

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

December 9, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Laferriere called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members

Present: Mr. Bahou, Mr. Laferriere, Mr. Morin, Mr. O'Hare, Mr. Olson,
Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Tully

Absent: Mr. Lenzi

Also

Present: Mary Jo Santoro, Superintendent-Director
Robert Lussier, Assistant Superintendent/Principal
Attorney Rosann DiPietro
George Garabedian, School Business Administrator
David Bradley, District Treasurer
Elizabeth Bennett, Student Activities Coordinator
Cheryl Gosselin, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

There were no public appearances.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

There were no School Committee communications.

REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Student representative Ashley Hillson gave a report of upcoming and recently held events.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Bahou to approve the minutes from the meeting of November 1, 2010.

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

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. Morin to approve expenditures for the sum of \$4,478,840.30 allocated as follows:

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Warrant 1813 | dated 11/05/10 | Accounts Payable | 1,056,269.11 |
| Warrant 1813-1 | dated 11/19/10 | Accounts Payable | 171,785.78 |
| Warrant 1816 | dated 12/03/10 | Accounts Payable | 695,223.75 |
| Warrant 1813-A | dated 11/05/10 | Payroll Warrant #249 | 831,626.71 |
| Warrant 1813-B | dated 11/19/10 | Payroll Warrant #251 | 850,722.47 |
| Warrant 1816-A | dated 12/03/10 | Payroll Warrant #253 | 870,937.47 |
| Warrant 1814 | dated 11/05/10 | Precut Warrant | 840.00 |
| Warrant 1815 | dated 11/19/10 | Bank of America | 676.56 |
| Warrant 1817 | dated 12/03/10 | October Meals Tax | 758.45 |

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

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Attorney DiPietro requested Executive Session regarding pending grievances.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR

Superintendent-Director Santoro presented Student Activities Coordinator who presented community awards and gave an update on community service activities.

Superintendent-Director Santoro asked for approval for Culinary senior students to attend their annual field trip to Disney World, Florida on May 5-8, 2011.

MOTION: by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. O'Neill to approve the request of the Superintendent-Director for Culinary senior students to attend their annual field trip to Disney World, Florida on May 5-8, 2011.

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

Superintendent-Director Santoro asked for approval for Deb Gustafson to attend the Professional Development Institute in Greenbelt, Maryland on November 1-3, 2010 for Eco-Schools USA Climate Change Connections. All expenses will be paid through a grant.

Next, Superintendent-Director Santoro asked for approval to accept a vehicle donation to the transportation/manufacturing cluster.

MOTION: by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. O'Hare to accept a vehicle donation to the transportation/manufacturing cluster.

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

Superintendent-Director Santoro informed the Board that Greater Lowell would be starting a Lacrosse club team. She asked for approval to accept a donation of lacrosse equipment from Rotondo Enterprises in Wilmington, MA.

MOTION: by Mr. O'Hare, seconded by Mr. O'Neill to accept the donation of lacrosse equipment from Rotondo Enterprises in Wilmington, MA.

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

Superintendent Santoro asked Assistant Superintendent/Principal Robert Lussier to present the Bullying Prevention & Intervention Plan for approval. Mr. Lussier reviewed the plan with the committee and answered questions that were asked.

MOTION: by Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Olson to approve the Bullying Prevention & Intervention Plan as presented.

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

MOTION: by Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Bahou to form lacrosse as a club team.

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

Superintendent Santoro informed the Board that she is recommending phasing out the Fashion Tech program and is recommending that we begin the Chapter 74 program approval process for Engineering Technology.

Superintendent Santoro asked for Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER

Mr. Garabedian informed the Board that the District is in its final contract year with First Student Inc. for bus transportation.

MOTION: by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. Tully to have the Superintendent-Director inventory and evaluate busing use by students, capacity use and efficiencies of busing routes with a focus on reducing escalating costs. Report with draft budget to the Finance Sub-Committee. The busing contract is due to expire and will be placed out to bid for next year. In light of reductions in state transportation aid, incorporate any cost saving measures that would provide relief to member communities.

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

Mr. Garabedian provided an update on the FY12 budget preparation. Fixed costs continue to rise. Health insurance is anticipated to increase approximately one million dollars. Options are being investigated by the health trust.

Mr. Garabedian stated that utility costs are relatively stable due to fixed contracts with electricity and gas suppliers. He has been informed that electric rates are very favorable right now and we may be beneficial to obtain lower rates beyond our current contract and blend them in with our current rates for an additional savings. December 22 is the date that the rates will be made available. If the rates are favorable we would have to execute on that day. The term would lock us in for three years beyond our current contract which is 2011 - 2014. Discussion ensued regarding fossil fuel, solar and alternative energy and the effect it would have on the energy contract. Locking into a contract until 2017 would prohibit us from proceeding with fossil fuel options until that time.

Mr. Garabedian presented transfers for approval.

MOTION: by Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. O'Hare to approve transfers in the amount of \$32,039 as presented.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. O'Hare asked that the Superintendent get a status as to his previous request to change the entrance sign to solar energy.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

COMMITTEEPERSON MOTIONS

MOTION: by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. Tully to have the Superintendent-Director inventory and evaluate stipend positions. Provide report and recommendations to the Committee to eliminate, add, revise or reallocate funding and positions to best serve current student needs. Develop plan changes for next school year and provide recommendations with draft budget to the Finance Sub-Committee.

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

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Superintendent Santoro presented the minutes from the November 29, 2010 MSBA Sub-Committee meeting for approval.

MOTION: by Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Tully to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2010 MSBA sub-committee meeting.

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

MOTION: by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Olson to go into Executive Session regarding pending grievances.

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

MOTION: by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Olson to go into Executive Session regarding a personnel matter.

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

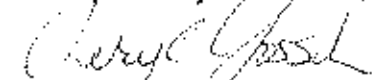
The meeting will reconvene for adjournment only. There will be no votes taken after Executive Session.

ADJOURN

MOTION: by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. Tully to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 Yes, 3 Absent (Mr. Lenzi, Mr. O'Hare, Mr. O'Neill)

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl Gosselin
Recording Secretary