



## 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, November 9, 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    Garry James    Greg Noyes  
                         Brett Murphy    Ron Fitzgerald    Dave Irving  
                         Paul Tucker    Sandi Coppinger    JoAnn Testaverde

Members Remote: Lisa O'Connor, Johanna True, Chip O'Connor

Members Absent: Joseph Haberland, Scott Wood

Others Present: Maureen Lynch, Superintendent  
                         Kara Kosmes, Business Manager  
                         Chris Laganas, Principal  
                         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 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 6:34 P.M. Mr. Murphy took attendance. All members listed as present were in attendance at Whittier Tech High School. Lisa O'Connor, Johanna True and Chip O'Connor 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 2022-2023 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 12, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Dr. Testaverde, seconded by Mr. James to approve the Treasurer's Report for October 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 tough loss to Ipswich on Saturday. They will have their final home game on Thursday, November 10th against Saugus, and the final game of the season is the Thanksgiving game which will be held at Greater Lawrence. Boys Soccer concluded its season with a hard fought game against Northeast Tech. The team battled hard but came up short 3-1. The program continued to grow with the JV team supporting over 20 student athletes, many will make the jump to varsity next season. Girls Soccer finished the regular season with a record of 11-4-3, winning the league for the 2nd year in a row and had 5 players voted as CAC all stars. Volleyball qualified for the State Tournament but fell short to Sandwich going 3 to 1. They finished their season with a 13-7 overall record. Boys Cross Country was led at both the league meet and State Vocational meet by an incoming freshman star. He quickly set himself apart from past freshmen by breaking Whittier's freshman records at Whittier's course and on the State Vocational course in Wrentham. Girls Cross Country was led by an outstanding junior who won the large school State Vocational Cross Country title this past week. She became the first ever Whittier female runner to win back-to-back State Vocational Cross Country titles. Cheerleading has been working hard on their competition routine. They had their invitational competition and CAC competition. They have advanced to Regionals, which will be held Sunday, November 13th.

Skills USA continues to meet every Thursday after school. They are working to establish Chapter Officers and develop their Program of Work for this school year. They are also preparing for the Fall State Leadership Conference. Skills is also collaborating with the Multicultural club to run the annual coat drive. GSA is looking forward to hosting the Northern Region GSA Leadership Council on December 8th. MultiCultural Club recognized the end of Hispanic Heritage Month with a Trivia Game and a lesson in the Bachata, which served well right before the Homecoming Dance. They also started their "My Name My Identity" campaign where members encourage and show teachers how to pronounce their names correctly. Key Club has started filling out Holiday Cards for people in the community. They will be volunteering at the Sea Festival of Trees in Salisbury on December 3rd, ringing the Salvation Army bells, and working at the Breakfast with Santa in Salisbury. Interact Club is working with the Rotary Club to provide community meals on Monday, November 14th at the Citizens Center in Haverhill. Chess Club is down to the finals in their first tournament of the year. They have had a steady 25 members. Student Government is proud of successfully hosting a dance in October for almost 800 students. They held a fun spirit week and Pep Rally. In November, they are honoring Whittier veterans and thanking them for their service with a free treat at the Poet's Inn. Robotics contributed to the open house on Sunday! They set up robots in the gym to represent the robotics shop and club. They had robots shooting basketballs and others moving blocks. Environmental Club has started their project of identifying tree species around the school. Once identified, they will work with shops in the school to make tree identification plaques to hang. Drama just wrapped up the Coffee House event in October and are now working on monologues and short scenes. Art Club has about 30 students participating. They have students working on paintings, illustrations, jewelry, and pottery. DECA has five (5) students getting ready for competitions. They have two (2) going for hospitality, two (2) going for business ethics, and one (1) doing an innovation project. Yearbook Club is making good progress with respect to photography and page layout. Yearbook staff photographers have attended all fall sports and visited each shop several times to capture images. Poetry is having a very special meeting on November 17th. They will be focusing on reading and writing stations.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of two (2) teaching assistants vocational, a medical assisting instructor, a building trades instructor, an English instructor LTS and evening school instructors. She also reported on the resignations of an early education & care instructor, a guidance office aide, a mathematics instructor and an accounts payable clerk.

### Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that Kara Kosmes would be presenting the FY24 budget timeline.

### MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that in October three (3) math and three (3) bio appeals were submitted and all were granted. In November one (1) bio appeal and one (1) ELA appeal were submitted but no feedback has been received yet. November 9th and 10th, three (3) juniors will take the ELA retest and on November 15th and 16th, eight (8) juniors will take the math retest.

### School Building Update

Ms. Lynch reported that November 8th they had a school building committee meeting. The building committee decided to go with a construction management versus design build bid for construction. The committee felt this was the best route to go based on the current economic climate and the size of the project.

### Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch provided an update. On October 19th and 26th, 2022, she attended the Whittier weekly executive project meeting with Kara Kosmes, JCJ and Leftfield. On Wednesday, October 19, 2022, she attended the MAVA Board of Directors' meeting and General Membership meeting. Jayden Craig, the President of SkillsUSA at Whittier was introduced to the MAVA community. On Friday, October 21, 2022, she hosted a Superintendent luncheon with the Superintendents from the district. On Monday, October 24, 2022, she attended a CTE call with Associate Commissioner Elizabeth Bennett.

On Monday, October 24, 2022, she met with Superintendent McAndrews from Amesbury to discuss admissions. On Tuesday, October 25, 2022, she attended the online school building committee meeting. On Thursday, October 27, 2022, she attended Whittier's annual fall advisory board meeting. JCJ and Leftfield did a presentation on the School Building Project. After the large group discussion, each individual vocational area met with their advisory team individually. On Friday, October 28, 2022, she attended the North Shore Superintendents' Roundtable meeting at Danvers High School. Schools shared their DEI practices and initiatives. On Wednesday, November 2nd - Friday, November 4th, she attended the MASC/MASS conference along with Kara Kosmes, Dave Irving and Garry James. There were some really wonderful presentations and workshops. On Sunday, November 6, 2022, Whittier held their annual open house. It was an amazing event. They really showcased the Marine Technology Program. Students and parents were able to apply to Whittier on the same day. There were over 280 applications completed. On Monday, November 7, 2022 - November 9, 2022, Whittier had their NEAS&C 5-year focused visit. Mr. Laganas and Ms. Lynch met with the NEAS&C team before they left. There were many areas of strength including SEL strategies in the classroom and the Learning Loss Team. Areas to continue to improve included building issues and having teachers more involved in the Advisory Program. On November 9, 2022, she attended the Whittier weekly executive project meeting with Kara Kosmes, JCJ and Leftfield. They are preparing for a sustainability meeting with Cluster Chairs and Administrators next Wednesday from 2-4 pm. Ms. Lynch requested acceptance of a new scholarship from the family of Jonathan Warner. Jonathan graduated from Whittier in 2004 where he learned the electrical trade. He spent his career in electrical and became a licensed journeyman and was a foreman for a local company in Local 103. He always helped those new to the union and found joy in taking apprentices under his wing. His family would like to keep his generosity, kindness and desire to help others alive by providing those senior electrical students who get accepted into the Local 103JATC with the tools needed to enter the program. Once the family is notified by guidance as to the names and number of seniors accepted into the Local 103JATC program, they will provide a tool box with whatever these students will need (tools, books etc.) to enter the program. They are hoping that their funds will allow this to become an annual award. Ms. Lynch thanked the family of Jonathan Warner for this generous scholarship for seniors in electrical.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to accept the Jonathan Warner scholarship as presented by the Superintendent with gratitude. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Ms. Lynch requested the school committee's approval for an out of state field trip request from Cosmetology to go to the American Institute of Haircolor in Londonderry, NH on November 21, 2022.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to approve the field trip request from Cosmetology to attend the American Institute of Haircolor in Londonderry, NH on November 21, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Ms. Lynch requested the school committee's approval of three (3) out of state field trip requests from the Ski Club for January 6, 2023 and February 3, 2023 to Pats Peak Ski Area in Henniker, NH and February 12, 2023 to Pico Ski Resort in Mendon, VT.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to approve the three (3) out of state field trip requests from the Ski Club for January 6, 2023 and February 3, 2023 to Pats Peak Ski Area in Henniker, NH and February 12, 2023 to Pico Ski Resort in Mendon, VT 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 the English Department examined the MCAS results to determine what worked and what didn't work. Once the assessment results were completed the team made modifications to instructional practice where needed. They also implemented Common Lit curriculum across the grades. Dr. Fay provided an update on the math curriculum. She stated this year they added a DESE approved program of AP courses for grade 11 students. She reported that DESE offered science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) advanced placement (AP) courses via a Massachusetts based non profit virtual high school. Students log in daily during their elective period to take part in asynchronous online discussion and group-based activities. These activities are supported by a Whittier subject matter instructor. All of the courses meet the College Board lab requirements with approved lab kits provided by DESE. The VHS STEM AP courses available at Whittier are AP Biology grade 11, AP computer science principles grade 11 and AP statistics grade 11. Dr. Fay provided an update on science. She reported that Whittier was the recipient of the Massachusetts Life Science grant. This grant was specifically for professional development. The Department worked to examine the parameters of

