

**GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 11, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Members

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

Mr. Bahou and Mr. O'Neill arrived after roll call.

Members Absent: Mr. Lenzi

Also

Present: James Cassin, Superintendent-Director  
Mary Jo Santoro, Assistant Superintendent/Principal  
John Lavoie, Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum  
George Garabedian, School Business Administrator  
David Bradley, District Treasurer  
Attorney Rosann DiPietro, Legal Counsel  
Michael McGovern, Coordinator of School Information  
Cheryl Gosselin, Recording Secretary

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

There was no one signed up for public appearance.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no School Committee communications.

**REPORT OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

There was no report of the student representative.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. O'Neill to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 10, 2010.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes 2 Absent (Mr. Bahou, Mr. Lenzi)

**REPORT OF DISTRICT TREASURER**

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

**MOTION:** by Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Olson to approve expenditures for the sum of \$2,882,335.63 allocated as follows:

Warrant 1777-1	dated 02/26/10	Accounts Payable	320,235.53
Warrant 1779	dated 03/12/10	Accounts Payable	925,727.71
Warrant 1777-B	dated 02/26/10	Payroll Warrant #213	820,006.12
Warrant 1779-A	dated 03/12/10	Payroll Warrant #215	815,356.98
Warrant 1780	dated 03/12/10	Lowell Five Cent Savings	120.00
Warrant 1781	dated 03/12/10	Bank of America	357.85
Warrant 1782	dated 03/12/10	February Meals Tax	531.44

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Bahou, Mr. Lenzi)

**REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL**

Attorney DiPietro asked for Executive Session to discuss a grievance.

**REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR**

Superintendent Cassin asked for approval for the Debate Club to attend the Junior States of America Spring State Convention in Stamford, CT on April 10-11, 2010.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. O'Neill to approve the request for the Debate Club to attend the Junior States of America Spring State Convention in Stamford, CT on April 10-11, 2010.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Bahou, Mr. Laferriere)

Superintendent Cassin asked for approval for two DECA students to attend the National Conference in Nashville, TN on April 24 through April 28, 2010.

**MOTION:** by Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Olson to approve the request for two DECA students to attend the National Conference in Nashville, TN on April 24 through April 28, 2010.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Bahou, Mr. Lenzi)

Superintendent Cassin asked the Committee if is still necessary for the School Committee to approve mailings going to 100 or more parents prior to the mailing being sent. Discussion ensued regarding notifying parents via ConnectEd versus letter. Mr. O'Hare asked that this issue be brought to the Policy Subcommittee for review.

**MOTION:** by Mr. O'Hare, seconded by Mr. Olson that mailings to 100 or more parents no longer need School Committee approval prior to being mailed.

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

Next Superintendent Cassin informed the Board that a report on Fashion Tech as requested by Mr. Bahou had been included in the package.

Superintendent Cassin gave a brief update on the Superintendent's Dinner which was held on March 3.

Superintendent Cassin announced the results of the SkillsUSA competition held earlier today.

### **REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER**

Mr. Garabedian introduced Ms. Cheryl Stephens-Burke from Melanson & Heath who reviewed the FY09 audit report. Ms. Stephens-Burke informed the Board that there were no new management letter recommendations for this year. Ms. Stephens-Burke reported that GLTHS has an exceptionally clean unqualified opinion – there are no exceptions.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Chairman Tully informed the Board that the advertising for the Superintendent search came in higher than the \$5,000 previously authorized by the School Committee. He asked the Committee to authorize the expenditure for \$5,514.80.

**MOTION:** by Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Olson to authorize the expenditure of \$5,514.80 for advertising for the Superintendent search.

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Annual Re-Organization:**

Chairman Tully announced that it was time for the annual re-organization of the Board to be effective April 1, 2010.

**MOTION:** by Mr. O'Hare, seconded by Mr. Olson to nominate Mr. Laferriere for Chairman.

Move that the nominations for Chairman be closed by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Olson.

**BALLOT VOTE:** Number of votes cast was 7 (Mr. Lenzi was absent). Mr. Laferriere received 7.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Laferriere, seconded by Mr. O'Neill to nominate Mr. Lenzi for Vice Chairman.

Move that the nominations for Vice Chair be closed by Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Olson.

**BALLOT VOTE:** Number of votes cast was 7 (Mr. Lenzi was absent). Mr. Lenzi received 7.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Bahou to nominate Mr. Olson for Secretary.

Move that the nominations for Secretary be closed by Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. O'Hare.

**BALLOT VOTE:** Number of votes cast was 7 (Mr. Lenzi was absent). Mr. Olson received 7.

**COMMITTEEPERSON MOTIONS**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. O'Neill to investigate the possibility of having the GLTHS monthly meeting shown to our district city and towns either live or on a day no longer than the following Tuesday so more people can see what the topic of discussion is at the meetings.

After discussion roll call was taken.

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

Superintendent will investigate this request.

**REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

Mr. Tully gave a report of the March 10, 2010 Finance Sub-Committee.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. O'Hare to approve the report of the March 10, 2010 Finance subcommittee.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 1 Abstain (Mr. O'Neill), 1 Absent (Mr. Lenzi)

**MOTION:** by Mr. O'Hare, seconded by Mr. O'Neill to approve the report of the February 10, 2010 Superintendent Search subcommittee.

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

Mr. O'Hare stated that the Superintendent Search subcommittee meeting scheduled for earlier this evening did not take place due to lack of a quorum.

Attorney DiPietro clarified a procedural issue. At a previous meeting it was determined that the preliminary screening would take place by the Superintendent Search subcommittee in Executive Session. The law states that the preliminary process must take place in open session unless the open session has a detrimental effect on any of the candidates. Attorney DiPietro recommended amending the process to add a step to the process that after the deadline of applications that Mrs. Gosselin contact the applicants with a statement saying and then ask the following two questions. Applicants that pass the initial screening process will be interviewed in open session as the law requires.

1. Would you withdraw from consideration if initial screening were conducted in open session?
2. Would you withdraw from consideration if initial interviews were conducted in open session?

Depending on the answers to these two questions it will be determined if the preliminary screening will be done in open or executive session.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Laferriere to amend the Superintendent search process by adding the step outlined by Ms. DiPietro above.

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

**MOTION:** by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. Laferriere to go into Executive Session to discuss a grievance.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 1 No (Mr. Laferriere), 1 Absent (Mr. Lenzi)

**ADJOURN**

Motion by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. Bahou to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Cassin  
Superintendent-Director