



WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

A regular meeting of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee was held hybrid (remote/in-person) on **Wednesday, January 11, 2023** via ZOOM Teleconferencing at 115 Amesbury Line Rd., Haverhill, MA per Governor Baker's Act extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the State of Emergency, specifically suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20.

Members Present: Scott Wood Greg Noyes JoAnn Testaverde
 Brett Murphy Ron Fitzgerald Garry James
 Paul Tucker Sandi Coppinger Richard Early
 Johanna True Chip O'Connor

Members Remote: Lisa O'Connor, Dave Irving

Members Absent: Joseph Haberland

Others Present: Maureen Lynch, Superintendent
 Chris Laganas, Principal
 Kara Kosmes, Business Manager

Mr. Murphy stated that the meeting was being recorded and held hybrid (remote/in-person) via ZOOM Teleconferencing. Per Governor Baker's Act extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the State of Emergency. This Act includes an extension, until March 31, 2023, of the remote meeting provisions. Per Governor Baker's extension, the public was not allowed to physically access the meeting. However, Public Comment was made available via email in advance of the meeting start time and/or prior to Public Comment. The meeting was available for the public to view live via: <https://www.youtube.com/c/WhittierTechHighSchool> Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. Mr. Murphy took attendance. All members listed as present were in attendance at Whittier Tech High School. Lisa O'Connor and Dave Irving were present remotely via ZOOM Teleconferencing. Mr. Murphy began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Murphy asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for December 14, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. James to approve the Treasurer's Report for December 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business posted.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Taylor Leblanc provided an update on sports and activities of the different clubs. Boys Varsity Basketball is off to a 2-3 start with wins over Minuteman Tech and Ipswich High School. Girls Varsity Basketball's record is 2-4. They played Minutemen and lost 58-50. The next game is Friday, January 13th against Lowell Catholic at home. Wrestling is off to a good start with a 5-1 record in dual meets. They wrestle Shawsheen next Thursday at Whittier for a vital league match-up. Hockey's record is 2-5. Their last game was against Triton, where they came up short 3-1. They are playing Rockport January 12th at 7:45 pm. Cheerleading is working on choreographing their routine for CAC's in February. SkillsUSA just started the Framework Challenge. The slideshow is playing daily in the Cafeteria! SkillsUSA District 4 testing is on March 16th. There are approximately 200 students registered to take a test that day to determine if they will be moving on to the State Conference in April. MultiCultural Club thanked everyone who donated to the Coats for Kids Drive! The Whittier community donated 50 coats and jackets to Anton's Cleaners who work with local distributors to make sure children and families stay warm and cozy this winter. Peer Leadership carried out a candy cane gram event. Students were able to send candy canes with fun notes to their peers. Interact Club was busy before the holidays filling out holiday cards for area nursing homes. They delivered 242 cards which included all the residents at the Oxford House, the Lakeview House and Baker Katz nursing home all of Haverhill MA.

Chess Club is going strong with new members signing up each day! They are still having their first chess tournament, which is taking months, because the players are so evenly matched. Student Government is looking ahead to 2023 with excitement. They will be sharing some of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's poetry with the school community in January, and possibly working on an early spring pep rally. They will hold elections for next school year in early June. United Nations is debating the impact of social media on the world. They have been invited to a conference at Northeastern University sponsored by the UN Association of Greater Boston in March focusing on Mental Health. Robotics students are learning to program shield robots and drones. Environmental Club is continuing to take care of the endangered blanding turtles from Parker River Watershed Council. They are also working with CAD designing and manufacturing tree identification signs. Ski Club had a successful first trip. They had 41 students attend the night skiing trip to Pats Peak in Henniker, NH. Their next trip is Friday, Feb 3rd. Drama Club is rehearsing for the musical *Mama Mía*. The performances will be held March 17-19. Art Club has about 32 participants. Students are working on painting, drawing, and pottery. Students also have the opportunity to work on their midterm projects. GSA hosted the Haverhill Police Department at their last meeting. Three patrol officers were present to share community resources, as well as to collect feedback from the students. Whittier Tech also hosted a successful GSA Leadership Council meeting, where about 50 students and advisors attended from the Northeast region and worked on lesson plans and slides for self-care and community care. DECA went to districts and are preparing for spring which will be all about fundraising. Poetry was excited to ring in the new year with their first meeting, which involved writing, poetry, and brainstorming how they will celebrate National Poetry month in April.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of an English instructor, instructors for the December vacation boot camp and evening school instructors for the spring 2023 semester. She also reported on the resignations of an English instructor and cafeteria cook.

Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that the Executive Subcommittee met January 11, 2023 to discuss the FY24 budget. At that meeting, they began with a 6.71% increase which will be reduced for the next Executive Subcommittee meeting.

MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that there was no MCAS update this month.

School Building Update

Ms. Lynch reported that they continue to meet weekly with the architects and the OPM. They will be interviewing the CMR in the next month or so. They have reached out to hire a firm to review Whittier's regional agreement to help members understand how to reach approval for a building project. The law firm (KP Law) works with many of Whittier's cities and towns. They recently sent a letter to the cities and towns in the Whittier District to see if they had any concerns about the law firm working with Whittier and their city and/or town.

Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch provided an update. On Thursday, December 15, 2022, she hosted a Superintendent luncheon. The Superintendents from Newburyport, Ipswich, Pentucket, Georgetown, and Triton were in attendance. On Thursday, December 15, 2022, she was on a call with the Commissioner. He went over the increase in respiratory illnesses and emergency licensure etc. On Friday, December 16, 2022, she attended the North Shore Superintendents' Roundtable meeting. Ms. Kosmes attended the meeting with her. On Monday, December 19, 2022, she was on a CCTE call with the Associate Commissioner Elizabeth Bennett. On Tuesday, December 20, 2022, she attended the Haverhill City Council meeting to discuss the building project. On Tuesday, January 3, 2023, she met with Mayor Fiorentini along with Kara Kosmes and Whittier's OPM, David Saindon from Leftfield to discuss the building project. On Wednesday, January 4th and January 11th, she attended Whittier's weekly executive project meetings. On Tuesday, January 10, 2023, she attended the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Board meeting. On Wednesday, January 11, 2023, she had a virtual meeting with Congresswoman Trahan's office along with state legislators to discuss the MSBA project and the financial impact on the Whittier community.

The Learning Loss Coordinators provided a midyear update through a powerpoint presentation. The Learning Loss Coordinators are Patrick Allen, Max Beauregard, Lauryn Ihle, Katie Nichols and Liz Teixeira. They all introduced themselves to the Committee. They reported on the following goals: first to provide extra help and intervention for students who are struggling; second to provide reading across all content areas (academic and vocational); third to provide writing across all content areas (academic and vocational); and fourth to provide executive functioning and mindfulness for all students. They provided information on the Paper App and learning loss extra help. The Paper App provides tutoring and extra help from an outside app that includes essay revision and editing support and is used across the content areas. They spoke about learning loss extra help that is provided to students through teacher referrals. The instructors intervene first and additional time along with extra help is done with the learning loss team. They focus on missed assignments and/or skills that need to be enhanced based on the information provided by the instructor(s). The December Boot Camp was provided to students who failed term one as well as students who have excessive attendance concerns. The curriculum that was provided to students at the Boot Camp was around executive functioning skills, skill building and assistance with assignments that were not turned into instructors. They discussed curriculum & assessment and the curriculum research that is in progress. Their next steps are to continue research and implementation of curriculum, bring rigor into the classrooms, review assessment data and move forward with best practices. There was a brief question and answer session that followed their presentation.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal, provided a principal update. Whittier sports continue to move forward with their seasons. The Amesbury/Whittier Hockey program has 30 Whittier student/athletes competing and 12 are on varsity. The December Whittier Boot Camp was highly successful. Twenty students were able to make up attendance days, earning credit towards their grade average. Staff and students are preparing for midterm assessments. Mid-terms begin on Tuesday, January 17th and end on Friday, January 20th. During the Midterm Assessment Week the Vocational Coordinators will be hosting the "Freshmen Half-time Show". All freshmen students will be experiencing engaging presentations and activities throughout the week.

Before break, the staff and the administration enjoyed some fun activities together. They enjoyed two Holiday Potluck Extravaganza's, which were held in the curriculum office. Some more fun activities are in the planning. The Holiday Fund raised over \$17,000 this past year. Between Thanksgiving and the winter holidays, they were able to help approximately 75 students and families. They received Walmart gift cards, Market Basket cards and a school store credit. Mr. Laganas thanked all that have donated to the fund to date. This fund is a small way Whittier, as a community, can make things better for students. Monday, January 16th, there will be no School/Martin Luther King Day. Term 2 ends Friday, January 18th and report cards will be issued on January 27th.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager provided the Variance Analysis from October through December as required by the Annual Agenda. Quarterly transfers within major functional categories have been made to balance some of the accounts while other accounts will be balanced at year end.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Murphy went over the annual agenda items for February. Mr. Murphy reported that the 2023 Standard Mileage Rate from the IRS is 65.5 cents. Mr. Murphy asked the Committee to vote on acceptance of the rate.

By motion of Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. James to accept the 2023 Standard Mileage Rate from the IRS of 65.5 cents. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee met January 11, 2023. They will meet on February 8, 2023 at 5:30 PM

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met.

The Policy Subcommittee met on December 14, 2022.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to approve the minutes of December 14, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Mr. Irving stated there were policies from Section D Fiscal Management included in the school committee packet for a second and final reading: DA - Fiscal Management Goals; DB-1- Regional School District Annual Budget; DB-1-R - Budget Apportionment of Expenses for Regional Schools; DBC - Budget Deadlines and Schedules; DBD - Budget Planning; DBG-1 - Budget Adoption Procedures for Regional Schools; DEC - Federal Funds Supplement not Supplant Policy; DGA - 1- Regional School District Authorized Signatures; DH-1 Regional School District Bonded Employees and Officers; DI - Fiscal Accounting and Reporting; DIE-1 - Regional School District Audits; DJ- Purchasing; DJA - Purchasing Authority; DK-1 -Regional School District Payment Procedures; DKC - Expense Reimbursements.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to approve policies DA - Fiscal Management Goals; DB-1- Regional School District Annual Budget; DB-1-R - Budget Apportionment of Expenses for Regional Schools; DBC - Budget Deadlines and Schedules; DBD - Budget Planning; DBG-1 - Budget Adoption Procedures for Regional Schools; DEC - Federal Funds Supplement not Supplant Policy; DGA - 1- Regional School District Authorized Signatures; DH-1 Regional School District Bonded Employees and Officers; DI - Fiscal Accounting and Reporting; DIE-1 - Regional School District Audits; DJ- Purchasing; DJA - Purchasing Authority; DK-1 -Regional School District Payment Procedures; DKC - Expense Reimbursements for a second and final reading as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

MEETING DATES

The Executive Subcommittee meeting is February 8, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

The Regular School Committee meeting is February 8, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business posted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session posted.

By motion of Dr. Testaverde, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to adjourn at 7:24 P.M.
Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Rand
Recording Secretary