



## WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

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A regular meeting of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee was held hybrid (remote/in-person) on **Wednesday, October 13, 2021** 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: Ron Fitzgerald    Dave Irving  
Richard Early    Joseph Haberland  
Brett Murphy    Garry James  
Paul Tucker    JoAnn Testaverde

Members Remote: Lisa O'Connor, Johanna True

Members Absent: Tony LeSage, Charlie LaBella, Scott Wood, Chip O'Connor

Others Present: Maureen Lynch, Superintendent  
Kara Kosmes, Business Manager  
Chris Laganas, Principal  
Ryan Link, Student Representative  
Katrina Jensen, Coordinator of Data & Assessment  
Paul Moskevitz, Vocational/Technical Coordinator  
Amanda Crosby, Vocational/Technical Coordinator

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 April 1, 2022, of the remote meeting provisions of his March 12, 2020, Executive Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law. 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 and Johanna True 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 September 8, 2021 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Ms. True, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the Treasurer's Report for September 2021 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

## OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business posted.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Ryan Link provided an update on sports and activities of the different clubs. Girls' soccer is 7-2-0 and currently first in the CAC lower division. Cross Country teams are off to a solid start this season. The boys' team remains undefeated at 6-0; while the girls' team is 3-3. Football is 2-2 and playing some great football. Every game has come right down to the end. Volleyball is currently 4-8, with 8 games remaining. The Chess Club will have their first in-person meeting next Tuesday from 2-3 pm in the library. There are over 54 members enrolled. The Environmental Club will have their first meeting on October 14th. They will focus on planning a "school clean up" day where they will pick up litter around the building. The Interact Club has worked with the Haverhill Rotary which provided them with 20 t-shirts. They were designed by the Club's President. They joined "Team Haverhill" to volunteer at the Haverhill River Ruckus event on September 25th and they distributed the schedule of events to guests. The Ski Club plans to meet in-person near the end of fall to discuss ski trips. Journalism met on October 12th. The Club is going to begin discussing the first edition of the digital magazine "Wildcats". The Club will cover Spirit Week and discuss other Whittier Tech happenings. The Student Government will meet on October 14th. They will meet every other Thursday. Elections were held in September. The Club has been planning Spirit Week for 2021! The Multicultural Club had a virtual meeting last month and welcomed several new freshmen students as well as returning upperclass students. The Club reiterated their mission to appreciate other cultures by learning more about them. This month they are focusing on My Name My Identity where students in the Club will help teachers and staff pronounce their names correctly. The Key Club volunteered out in the Community at the Annual Garrison Golf Santa Fund Hole-in-One

Tournament in Haverhill this past week. They are looking forward to many more community service events throughout the school year. They meet after school on Tuesdays. The Gay/Straight Alliance Club has two students representing Whittier on the Massachusetts state-wide GSA Leadership Council. The GSA students went to Shawsheen Tech for the Northeast Regional GSA Leadership Council meeting on October 6th. The Yearbook staff has been taking pictures during fall sports events. An announcement will be going home to parents and guardians regarding the senior portrait deadline, photo specifications and the process for buying "baby ads". This month the staff will be setting up a portrait studio in the lobby from 11:00 - 1:00 every day through December 14th to take pictures of new staff members and seniors who prefer not to use an outside photographer. Peer to Peer met on October 12th. The Club will be discussing a walk to raise awareness for mental health, cards and gifts for the Troops for the holidays and the Walk for Hunger this spring.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of an HVAC Instructor LTS, Electrical Instructor LTS, Secretary for Substitute Calling, Early College Liaison, Portfolio Liaison, AP Liaison, Concurrent Enrollment Liaison, Mindfulness Curriculum Creator, Articulation Agreement Coordinator, Class/Club Advisors, Evening School Cafeteria Workers, Event Ticket Collectors, Spanish Translators, Medical Tutors and Game Clock Officials. She also reported on the resignation of an Electrical 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.

### Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch provided an update. She stated that she had provided a brief overview of some of the many things that staff and students did for 9/11. She thanked the carpentry program, in particular Mr. Lavigne and his students for the amazing wooden flags they made to give to the Haverhill Police and Fire Chief. She also thanked the masonry students and instructor, Paul Boucher for laying down brick for the Fire Fighter Museum;

the Culinary Arts students and instructor, Kris Crovetti for the amazing pastries that were served at the reception; SkillsUSA students and advisor, Mrs. Moskevitz for helping hand out programs and cleaning up after the event; Advanced Manufacturing for making key chains for the Haverhill police and firefighters; and she thanked Paul Moskevitz and Amanda Crosby, the Vocational/Technical Coordinators for coordinating all of the activities. She could not be prouder of the Whittier Tech Community for making this happen. Ms. Lynch reported that Open House is scheduled for November 7th but it will be scaled down. Only 8th grade students and their parents along with local officials will be invited to attend the event. Ms. Lynch reported that they are developing a new recruitment video to continue to show what Whittier Tech can offer. She also reported that 8th grade tours will be offered this year. Ms. Lynch reported that students are staying after school for extra curricular activities again. She thanked the many bus drivers that took on the extra commitment to help out the City of Haverhill and their students. Ms. Lynch reported that she attended the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce event that provided an update from Mayors in the area. On September 27, 2021, she attended a virtual meeting with the Commissioner of Education, Jeff Riley. The Commissioner extended the mask policy until at least November 1. On October 4, 2021, she attended the Annual Merrimack Valley Chamber meeting. Governor Charlie Baker was in attendance. He provided a context to how he dealt with the COVID 19 pandemic. On October 7, 2021, Ms. Lynch had the local Superintendents visit the Poet's Inn. The Superintendents from Ipswich, Pentucket, Triton and Georgetown were in attendance. This was a great opportunity to discuss concerns in the schools. They are planning to meet again in November. Ms. Lynch reported that the School Building Committee OPM Selection Committee will be conducting interviews for an OPM for the feasibility study on Monday, October 18th.

Ms. Katrina Jensen, Coordinator of Data & Assessment provided an MCAS update through a PowerPoint presentation. She reported that in the spring 2021 was the second administration of the MCAS 2.0 in ELA and math for high schools after a year without MCAS testing. All Whittier students took the MCAS 2.0 on iPads. The performance levels are exceed 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. She provided an MCAS performance comparison of Whittier vs. State in ELA. Whittier is 1% above the state for all students, 4% above the state for high needs and 10% above the state for economically disadvantaged students. She reported that the Class of 2023 has a 91.6% pass rate in ELA. She provided an MCAS performance comparison of Whittier vs. State in mathematics. Whittier is 3% above the state for all students, 8% above the state for high needs students and 14% above the state for economically disadvantaged students. She reported that the Class of 2023 has a 91% pass rate in mathematics. Ms. Jensen reported that in Science & Technology 97% of the freshman class passed on the first try and 17.2% of those students scored advanced. She also provided MCAS competency determination at graduation for Class of 2019 through Class of 2023.

