

GREATER LOWELL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

April 7, 2011 – 7:00 P.M.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Lenzi called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Members

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

Also,

Present: Mary Jo Santoro, Superintendent-Director  
Robert Lussier, Assistant Superintendent/Principal  
George Garabedian, School Business Administrator  
David Bradley, District Treasurer  
Attorney Rosann DiPietro, District Legal Counsel  
Elizabeth Bennett, Student Activities Coordinator  
Shari Bennett, School Adjustment Counselor  
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. Olson to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 9, 2011.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

**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 \$2,764,995.85 allocated as follows:

Warrant 1832-1	dated 03/25/11	Accounts Payable	173,830.59
Warrant 1834	dated 04/08/11	Accounts Payable	950,512.83
Warrant 1832-B	dated 03/25/11	Payroll Warrant #269	836,188.90
Warrant 1834-A	dated 04/08/11	Payroll Warrant #271	803,047.89
Warrant 1835	dated 04/08/11	Bank of America	590.93
Warrant 1836	dated 04/08/11	Lowell 5 Cent Savings	40.00
Warrant 1837	dated 04/08/11	March Meals Tax	784.71

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

**REPORT OF GENERAL COUNSEL**

Attorney DiPietro requested Executive Session at the end of the public meeting to discuss litigation.

**REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR**

Superintendent-Director asked Chairman Lenzi to present awards from MASC to four students who had won gold medals at the 2010 SkillsUSA competition.

Student Activities Coordinator Elizabeth Bennett provided an update on the recently held SkillsUSA District competition as well as the recently held DECA competition. Ms. Bennett also provided an update on community service projects.

Superintendent-Director Santoro asked for approval to accept a donation of an EKG machine to the Medical/Health departments.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Olson to accept a donation of an EKG machine to the Medical/Health departments.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

Superintendent-Director Santoro asked for approval to accept a donation of ten automotive multi meters valued at \$40/each, latex paint valued at \$1,500 and tile and tile accessories valued at \$5,000.

**MOTION:** by Mr. O'Hare, seconded by Mr. Morin to accept a donation of ten automotive multi meters valued at \$40/each, latex paint valued at \$1,500 and tile and tile accessories valued at \$5,000.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

Superintendent Santoro asked Shari Bennett to present a proposed student travel program to the Board. Chairman Lenzi interrupted Ms. Bennett to open the public hearing.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Laferriere, seconded by Mr. Bahou to recess the regular meeting to open the public hearing.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

**MOTION:** by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Laferriere to open the Public Hearing at 7:36 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

Chairman Lenzi asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to speak on the FY12 budget. No one spoke on the FY12 budget.

**MOTION:** by Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. O'Hare to close the Public Hearing at 7:37 p.m.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

The regular meeting was reconvened.

Mr. Garabedian gave a recap of the FY12 budget. He stated that the FY12 proposed budget is based on Chapter 70 aid and minimum required contributions of the member communities based on the Governor's proposed budget released on January 26, 2011. In addition, the District is assessing for a portion of transportation costs to the member communities in the amount \$573,412. The proposed FY12 budget is \$34,181,899 (4.5% increase over FY11). The increase is primarily due to required net school spending being increased by 3.5%. The assessments to the member communities would be:

Dracut:	\$3,317,732
Dunstable	\$ 172,333
Lowell	\$5,671,914
Tyngsborough	\$1,273,875

**MOTION:** by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Laferriere to approve the preliminary FY12 budget of \$34,181,899 knowing that it is susceptible to change when the Commonwealth of Massachusetts adopts its fiscal budget for FY2011-2012.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

Ms. Bennett continued her presentation on a proposed student travel program.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. O'Neill to approve the request to start a domestic student travel program.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 yes

Next Superintendent-Director Santoro asked Assistant Superintendent/Principal Robert Lussier to present the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade 2011-2012 Program of Studies for approval.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Bahou, seconded by Mr. O'Hare to approve the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade 2011-2012 Program of Studies as presented.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

Lastly, Superintendent Santoro asked that the non-teaching staff be given the day off on Good Friday, April 22, 2011.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. Tully that the non-teaching staff be given the day off on April 22, 2011.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

### **REPORT OF BUSINESS MANAGER**

Mr. Garabedian provided an update on ongoing business office projects.

Mr. Garabedian informed the Board that he had received two bids for the school bus transportation. He recommended that the low bidder, North Reading Transportation, be awarded the 3-year contract.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Olson to award a 3-year bus contract to NRT Bus, Inc. in the amount of \$4,779,150.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**COMMITTEEPERSON MOTIONS**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Bahou that the Superintendent consider expanding some of the night programs to meet the needs of our communities due to changes in education.

After information provided by the Superintendent, Mr. Bahou withdrew his motion.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. Laferriere that in recognition of E. Dennis Murphy's dedication to students who participated in the Greater Lowell Tech football program over a period of more than 3 decades do hereby motion to dedicate the naming of the weight room/auxiliary gym in his honor. In addition present a plaque thanking Mr. Murphy for his years of service and dedication to students scheduled around the fall 2011 home coming activities.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

**REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE**

Mr. O'Neill asked for Executive Session to an update on negotiations.

Mr. Olson provided a report of the April 4, 2011 Policy Sub-Committee.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Morin, seconded by Mr. O'Hare to accept the April 4, 2011 Policy Sub-Committee report.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

**MOTION:** by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. Laferriere to approve the report of the March 14, 2011 Finance Sub-Committee.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

**MOTION:** by Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Morin to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 7 Yes, 1 No (Mr. Bahou)

**MOTION:** by Mr. Tully, seconded by Mr. O'Neill to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation.

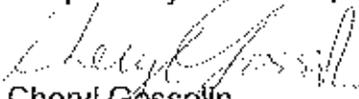
**ROLL CALL VOTE:** 8 Yes

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. Morin to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted;



Cheryl Gosselin  
Recording Secretary