the grant, as well as the professional development that is offered to ensure they are meeting the needs of students and the requirements of the MA curriculum frameworks. History has implemented the new SAVVAS Instruction program for US History I, US History 2 and World History. They are also in the process of implementing professional development based on the PD recommendations made by the company. In World Language, they added a Heritage Course to the instructional program particularly for Spanish I students. This course is for students who are bilingual in both Spanish and English. Dr. Fay provided a vocational technical curriculum update. She reported that the Office for College, Career, and Technical Education announced on-line public vetting for new Chapter 74 revised draft frameworks from October 11th - October 13th, along with the release of draft Strand 5 and Strand 6. She provided the timeline for vetting and posting. She reported that the following frameworks were open for vetting during October: Carpentry, Dental Assisting, Health Assisting, HVAC-R, Information Support Services & Networking, Medical Assisting, Metal Fabrication, Programming & Web Development, and Strands 5 & 6. Once fully approved by DESE, Whittier will embark on the curriculum revision process for the areas as well as any other areas updated over the course of the year. Dr. Fay provided a learning loss update. She reported that there are five learning loss coordinators. They meet with the Administration every other Tuesday after school. The Learning Loss Coordinators introduced a new App called "Paper" and they created a referral form for both students and staff to complete. Dr. Fay spoke about the referral process. Dr. Fay reviewed the Paper App. She provided an overview of what it is. Students can receive tutoring services in English, Spanish, or French 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can ask for tutoring in other languages. Instructors use a chat format and do not provide students with answers rather ask leading and pointed questions to find out what the student knows. Students can also submit any type of essay for annotation, including post high school, for example a college essay, cover letter or resume. Student concerns are flagged and submitted to the administrative team if any tutor determines there is an issue either behaviorally or emotionally. Dr. Fay reported that the NEAS&C 5-year focused visit was held Monday-Wednesday of this week. Dr. Fay reported that professional development was introduced in a carousel format this year. Professional development topics included: Tiered systems of support presented by Whittier school adjustment counselors; Skills USA; Paper Tutorial Program; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; NEAS&C; and GSA.

Mr. Kevin Williams, Director of Technology and Information Systems provided a Technology update through a PowerPoint Presentation. Mr. Williams provided an overview and refresher of technology at Whittier. He stated that Whittier has been a 1:1 school since 2014 with iPads. They support over 700 applications and systems and there are 2,300 devices under management, including Chrome, iPadOS, macOS, and Windows devices. He stated that 1:1 iPads started in 2014 with grades 9 & 10. New iPads are provided each year to incoming freshmen. The devices are configured and locked down to individual students. Teachers use iPad Air with Apple Pencil, MacBook Air, AirPlay to Apple TV's connected to displays in their classrooms. Mr. Williams

reported on the recent application migrations installed over the last few years. He also provided an update on the infrastructure. He also reported on web and social media design and content; print, web and video marketing content; along with audio and video production and live streaming. Mr. Williams thanked Conor LaHiff, Joseph Fitzpatrick and Rich Porcelli for all their help.

#### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal, provided an update. He reported that Open House was Sunday, November 6, 2022 from 1-4 pm and was well attended. Only 8th graders and their families from the District were sent invitations. Mr. Laganas thanked Amanda Crosby and Paul Moskevitz, the Vocational/Technical Coordinators and all the staff for all their hard work. Roughly about 270 plus 8th grade students have applied to Whittier. Mr. Laganas reported that middle school tours began on Tuesday, November 8th with Triton Middle School coming to Whittier. The middle school tours will continue with Hill View on November 10th; Georgetown on November 15th; Consentino on November 17th; Newburyport Rupert A. Nock on November 22nd; JG Whittier on November 29th; Amesbury on December 1st; Pentucket on December 6th; Nettle on December 13th; Ipswich on December 15th and Hunking on December 20th. The tours will be completed before winter break. Mr. Laganas reported that report cards will be issued through PowerSchool on Thursday, November 10th. The Student Government will be making announcements on November 11th for Veterans Day in recognition of all the staff members who have served our Country. Parent's night will be held on Thursday, November 17th from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Mr. Laganas reported that they held their first all school practice ALICE drill. He reported that on November 8th they had their safety team meeting. In that meeting, they discussed safety protocols and ways to enhance school safety at Whittier. The Booster Club is continuing their efforts for students. They will have the snack shack open for the football game against Saugus on November 10th at 6:00 pm.

#### BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager provided an FY24 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. Tucker, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to approve the proposed FY24 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 met on October 26, 2022.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to approve the minutes of October 26, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met.  
The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met.  
The Policy Subcommittee met on November 9, 2022. They went over updated policies from MASC. The policy subcommittee will meet on December 14th at 5:45 pm.

#### MEETING DATES

The next Regular School Committee meeting will be December 14, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

#### NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business posted. However, Mr. Irving provided an update on the MASC/MASS Delegate Assembly. Mr. Irving and Mr. James also provided information on the conference overall.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Murphy stated that he needs a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School Committee and upon completion of Executive Session will adjourn.

By motion of Dr. Testaverde, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the School Committee and upon completion of Executive Session will adjourn. Unanimously approved by roll call vote. The Committee went into Executive Session at 8:11 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lisa Rand*  
Recording Secretary