



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, October 12, 2022** 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: Richard Early Johanna True Garry James
 Brett Murphy Ron Fitzgerald Dave Irving
 Paul Tucker Sandi Coppinger JoAnn Testaverde
 Scott Wood Joseph Haberland Greg Noyes

Members Remote: Lisa O'Connor

Members Absent: Chip O'Connor

Others Present: Maureen Lynch, Superintendent
 Kara Kosmes, Business Manager
 Chris Laganas, Principal
 Katrina Jensen, Coordinator of Data & Assessment
 Amanda Crosby, Vocational/Technical Coordinator
 Paul Moskevitz, Vocational/Technical Coordinator
 Kristine Morrison, Director of Pupil Personnel

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 6:30 P.M. Mr. Murphy took attendance. All members listed as present were in attendance at Whittier Tech High School. Lisa O'Connor was 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. Ms. Lynch reported that former school committee member Ray Morley passed away. He was a school committee member from Ipswich and served on the Committee from 2000-2013. There was a moment of silence.

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

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the Treasurer's Report for September 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. Varsity Football had a big win against Minutemen last week with a score of 29-6. This was the first win of the season! The senior homecoming game is Thursday, October 13th against Georgetown. Freshman Football has been very competitive with big wins over Greater Lowell and Newburyport. They are looking forward to finishing their season strong! Boys Soccer teams have been very busy with games and practices. The JV team had a big win against Innovation Academy and then lost a tough game to Greater Lowell Tech. The varsity team has had a few heartbreaking losses after starting the season with a win and a tie. They did rebound with a big win by beating Triton 1-0 for the first time in many years. Girls Soccer is currently tied for first place in the league with a league record of 7-0-1 and an overall record of 7-2-2. The team's only two losses have come from top division 3 teams. Out of all division 4 teams, Whittier is ranked 16th in the division 4 power rankings through the MIAA. Volleyball is doing very well! The varsity team is currently 9-4 and the JV team is currently 11-3. Before the game on Friday, the varsity team was ranked 9th in the division according to the MIAA power rankings. The regular season ends October 27. Boys Cross Country continues to show improvement throughout the season. The team was led by a freshman star, who captured the first place overall finish against Minuteman and Innovation on Wednesday. The Girls Cross Country was led by a junior veteran star who continued her dominance by taking the

first place overall finish against Minuteman and Innovation. She has continued her unbeaten streak in the CAC and has not ever lost a CAC cross country race. Cheerleading has been preparing for their upcoming competition season. The Varsity team will be attending an invitation competition in Wilmington on October 29th. The CAC's competition is on November 6th at Essex Tech. The girls have been working very hard on their routine this past month. Both the Varsity and JV girls are preparing a routine to perform at the pep-rally on Thursday. SkillsUSA has been meeting every Thursday after school to start the process of getting the Program of Work organized for the 22-23 school year. They have implemented "Framework Fridays" as part of an initiative to promote a "SkillsUSA Framework Culture". The SkillsUSA chapter hopes to partner with the Interact group to promote a Breast Cancer Awareness activity during Spirit Week. Students from DVC have been actively working on the bulletin boards that advertise SkillsUSA. The three advisors have attended the SkillsUSA Boot Camp to kick off the 22-23 SkillsUSA School year. United Nations has had two club meetings so far this school year. They have several new members this year following the Club Fair. They have had two successful debates and students are learning the rules of parliamentary procedure. They have been invited to participate in several debate conferences against other schools and are hoping to attend their first one in November. Their next meeting will be Thursday, October 13th. GSA held their elections at the last meeting. There were many students running for the facilitator and co-facilitator positions. They are also preparing to host the GSA Leadership Council Meeting for the Northeast Region on December 8th. The MultiCultural Club had Ms. Ureña visit their group to share her story with them. She talked about where she is from, how she got to where she is, and what it is like to be bilingual. They are currently creating a public bulletin board on the 4th floor with photos of their group and greetings in different home languages. They are hoping this display makes all students of diverse backgrounds feel welcome at Whitter. Key Club has had two meetings and plans to meet every other Monday after school in the library. Members have begun looking for community service opportunities. On Friday and Saturday, a few members volunteered at the Annual Garrison Golf Hole-In-One tournament to help raise money for the Tribune Santa Fund. They are looking forward to the upcoming holiday season as it brings with it many opportunities to volunteer. Interact Club is busy planning their community volunteering events for the year. They had members at the Team Haverhill River Ruckus volunteering by handing out the program of events. They also had volunteers at the Kids Kayak Day at Plugs Pond. Chess Club is off to a great start with over 40 members registered! They had their first in-house tournament of the year on Thursday, October 6th. The winner holds the title of Chess Club Master. They are also beginning their study of chess principles and the use of a timer to regulate game play. Student government has been working very hard this past month!

