



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, December 8, 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 Ron Fitzgerald
Brett Murphy Scott Wood Jo-Ann Testaverde

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

Members Absent: Tony LeSage

Others Present: Maureen Lynch, Superintendent
Kara Kosmes, Business Manager
Chris Laganas, Principal
Ryan Link, Student Representative

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, Johanna True, Garry James 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. The Committee went to carpentry to see the holiday float. Ms. Lynch thanked Jonathan Boles, the Art Instructor and staff/students for all their hard work on the float.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for November 10, 2021 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to approve the Treasurer's Report for November 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' Basketball opens up their season Friday, December 10th at Shawsheen Tech. Boys' Basketball opens up their season Friday, December 10th. Wrestling has approximately 45 participants. They open up their season Saturday, December 11th at Whittier, hosting 5 conference teams for a superquad. Chess Club meets each week on Tuesday or Thursday in the library. The Club has continued to grow and has over 50 members. The first in-house chess tournament will be held after the holiday break. The Environmental Club meets every other Thursday. They had great success with their Trash Pickup Day on November 16th. They will continue to care for the endangered Blanding's turtles, which were recently featured in a WHAV news story. Their next project is to get the hydroponic tower gardens up and running. The Interact Club will deliver holiday cards to local nursing homes this week. Volunteers worked the Salisbury Sea Festival of Trees on November 20th. On Tuesday, December 7th, they wrapped gifts for Ozzie's Kids and will be helping out at their luncheon on December 11th. The Ski Club is looking into ski trips to Waterville Valley and Pats Peak. The Journalism Club continues to meet every other Tuesday. During their first meeting, they brainstormed story ideas and compiled a story list for the December issue. Two students interviewed Mrs. Malynn in Allied Health about co-op jobs during the pandemic. At their next meeting, they will take photos of winter sports teams and two students are going to interview the Early Ed teachers about co-op. Student Government honored 9 Whittier Tech veterans on Veterans Day by buying them a cup of coffee and a treat from Poet's Inn. The Student Government is looking forward to

celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in January. The Multicultural Club joined other clubs to help with the Environmental Club's trash pick up day. The Multicultural Club celebrated two members' birthdays with cultural celebrations and festivities. This month, the Club will be discussing various types of December traditions amongst members, celebrating who they are and where they come from. Robotics students are staying after school one or two days a week and continue to learn programming, motors, motor controllers, and hardware/software interactions. Peer to Peer students have been working with the Interact Club making holiday cards for local nursing homes. February is American Heart Month and students are organizing a wear red day to help raise awareness. Key Club continues to spread joy and community service. Last month, they helped the Environmental Club with their Trash Pick up Day and volunteered at Salisbury's Sea Festival of Trees. Last week, they collaborated with the Interact and Peer to Peer Clubs to write out holiday cards to be sent to seniors in the community. The Yearbook Club will be sending the yearbook out to press next week. To date, they have received 52 senior portraits. They are placing the images into the senior section as they receive them and designing all of the fall sports pages.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of a school adjustment counselor, business office clerk part-time, above the influence advisors and winter coaches.

Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that they will be meeting with Department Heads and the Administration to finalize department submissions to build the FY23 budget.

MCAS Update

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

Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch provided an update. She reported that on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, she hosted a Superintendent luncheon at Whittier. At that meeting, they discussed the possibility of a "senior exploratory" program for district students. Whittier has applied for a planning grant through DESE to continue to develop partnerships with local high schools. Mr. Laganas will be meeting with the Principals to discuss how to move forward. On Monday, November 22, 2021, she attended the Commissioner's virtual meeting. At that meeting, the Commissioner has decided to continue the mask mandate for all school districts that do not meet the 80%

