

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

September 16, 2010 – 6:00 P.M.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Laferriere called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for Patrick Johnson (son of an employee) who recently passed away.

**ROLL CALL**

Members

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

Mr. Bahou & Mr. Lenzi arrived after roll call. Mr. O'Neill was absent

Also

Present: Mary Jo Santoro, Superintendent-Director  
Robert Lussier, Assistant Superintendent/Principal Elect  
George Garabedian, School Business Administrator  
David Bradley, District Treasurer  
Attorney Michael Long  
David Chouinard, Director of Assessment Services  
Charlene Pires, Co-Coordinator, Summer Academic Program  
Elizabeth Bennett, Student Activities Coordinator/Special Projects  
Cheryl Gosselin, Recording Secretary

Chairman Laferriere asked if no one objected to take Attorney Long out of order. Attorney Long proceeded to highlight the changes to the Open Meeting Law. He also reviewed ethic changes.

Chairman Laferriere returned to the agenda.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

Paul Sweeney and Gerry Nutter each spoke in favor of broadcasting the Greater Lowell Technical School Committee meetings live in Lowell.

**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. Morin, seconded by Mr. Bahou to approve the minutes from the meeting of August 26, 2010.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Lenzi, Mr. O'Neill)

**MOTION:** by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Olson pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 22(g)(1), the school district's legal counsel, Long & DiPietro, LLP, by Attorney Rosann DiPietro, has reviewed the following Executive Minutes. Upon such review, counsel does not recommend their publication or disclosure at this time, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 22(f) - August 20, 2009, September 10, 2009, December 17, 2009, March 11, 2010, April 8, 2010, May 4, 2010, May 24, 2010, June 8, 2010, June 10, 2010, June 21, 2010, June 28, 2010.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Lenzi, Mr. O'Neill)

### **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. Olson to approve expenditures for the sum of \$1,545,629.46 allocated as follows:

Warrant 1804	dated 09/10/10	Accounts Payable	768,540.35
Warrant 1805	dated 09/10/10	Bank of America	199.54
Warrant 1806	dated 09/10/10	August Meals Tax	15.66
Warrant 1804-A	dated 09/10/10	Payroll Warrant #241	776,873.91

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 6 Yes, 2 Absent (Mr. Lenzi, Mr. O'Neill)

### **REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL**

Attorney Long requested Executive Session with regards to negotiations.

### **REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR**

Superintendent Santoro introduced Student Activities Coordinator Elizabeth Bennett who introduced medal winners from the national SkillsUSA competition.

Next Elizabeth Bennett gave an update on community service projects.

Charlene Pires provided an update on the Summer Academic Program.

Superintendent Santoro gave a brief update on plant services summer work projects that took place in the building.

Superintendent Santoro presented professional development opportunities for staff members. She then asked for approval for 6 staff members to attend the International Center for Leadership in Education K-12 School Reinvention Symposium which will be held in Washington, DC October 22-24. She also asked for approval for 4 teachers and Patricia McGuirk to attend a Teaching American History Grant workshop on Immigration in New York City October 8-11.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Lenzi to approve both requests for out of state travel.

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

Superintendent Santoro introduced Director of Assessment Services David Chouinard to provide an update on MCAS. Mr. Chouinard informed the Board that the Greater Lowell Grade 10 first time passing rate in English was 95%, in Math was 90% and in Science was 88%. The state rates were not available in time for this report. Mr. Chouinard also informed the Board that although Greater Lowell did not make AYP our accountability status remains "no status". Students not passing will retest in November for Math & English and in February for Science.

Superintendent Santoro presented the Assistant Superintendent/Principal's contract for approval and signature.

**MOTION:** by Mr. O'Hare, seconded by Mr. Lenzi to approve the Assistant Superintendent/Principal's contract as presented.

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

Mr. Garabedian gave an update from the September 13, 2010 MSBA Building Committee meeting. At that meeting discussion took place regarding moving forward with the energy group or MSBA. It was determined that it would be more advantageous to proceed with MSBA. Some factors leading to that decision were that the cost of the roof would eat up significant potential energy saving dollars, the potential negative impact on the district's Net School Spending, current electric contract prevents the use of gas fuel to generate electricity, and financially, it would be difficult to pass up on almost 80% reimbursement from MSBA.

**MOTION:** by Mr. O'Hare, seconded by Mr. Tully that the District proceeds to collaborate with MSBA on the Greater Lowell Technical High School renovation project.

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

**REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER**

Mr. Garabedian provided an update on ongoing Business Office projects.

Mr. Garabedian reviewed the updated MSBA membership form.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**COMMITTEEPERSON MOTIONS**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. Tully considering the new Open Meeting Law enacted July 1, 2010 and the availability of live programming of our meetings from Lowell Telecommunications as well as the INET signal from Greater Lowell Tech to the Lowell residents, I would like to re-propose the airing of our monthly meeting live to Lowell. It will cost the school a one-time fee of less than \$1,000 for a modulator box which will air the meetings live to over 100,000 residents of Lowell and up to 80% of our student population. Therefore, I propose that the Greater Lowell Tech fund this opportunity and if other communities can air our meetings live, to have the same offer of no more than \$1,000 available to them, however at this time none of the other communities have this technical advancement in their cable systems, therefore the current cost would be about \$1,000.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. Tully to invite all community access television representatives to come to meetings to air meetings live, install equipment, donate equipment or have the equipment donated.

**2<sup>nd</sup> SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Lenzi to move that the Greater Lowell Technical High School committee authorize the expenditure of up to a maximum of \$1,250.00 to acquire and install equipment necessary to televise the regular school committee meetings live in the City of Lowell beginning January 2011. Costs to include the purchase of equipment and expenses associated with GLTHS staff to install. Maintenance will be considered a normal operating cost of the District; an annual maintenance cost report will be submitted to the School Committee for review and acceptance. The District is authorized and empowered to enter into a contract with Lowell Telecommunications to provide such service to the City of Lowell with "no additional costs" to the District. Lowell Telecommunications will, at least annually, provide a count of viewer usage to the District.

**MOTION:** by Mr. O'Hare, seconded by Mr. Lenzi that a Technology Sub-Committee meeting be scheduled within the next 2 weeks and invite all community local access representatives along with Mr. Barton to discuss the opportunity to air meetings live via local access.

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

Original motion and substitute motions died due to last motion passing.

**REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

Mr. Tully presented the minutes from the August 26, 2010 Finance Sub-Committee for approval.

**MOTION:** by Mr. O'Hare, seconded by Mr. Morin to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2010 Finance Sub-Committee meeting.

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

**MOTION:** by Mr. O'Hare, seconded by Mr. Olson to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2010 MSBA Building Committee meeting.

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

**MOTION:** by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Lenzi to go into Executive Session with respect to contract negotiations.

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

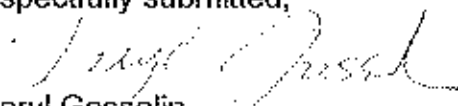
There will be no votes taken after Executive Session.

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. Tully to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

  
Cheryl Gosselin  
Recording Secretary