They are very excited to be holding the first ever Homecoming Dance at Whittier on Friday, October 14th. They are encouraging all students to participate in spirit week which includes Tropical Tuesday, Cartoon Character Wednesday, Class Color Thursday, and Wildcat Spirit Friday. They also have been planning the pep-rally which is taking place on Thursday, October 13th. Ski Club has had a great turn out of 60 students signing up! They have four advisors this year, already working hard at planning the ski trips. They are hoping to make at least three trips this year, one being another night skiing trip. Robotics has about 12 participants. They are working to educate students on robots and how they are built. They would like to have a demonstration during the open house in November. Environmental Club had 20 students sign up at the club fair. They had their first meeting last week and plan to meet Thursdays during week 1. Their first initiative of the year is to get recycling going again at the school. They also have the endangered Blanding's turtles back! There are three of them in room 3110. They will be raising the turtles all year with an anticipated "release back into the wild" date of June. Drama is planning for their second annual Fall Coffee House on October 18th at 7:00 PM. This year they have 15 acts and students from all four grades participating. They are also in the early stages of preparing students for the spring production. The Art Club has about 40 participants that meet every Monday. They have been preparing for the Big Dog Show that will be held at Bradford Common. They are working to craft clothing to put on the dog that represents different shops at Whittier. DECA has 6 participants competing in hospitality, marketing, and entrepreneurship. They are getting everyone ready for the competitive exams. Yearbook Club met on October 11th with the new publisher, Josten's. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the production process and schedule and printing requirements. Poetry has had 3 meetings so far. At the first meeting, they brainstormed ideas and mapped out a mission. They also listened to some poetry performances. At their second meeting, they learned about J.G. Whittier - his life and poetry. At their third meeting, they thumbed through some Rupi Kaur poetry and wrote poetry inspired by her.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of an electrical instructor LTS, portfolio liaison, concurrent enrollment liaison, vocational instructor to provide PD for performance matters, articulation agreement coordinator, AP liaison, early college

liaison, security officer part-time, class/club advisors 22-23, event ticket collectors, Spanish translators, medical tutors and game clock officials. She also reported on the resignations of a security officer part-time, two vocational teaching assistants and a medical assisting instructor.

Budget Update

There was no budget update.

MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that Katrina Jensen, Coordinator of Data and Assessment was providing an MCAS presentation to the Committee this evening.

School Building Update

Ms. Lynch reported that they have had several meetings. They are completing the Whittier Education Plan to submit to MSBA. There is still considerable work to be done. As a result of the last building committee meeting, they will be looking to pursue a building for 1280 students instead of 1400 because of the impact of a larger building and the financial considerations to our communities.

Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch provided an update. On Thursday, September 15, 2022, Ms. Lynch attended a meeting with City of Haverhill Department Heads with the Architects JCJ and the OPM Leftfield to discuss the upcoming building project. On Friday, September 16, 2022, she attended a design option 2 review meeting with JCJ and Leftfield. On Wednesday, September 21, 2022, she attended the Whittier weekly executive project meeting with Kara Kosmes, JCJ and Leftfield. On Thursday, September 22, 2022, she hosted a Superintendents' luncheon with the Superintendents from the district. On Thursday, September 22, 2022, she attended the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund Advisory Board meeting of which she is a board member. On Wednesday, September 28, 2022, she attended the Whittier weekly executive project meeting. On Wednesday, September 28, 2022, she attended the MAVA Board of Directors' remote meeting. On Thursday, September 29, 2022, she attended the Whittier Qualitative Analysis Scorecard review meeting. On Friday, September 30, 2022, she attended the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Safety Breakfast meeting. On Friday, September 30, 2022, she attended the North Shore Superintendents' Roundtable meeting.

