



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, November 10, 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: Charlie LaBella Dave Irving Paul Tucker
Richard Early Joseph Haberland Chip O'Connor
Brett Murphy Garry James Scott Wood

Members Remote: Lisa O'Connor, JoAnn Testaverde, Johanna True

Members Absent: Tony LeSage, Ron Fitzgerald

Others Present: Maureen Lynch, Superintendent
Kara Kosmes, Business Manager
Chris Laganas, Principal
Ryan Link, Student Representative
Dr. Kelly Fay, Coordinator of Curriculum & Staff Development
Kevin Williams, Director of Technology

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, JoAnn Testaverde 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. Mr. Laganas introduced new personnel for the 2021-2022 school year that were at the meeting.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for October 13, 2021 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the Treasurer's Report for October 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 had a great season. They hosted the Vocational State Finals versus Blackstone and made it to the first round of the MIAA State Tournament. Boys' and Girls' cross country teams competed well in the Mass State Vocational meet. They are gearing up for the Mass State meet on November 15, 2021. The Football team continues to play some great football. They will take on Greater New Bedford on Thursday, November 11th in the State Vocational Tournament. The Volleyball team finished their season making it to the 1st round of the MIAA Tournament. The Chess Club continues to have in-person meetings. They have over 54 members enrolled in the Club. The Environmental Club has been meeting and completed a "school clean up" day where they picked up litter around the building. The Interact Club continues to meet. They are looking to continue to have a positive impact on the community. In-person meetings have begun for the Journalism Club. They have been covering events around the school for the first edition of the digital magazine "Wildcats". Student Government ran a successful Spirit Week in which the school came together, enjoyed some WT spirit and capped it off with a fun Pep Rally.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of a technology technician - help desk, a route bus driver, a part-time security officer, a vocational competency

liaison, above the influence manager, a breathe program advisor, an evening school hot works trainer and evening school secretary. She also reported on the resignations of a mathematics instructor for retirement purposes, a route bus driver and evening school secretary .

Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that Kara Kosmes would be presenting the FY23 budget timeline.

MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that on November 9th and 10th, juniors retook the math MCAS and on November 16th and 17th will take the ELA MCAS. There were approximately 40 juniors that took advantage of retaking the exam.

Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch provided an update. On Friday, October 15, 2021, Ms. Lynch attended the Merrimack Valley Chamber Safety forum at the Lanam Club with Patricia Fleming. The District Attorney and police chiefs gave an update on new legislation. On Tuesday, October 19, 2021, Ms. Lynch attended the Kiwanis luncheon. Ms. Lynch thanked President Rich Porcelli for having her at the meeting. It was a wonderful opportunity to give the group an update on Whittier. On Tuesday, October 19, 2021, Ms. Lynch attended the virtual MA Early College & Vocational Schools working group. This group is meeting weekly to review the opportunities and challenges of having Early College Programs. On Monday, October 25, 2021, Ms. Lynch attended the Merrimack Valley Chamber Women in Business Series. She was a presenter at the program. She spoke about what she learned about leadership while working through the COVID pandemic. On Tuesday, October 26, 2021, she attended the Superintendent's meeting with the District Attorney. There were approximately 20 local superintendents in Essex County that attended the meeting. On Wednesday, October 27, 2021, she attended the 12th Annual MA Jobs & Workforce Virtual Summit. Ms. Lynch was a panelist at the program discussing how Whittier's Evening and CTI programs are providing workforce development for the area. On Wednesday, October 27, 2021, she attended the MAVA General Membership meeting. It was a wonderful opportunity for the Administrative Team to hear updates on vocational programming and network with their colleagues across the State of Massachusetts. On Friday, October 29, 2021, she attended the City of Amesbury Bike Rack Project. She thanked Tristan Belanger from CAD, Bruce Boisselle from Advanced Manufacturing and Chris Gerber from Metal Fabrication and all of their students for this project. This was one of six bike racks throughout the City. Whittier did this project in cooperation with the Mayor of Amesbury and a grant they received. On Friday, October 29, 2021, she attended the North Shore Superintendents' Roundtable meeting. At the meeting, they had a group discussion about how they can

make all of the schools more inclusive. On Wednesday - Friday, November 3-5, 2021, Ms. Lynch attended the virtual MASC/MASS conference. On Tuesday, November 9, 2021, she attended the Merrimack Valley Superintendents' roundtable at Shawsheen Tech. They discussed concerns about masking, testing, and what the future may present for them as school leaders. On Wednesday, November 10, 2021, she attended the Northeast Regional Planning Workforce Skills Cabinet virtual update. There is a follow-up meeting next Thursday to discuss changes to the CTI grant. Ms. Lynch stated that most of the seniors are currently out on co-op. In January, the juniors will have the opportunity to go out on co-op as well. She has been discussing an idea about having seniors for the District schools come to Whittier for the second semester and do an Exploratory Program to help seniors without a postgraduate plan think about vocational education. This could become a pathway for them to enter into CTI or Whittier's evening school program. Ms. Lynch has discussed this with Superintendent's in the Whittier District and there is definitely an interest. Ms. Lynch reported that Whittier applied for a planning grant with the State to look at the possibility of making this a long term partnership. The plan is to pilot the program this winter. Ms. Lynch reported that there has been great success with the Marine Technology Program. It has been such a success that Whittier is putting in an application for a Chapter 74 Marine Technology Program for the day school. Ms. Lynch reported that Whittier has posted for another school adjustment counselor and will be using ESSER funds to support it. Students are really struggling right now and it's important that Whittier has the support in place to help them.