threshold until January 15th. On Tuesday, November 23, 2021, she attended the virtual MA Early College & Vocational Schools working group along with Kelly Fay and Kristine Morrison. On Tuesday, November 30, 2021, she attended the MASS virtual Courageous, Women Leaders: Fostering Equity, Inclusivity and Belonging meeting along with other administrators. On Tuesday, December 7, 2021, she attended the virtual MA Early College & Vocational Schools working group. On Wednesday, December 8, 2021, she attended the virtual MASS meeting on budget finance. Ms. Lynch reported that there is concern with students as a result of missed learning time last year. They are finding that students are developmentally not at the appropriate grade level. She stated they are in the process of writing a comprehensive plan to address the needs of the students. She reported that while there has been some significant academic learning loss, students are also struggling with low executive functioning skills and social skills. Ms. Lynch hopes to be able to share a plan to address the needs of students at the next meeting. Ms. Lynch reported that 9th grade English teachers assessed students in word study, grammar and comprehension using the Lexia app. They found that in word study 97% were grade 5 and below; in grammar 86% were grade 5 or below and in comprehension 85% were grade 5 or below. As a result, all 9th grade exploratory program days will begin with 30 minutes of reading, grammar and comprehension with a program called Lexia. Ms. Lynch reported that there has been a dramatic increase in positive COVID numbers. A close eye will be kept on the numbers and additional mitigation measures may need to be implemented if the numbers continue to rise. Ms. Lynch reported that for the month of November there were 29 positive cases and as of December 8th, there were 21 positive cases for December. On Friday, December 10th, there will be another vaccination clinic where staff and students can get vaccinated for the first time or get their booster shot. The School Committee members were given charcuterie boards made by Mr. Whittier and the students in carpentry as well as a metal tumbler provided by Haverhill Bank and the Whittier Tech Foundation. Ms. Lynch reported that the Ski Club has submitted two (2) out of state field trip requests for approval. The first is to Pats Peak Ski Resort in Henniker, NH on January 21, 2022 and the second is to Waterville Valley Ski Resort in Waterville Valley, NH on February 6, 2022.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Tucker to approve the out of state field trip request from the Ski Club to Pats Peak Ski Resort in Henniker, NH on January 21, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the out of state field trip request from the Ski Club to Waterville Valley Ski Resort in Waterville Valley, NH on February 6, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Ms. Lynch reported that there have been generously donated items to benefit Whittier's educational, vocational and extracurricular activities outlined in a memorandum from the Business Manager dated December 1, 2021.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. James to accept the donations listed in the memorandum from the Business Manager dated December 1, 2021.
Unanimously approved by roll call vote

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal, provided an update. Whittier fall sports completed their seasons. Mr. Laganas congratulated the students, parents/guardians and the Booster Club for another successful season. The fall sports awards night is scheduled for Thursday, December 9th. The event will start in the gymnasium then each team will disperse by team into designated areas in the Building for a more personalized ceremony. The Booster Club will be set up in the cafeteria for distribution of jackets. The 8th grade tours continue and should be completed by the holiday break. The schedule before break is Pentucket on December 7th; Newburyport Rupert A. Nock on December 9th; and Amesbury on December 14th. The Holiday Fund continues to alleviate the burdens of Whittier students and families. Mr. Laganas thanked all those that have donated to the fund to date. The holiday season is hard for many students. This is just a small way, Whittier as a community, can make things better for students. Mr. Laganas thanked Cheryl Begin, the Guidance Department and Elaine Kevgas for helping coordinate this process. Coffee House music will be held on Tuesday, December 14th at 6 pm in the auditorium. This is an informal talent show and will feature both acoustic and karaoke backed songs as well as some short scenes. There will also be snacks provided by the Booster Club. Mr. Laganas reported that progress reports will be issued through PowerSchool on Friday, December 17th for term two. Mr. Laganas reported that Whittier will continue to practice safety drills with the entire school throughout the year. The Booster Club's Thanksgiving Pie and Donut Fundraiser was a success. Mr. Laganas thanked the Boosters for all of their continued support of Whittier's student athletes.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager, provided FY22 budget line item transfers in the amount of \$986,809.00. The transfer will balance the salary account appropriations so that they reflect the current deployment of staff, adjust for teacher contractual salary lane changes and align to any increases that were approved by the School Committee after the FY22 budget was finalized.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. LaBella to authorize budget line item transfers in the amount of \$986,809.00 as outlined in the Business Manager's memorandum of December 1, 2021. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

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

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met. They will meet on January 12, 2022 at 5:30 PM

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met.

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

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Tucker to approve the minutes of November 10, 2021 for informational purposes as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met. They will meet on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 3 pm to begin negotiations with WREA - Teachers Unit.

The Policy Subcommittee met on November 10, 2021.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Tucker to approve the minutes of November 10, 2021 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

MEETING DATES

The Executive Subcommittee meeting is January 12, 2022 at 5:30 pm. The Regular School Committee meeting is January 12, 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. Wood, seconded by Mr. Irving to adjourn at 7:10 P.M.
Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Rand
Recording Secretary