meeting. On Wednesday, October 5, 2022, she attended the Whittier weekly executive project meeting. On Thursday, October 6, 2022, she attended the Whittier Ed vision community forum. On Tuesday, October 11, 2022, she attended the Whittier school building committee meeting. On Wednesday, October 12, 2022, she attended the MVSA meeting. Ms. Lynch reported that she received a field trip request from Cosmetology to attend the American Institute of Haircolor in Londonderry, NH on November 9, 2022. She requested the school committee's approval of the field trip request since it is out of state.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the field trip request from Cosmetology to attend the American Institute of Haircolor in Londonderry, NH on November 9, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Ms. Katrina Jensen, Coordinator of Data & Assessment provided an MCAS update through a PowerPoint presentation. She reported that in the spring 2022 it was the first administration of the MCAS 2.0 in biology for high schools. All Whittier students took the MCAS 2.0 on iPads. The performance levels are exceeds requirement, meets requirement, partially meets requirement, and does not meet requirement. Meets requirement is the new "gold standard" and compares to the old advanced category. Ms. Jensen provided some information that she felt should be noted by members. She reported that "results from the spring 2022 MCAS tests were mixed, with math and science scores improving and ELA scores declining", as reported by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. She reported that Whittier did not have this same trend. In ELA Whittier had 6.8% more students in meets and exceeds expectations than in the spring 2021. Additionally, she reported that math had 5.6% more students in meets and exceeds expectations than in the spring of 2021. Since spring 2020, 1.7 million days absent have accrued in Massachusetts students. Education Secretary James Peyser said, "it may take a few years for students to recover academically from the COVID-19 pandemic." Whittier Tech had a 93% attendance rate for the 21-22 school year compared to 91.5% from the State. She also reported that 99.8% of students at Whittier complete advanced coursework. The state's rate is 65.3%. Whittier's drop out rate is 0.4%, while the state has a 1.5% drop out rate. She reported that the graduation rate for the state is 89.8% and Whittier's graduation rate is 98/5%. Ms. Jensen reported that 100% of eligible students participated and were administered the ELA, math, and science MCAS. The state participation rate was 97%. She provided an MCAS performance comparison of Whittier vs. State in ELA. Whittier is 12% above the state for all students, 25% above the state for high needs and 28% above the state for economically disadvantaged students. She reported that the Class of 2024 has a 98.4% pass rate in ELA. She provided an MCAS performance comparison of Whittier vs. State in mathematics. Whittier is 5% above the state for all

students, 18% above the state for high needs students and 23% above the state for economically disadvantaged students. She reported that the Class of 2024 has a 96.6% pass rate in mathematics. She provided an MCAS performance comparison of Whittier vs. State in science & technology. Whittier is 11% above the state for all students, 19% above the state for high needs students and 23% above the state for economically disadvantaged students. She reported that the Class of 2026 has an 89.2% pass rate in science & technology. She also provided MCAS competency determination at graduation for Class of 2020 through Class of 2024. There was a question and answer session that followed her presentation. Ms. Lynch stated that the teachers did amazing work to help students get to this point and thanked everyone.

Mr. Paul Moskevitz, Vocational/Technical Coordinator and Amanda Crosby, Vocational/Technical Coordinator provided a presentation on the vocational/technical areas. They both introduced themselves and stated which programs they oversee. Mr. Moskevitz reported items from the Coordinator Program review that they have been working on. He reported on the safety survey report response. He stated that Whittier is implementing a writing respiratory protection program for the vocational/technical areas which will be submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. He reported that the hearing protection program is in the finalization stages and will be submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education along with the whole school safety and operating plan. Mr. Moskevitz reported on community events. He reported that the carpentry department is constructing raised gardens for Community Action in Haverhill. They will be delivered and installed at Veasy Memorial Park in Groveland for a Free Community Garden to serve families in surrounding districts. The Automotive Collision & Repair shop has repaired a number of vehicles and equipment for the Haverhill Water Department. He reported that Whittier has been selected to decorate a Big Dog in Bradford Commons in Haverhill October 28th - 30th and that Whittier will be participating in the 2022 Santa Parade in Haverhill and Merrimac. Mr. Moskevitz reported that as of October 4, 2022, 145 students have signed out for co-op. He reported that there are many new co-op partners and senior vocational instructors are participating in site visits so that the co-op employers have a direct contact person at Whittier. Mr. Moskevitz provided an update on the OSHA 10 hour credentials, Hot Work Certification and EPA Certification. He reported that 350 juniors have completed the OSHA 10 hour credentials; 250 sophomores have completed the Hot Works Certification in their applicable areas; HVAC-R students will complete their OSHA 10 hour credentials and hot work certification during their sophomore year and current juniors and seniors will prepare and sit for their EPA regulations under Section 608 - the technician certification of the Clean Air Act. This is a new approach to make this certification possible for a higher number of students. Mr. Moskevitz stated that the new marine service technology is available to students during freshmen exploratory. Ms. Crosby stated that effective June 30, 2022, Graphics Communications was no longer offered as a vocational program at Whittier. She stated that Design and Visual Communications has absorbed some of the schools printing

