

The Superintendent introduced Assessment Director David Chouinard who gave an update on the fall 2008 MCAS results. He stated only 50 students took the retest in the fall, a dramatic drop from previous years. 31 of the 50 students (62%) passed the retest. Five seniors and 13 juniors will have to take the spring retest.

Superintendent Cassin informed the Board that the Winter Sports Awards Night will be held on March 12, 2009. He also informed the Board that the Superintendent's Dinner will be held on March 4, 2009.

Superintendent Cassin asked for approval for 8 culinary students to attend a field trip with instructor Sarah Samaros to the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York on April 15 and 16, 2009.

MOTION: by Mr. Laferriere, seconded by Mr. Tully to approve the Superintendent's request for culinary students to attend a field trip to the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York on April 15 and 16, 2009.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare)

Superintendent Cassin informed the Board that the baseball trip to Cooperstown approved at the last meeting has a date change to April 24, 2009.

Superintendent Cassin introduced John Lavoie who presented the 2009-2010 Program of Studies for approval. Mr. Lavoie reviewed the changes in the program of studies.

MOTION: by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Desrosiers to approve the 2009-2010 Program of Studies as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare)

Superintendent Cassin presented the 2008 Annual Report for approval.

MOTION: by Mr. Hayden, seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the 2008 Annual Report as submitted.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare)

REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER

Mr. Garabedian gave an update of ongoing Business Office projects.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Desrosiers asked for an update on his previous request to explore the possibility of adding a dental assistant program. Superintendent Cassin stated that this has been put on the back burner at this time due to the expense of starting such a program.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Desrosiers to ask the Superintendent to look into ways to reduce the transportation costs to the member communities.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare)

COMMITTEEPERSON MOTIONS

MOTION: by Mr. Hayden, seconded by Mr. Martin to have the Superintendent investigate the feasibility and cost savings of going from the traditional 5 day school week to an extended hour 4 day school week. Report on additional costs as well as savings on busing, heating and other fixed expenses and report back to the Committee.

After discussion a vote was taken.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 6 Yes, 1 No (Mr. Desrosiers), 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare)

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES:

Mr. Laferriere gave a report of the Policy Sub-Committee that was held prior to this meeting.

MOTION: by Mr. Laferriere, seconded by Mr. Tully to adopt Policy #1390.4 – all regular School Committee meeting minutes shall be posted on the school website after being approved by the Greater Lowell Regional Vocational-Technical School Committee. Minutes shall be retained on the school website for a minimum of six months thereafter.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 2 No (Mr. Hayden, Mr. Laferriere),
1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare)

Mr. Hayden presented the report from the January 15, 2009 Finance Sub-Committee for approval.

MOTION: by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Hayden to accept the report of the January 15, 2009 Finance Sub-Committee.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 7 Yes, 1 Absent (Mr. O'Hare)

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Cassin
Superintendent-Director