Ms. Lynch reported that the Wrestling Team has submitted two (2) out of state field trip requests for wrestling meet/tournament in Salem NH on December 23, 2021 and Pelham NH on January 15, 2022.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to approve the out of state field trip requests from the Wrestling Team to attend wrestling meet/tournaments in Salem, NH on December 23, 2021 and Pelham, NH on January 15, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Dr. Kelly Fay Coordinator of Curriculum & Staff Development provided an Academic update through a PowerPoint presentation. She reported that at the end of the 2020-2021 school year the curriculum for every academic course was updated. She reported that through the ESSER II grant, positions were created to re-examine the newly developed curriculum and update it based on what teachers identified as needed to be tweaked after actual application. Dr. Fay reported on the classes that were updated/reformatted. She stated that for 10th grade math & science, the 3rd period of math was removed and a 2nd period of science was added to make it a double period science course. Dr. Fay reported on the changes to physical education. She reported

that PE now comes from vocational areas in all 4 grade levels. She stated students in grades 10-12 have PE for one full day per term and students in grade 9 participate in PE once they have made their shop selections. Dr. Fay stated that there are new courses for the 2021-2022 school year. She stated that Honors American Government was added to the grade 12 history sequence. She stated that the following electives were added: management & entrepreneurship; financial management & literacy; digital literacy and small engine/appliance solutions & repair. Dr. Fay provided a vocational/technical curriculum update. In the spring 2021, the State released revised drafts of the vocational frameworks in advanced manufacturing; automotive collision, automotive technology; cosmetology; electricity and plumbing. Once fully approved by DESE, Whittier will embark on the curriculum revision process for those areas as well as any other areas updated over the course of the year. Dr. Fay stated that through ESSER II funding Whittier was able to put in place the following support for students due to the COVID-19 Pandemic: learning loss intervention coordinators for English, math science, vocational and special education areas; student support facilitators/coordinators and student acceleration programs. Dr. Fay stated that the focus for professional development this school year is on cultural proficiency and responsiveness. She also reported on Whittier's NEAS&C 5-Year Focused visit for fall 2022.

Mr. Kevin Williams, Director of Technology and Information Systems provided a Technology update through a PowerPoint Presentation. Mr. Williams reported that they continue to work on the core systems. He reviewed the systems that were replaced in 2020 and discussed how they will continue updating them this school year. Last year, they installed the School Information System, Special Education System, Teacher Evaluation System, ClassLink Integration System and SchoolMessenger Mass Notifications. They were able to consolidate and see gains realized by migrating the systems to an integrated/interfaced family of systems. Mr. Williams also discussed the Power School systems that were installed. The Admissions/Returning Student System that automates gathering of incoming and returning student demographics and information to eliminate hand entry of data; the student assessment system and schoology. Mr. Williams thanked Lisa Belfiore and Rich Porcelli for all their help.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal, provided an update. Mr. Laganas reported that open house was held Sunday, November 7th from 1-4 pm and was well attended. This year, it was open only to 8th graders and their families from the District. There were approximately 207 students that applied to Whittier. Mr. Laganas thanked Amanda Crosby and Paul Moskevitz, the Vocational/Technical Coordinators and all the staff for all their hard work. Mr. Laganas reported that middle school tours began on Tuesday, November 9th with Triton Middle School coming to Whittier. The middle school tours will continue with Consentino on November 16th; Hunking on November 18th; JG

Whittier on November 23rd; Nettle on November 30th; Ipswich on December 2nd; Pentucket on December 7th; Newburyport Rupert A. Nock on December 9th and Amesbury on December 14th. The tours will be completed before winter break. Mr. Laganas reported that report cards will be issued through PowerSchool on Friday, November 12th. Parent's night will be held on Thursday, November 18th from 5:30 - 7:30 pm and will be in-person. Mr. Laganas reported that Spirit Week was fun and successful for students. It was held the week of October 18th with a pep rally to end it on Friday. Mr. Laganas stated that a parent safety night was held on Tuesday, October 19th and meetings with students and staff have been held this week. A.L.I.C.E. protocols have been discussed and drills will be started. The Booster Club is holding their annual Thanksgiving Pie and Donut Fundraiser from Cider Hill Farm in Amesbury. Orders are in and can be picked up on November 23rd in the cafeteria after school.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager provided an FY23 Budget Calendar with the proposed calendar dates to meet with the Executive Subcommittee in the design of the budget for review and approval.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the proposed FY23 budget calendar as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Murphy reported that there were no annual agenda items for December.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met.

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee met on November 10, 2021 for informational purposes.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met.

The Policy Subcommittee met on November 10, 2021. Mr. Irving stated that the minutes for the October 13th meeting were provided for approval and the Admissions policy for a second and final reading.

By motion of Mr. James, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to approve the minutes of October 13, 2021 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to approve the second and final reading of the Admissions Policy as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

MEETING DATES

The Regular School Committee meeting is December 8, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business posted. However, Mr. Irving provided an update on the MASC/MASS Delegate Assembly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session posted.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. LaBella to adjourn at 7:38 P.M.
Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Rand
Recording Secretary