needs and the remainder of the schools printing needs are handled by an outside vendor. Ms. Crosby provided an evening school program update. There are 150 students enrolled in the plumbing program and 151 students enrolled in the electrical program. The cosmetology licensure program will begin again with new students on November 1, 2022. Ms. Crosby reported that non essential programs and personal enrichment courses are running again. Most of them have not been offered since the pandemic. Whittier is offering CNA and oil burner courses as well as two ServSafe certification courses. In addition, there are personal enrichment courses for Basic Masonry, Basic Woodworking, Digital Photography and Introduction to Electrical offered this fall. CTI training programs in Advanced Manufacturing and Marine Technology are also being offered this fall. Whittier has applied for grant funding to offer a 400 hour advanced manufacturing technology training program through the Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Consortium (NAMC), which will run January through July. During the summer of 2023, Whittier will be offering CTI training in Auto Body, Carpentry, Culinary, Electrical, Machine Technology, Marine Technology, Plumbing and Welding. Ms. Crosby reported that Whittier piloted an exploratory program in the spring of 2022 for seniors from the sending community high schools who expressed an interest in entering the trades upon graduation. Students from Haverhill, Ipswich and Pentucket spent their morning at Whittier exploring one vocational program per week for eight weeks. Upon completion, the students had the option to select a CTI program for the summer of 2022. The CTI training programs offered 200 hours of no cost trade training, career counseling and job placement assistance. There was a question and answer session that followed their report.

Ms. Morrison provided the October 1, 2022 School Census. For informational purposes, she also provided the October 1, 2021 School Census report and a comparison between the two years. Currently, the Special Education population is at 17.3%, which is 1.7% lower than last year's percentage of 19%.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal, provided an update. He reported that Whittier's spirit week started on Tuesday, October 11th and will end on Friday, October 14th. Tuesday was tropical day, Wednesday was cartoon character day, Thursday was class color day with a pep rally and Friday was Whittier Wildcat day. Friday, October 14th they will be having a homecoming dance from 7-10 pm. During spirit week, classes compete each day and earn points for their class spirit participation. The pep rally will showcase all the sports teams on the field and on the scoreboard. The spirit week trophy will be awarded that day. Open House will be held on Sunday, November 6th from 1-4 pm. This year it is open to 8th grade students and their parents/guardians. All vocational areas will be showcased. Academic displays will be in the cafeteria, club displays and vocational demonstrations will be open. Additional displays will be located in the gymnasium. The guidance department is working with college admissions

representatives throughout the school year. The PSAT was administered to 174 sophomores and juniors on Wednesday, October 12th at Whittier. Students and staff will continue working on A.L.I.C.E. drills and learning protocols. Mr. Laganas reported that members can check out the Whittier website for detailed weekly information and happenings.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager provided the five-year capital plan for the Committee's review according to the annual agenda. This serves as a planning document that is updated each year to project the District's capital needs over a 5 year period and is used in the budget development process. Building capital needs are not listed on this document as they will be part of the MSBA renovation project. Ms. Kosmes also provided the variance report according to the annual agenda. Quarterly transfers within major functional categories have been made to balance accounts. These transfers were needed due to the fact that the FY23 budget was prepared in January 2022 for the following school year and was based on FY22 staffing and shop enrollments that existed at the time. Mr. Noyes questioned the cost of iPads. He stated that the cost was high and he saw them cheaper. Mr. Noyes was told that this goes out to bid. Ms. Lynch stated that if Mr. Noyes has questions, he should contact her prior to the meeting so that they can get the information.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James, to accept the five-year capital plan as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Murphy went over the annual agenda items for November.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met.

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met. They will meet October 26, 2022 at 3 pm.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met. They will meet in late November.

The Policy Subcommittee has not met. They will meet November 9, 2022 at 6 pm.

MEETING DATES

The next Regular School Committee meeting will be November 9, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business posted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session posted.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to adjourn at 7:26 P.M.
Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Rand
Recording Secretary