Mr. Paul Moskevitz, Vocational/Technical Coordinator and Amanda Crosby, Vocational/Technical Coordinator provided a presentation on the vocational/technical areas. Mr. Moskevitz reported that there has been a delay in the safety survey report response due to COVID 19 and DESE Offices limited hours. The report will be completed by December 30, 2021. Mr. Moskevitz reported that a written respiratory protection program form will be implemented in the vocational/technical areas to which it applies. He also reported that a hearing protection program is in the drafting stages along with a whole school safety and operating plan. Mr. Moskevitz reported that the YMCA Whittier Early Education Center opened with the start of the school year and there are a total of 8 full time and part time children attending the program. Mr. Moskevitz reported that as of October 13, 2021, 103 students have been signed out for co-op. He also reported that there are many new co-op partners. Mr. Moskevitz reported that the new co-op COVID 19 controls are still being used. Mr. Moskevitz reported on the OSHA 10 hour credentials - Hot Work Certification EPA Certification. He reported that 361 juniors have received their OSHA 10 hour credentials; 204 sophomores have received hot work certification in applicable areas; and HVAC-R students will pass OSHA 10 hour credentials and hot work certification during sophomore year. He also reported that 25 juniors and 17 seniors will prepare and sit for their EPA regulations under section 608 - technician certification of the clean air act. Mr. Moskevitz reported on the hirings through the ESSER grant. Ms. Crosby reported that the Poet's Inn opened a Cafe' for the 2021-2022 school year; the Poet's Inn, salon and school store opened back up to the public on September 27th and Health Assisting and Early Education and Care will begin their outside internship training in late October. Ms. Crosby provided an adult evening program update. She reported that the plumbing and electrical code classes are running. There are 141 students enrolled in plumbing and 143 students in electrical. Cosmetology licensure classes began on October 4th and there are 10 students enrolled. Additionally, there are enrichment classes in Marine Technology, Welding, Electrical Fundamentals, Basic Masonry, and Basic Woodworking. There are a total of 49 students enrolled in these programs. In January, Whittier will be offering a 400 hour Advanced Manufacturing Technology training program through The Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Consortium; and a CTI training for Marine Technology and Welding in the spring.

Ms. Lynch provided the October 1, 2021 School Census. For informational purposes, she also provided the October 1, 2020 School Census report and a comparison between the two years. Currently, the Special Education population is at 19%, which is 0.2% higher than last year's percentage of 18.8%. She reported there are a total of 1283 students. This is up 34 students from last year.

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal, provided an update. He reported that Spirit Week has been set for the week of October 18th. The pep rally will be on Friday, October 23rd. Each day has a different theme: Monday is "Maui Monday"; Tuesday is "Team Sports Tuesday"; Wednesday is "Western Wednesday"; Thursday is "Wildcat Thursday"; and Friday is Class Colors for the pep rally. Mr. Laganas reported that during Spirit Week, the classes will compete each day and will earn points for their class spirit. The Pep Rally will showcase the teams, the field and the scoreboard. The Spirit Week trophy will be awarded that day. The Student Government advisors, student advisors and Assistant Principals all helped to plan this fun week. Open House will be held Sunday, November 7th from 1-4 pm. There will be academic displays in the cafeteria and vocational shop areas will be open. Additional displays will be located in the gym. On Friday, October 8th the staff had a fun half-day professional development which was moderated by Jonathan Warne, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator. The staff had lots of fun getting to know each other by discussing their identities. The Guidance Department has organized virtual meetings with college admissions representatives throughout the school year. The PSAT was administered to 174 sophomores and juniors on Wednesday, October 13th. Mr. Laganas reported that a parent safety night will be scheduled. The agenda will include A.L.I.C.E. protocols, new vaping issues and a presentation from the Haverhill Police Department (our SRO), Officer Connelly.

## 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. A transfer request will be made at a future school committee meeting that will balance the salary accounts. The FY22 budget was based on FY21 staffing needed for the hybrid model of instruction. School is back in full session this year and staff who were redeployed last year have now returned to their regular assignments. As such, some salary budgets will need to be adjusted to reflect this change.

## 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.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee met on September 8, 2021. They will meet again on November 10, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to accept the minutes for September 8, 2021 for informational purposes only as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met.

The Policy Subcommittee met on October 13, 2021. They went over the Admissions Policy and voted to bring it to the full committee for a first reading. They will meet again on November 10, 2021 at 6:15 pm.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Tucker to approve the first reading of the Admissions Policy as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

## MEETING DATES

The Regular School Committee meeting is November 10, 2021 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 7:12 P.M.  
Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lisa Rand*  
Recording Secretary