



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, March 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: Charlie LaBella Chip O'Connor Paul Tucker
 Brett Murphy Ron Fitzgerald Scott Wood
 Richard Early

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

Members Absent: Tony LeSage, Joseph Haberland, JoAnn Testaverde

Others Present: Maureen Lynch, Superintendent
 Kara Kosmes, Business Manager
 Chris Laganas, Principal

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 July 15, 2022, 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 6:31 P.M. Mr. Murphy took attendance. All members listed as present were in attendance at Whittier Tech High School. Lisa O'Connor, Johanna True, Dave Irving, Jo-Ann Testaverde and Garry James 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 February 9, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the Minutes of Executive Session for February 9, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Ms. L. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the Treasurer's Report for February 2022 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 had a great season. They missed the State Tournament by one game. The boys' basketball had a great season. They qualified for the State Vocational Tournament and the Division 4 State Tournament. They are waiting to hear if any of the team members will be considered for the CAC awards and all star recognition. The wrestling team had a successful season. They were the 2022 Commonwealth Athletic Conference Champions over rival Shawsheen Tech. Wrestlers from Whittier placed at the Division 2 North Sectional, Division 2 State and All State Tournaments this postseason. Senior, Lucas Welling became the first Wildcat wrestler to place at the All State Tournament as well as compete in the New England Tournament. The Chess Club continues to flourish. They have around 20 plus students in attendance. The Drama Club will be performing *Clue* on March 18, 19, and 20, 2022. Pre-sale tickets are \$8.00 in the school store and \$10.00 at the door. SkillsUSA has 182 students registered to participate in the District competition on March 17th at Whittier. Students will be taking the test in the gym from 8-10:30 a.m. As students complete their testing, they will have the opportunity to enjoy some Caribbean music and a Kona Ice. Scores will be available within a few days. Students who place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd will be eligible to move on to the State Conference. The State Conference will be held in-person over several days. The UN Team is preparing for the UMass Lowell Model UN conference on April 5-7, 2022. The Team will debate topics such as the Crisis in Ukraine, Finding Solutions to form Political Stability in Haiti, NATO expansion, and Mitigating the Risks of

Space Debris. The Environmental Club is setting up a tower garden for display in the Poet's Inn. They are growing mint, basil and swiss chard. They are trying to organize an Earth Day activity/event with SkillsUSA. They are also waiting to hear if they will be involved with carpentry to build nesting boxes for bluebirds and swallow tails. The Interact Club is working on planning another wildcat walk or planting something at school for Earth Day. The Ski Club had two successful trips this winter. They went to Pats Peak and Waterville Valley. Journalism students published the February issue of the Wildcats Magazine. Students wrote Valentine shoutouts for the February issue, Mrs. Parsons shared some PR stories she wrote and two students wrote a story about the play, *Clue*. Next week they will begin working on the April issue. The Student Government is working on plans for Spirit Week. They are also looking forward to honoring teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week in May. Multicultural will have Ms. Katie Staunton visit their club to share a special presentation on Irish Dancing. In April, they will be hosting their Bystander Intervention Awareness Initiative. The Robotics Club is working on programming fundamentals. Peer to Peer will be sending Easter Cards to Baker Katz and the Oxford nursing homes with some help from the Interact Club. Key Club is planning a Change Wars competition to be held at the end of March/beginning of April. Students will have two weeks where they can put their loose change in a jar. Bills will deduct points. The Class with the most points at the end of the Competition will win. The winning class will get the money in their jar donated to their class. The other money raised will go towards a local charity. The Yearbook has started to print the first 100 pages of the Yearbook this week. The spring sports team photos will be taken as soon as practices begin. The final pages will go to press by the end of the month. The Art Club continues to grow. They meet each Tuesday and do painting, clay construction and firing using the in-class kiln.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of a part-time cafeteria helper, learning loss coordinator, individuals to work in the February 2022 vacation boot camp, a transition specialist, CVTE Equitable Access Admissions Team facilitator, MyCAP team member and individuals to work in the ELA MCAS after school program.

Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that a budget workshop was held March 9th. At that workshop they discussed a budget which contained a 6.74% increase. The public hearing for the FY23 budget is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 6:25 pm.

MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that Whittier is offering a free MCAS Prep program to Grade 10 students in the area of English Language Arts on Mondays and Thursdays until March 21st. Free transportation and snacks are also being offered. The Class of 2024 will take the English Language Arts MCAS on March 22nd and March 23rd, 2022.

Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch provided an update. On Friday, February 11, 2022, she attended the North Shore Superintendents' Roundtable meeting at Danvers High School. On Wednesday, February 16, 2022, she had an interview with Winn from WHAV. They discussed Whittier's Early College Program, the Senior Exploratory Program and Marine Technology Program. On Thursday, March 3, 2022, she attended the MAVA 2022 Spring General Membership meeting along with many members of the Administrative Staff. Commissioner Riley was in attendance and they were able to honor Whittier's Presidential Scholar nominee, Chloe Simard at the event. On Friday, March 4, 2022, she hosted the Mayor of Newburyport, Sean Reardon, for a tour along with Chairperson Murphy. Ms. Lynch thanked Mr. Laganas for helping out with the tour. On Monday, March 7, 2022, she attended the Merrimac Finance Committee meeting with Kara Kosmes. On Tuesday, March 8, 2022, Whittier hosted the Merrimack Valley Superintendents' Association meeting. There were approximately 30 superintendents from the Merrimack Valley in attendance. Ms. Lynch complimented the Culinary Arts Department for an amazing job. This was their first function in two years. The Superintendents were very impressed with everything but mostly the food! Ms. Lynch reported that Whittier has been mask optional for the last two weeks. There is approximately 50% wearing masks and 50% not. Ms. Lynch reported that the Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for April 7th. Ms. Lynch reported that she has a field trip request from FIRST Robotics to attend the FIRST Robotics Competition in Durham, NH on April 1, 2022.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the field trip request from FIRST Robotics to attend the FIRST Robotics Competition in Durham, NH on April 1, 2022. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal, provided an update. He reported that the winter sports finished up last week and congratulated all the teams, student athletes and coaches on a successful season. The spring sports begin on March 21, 2022. Mr. Laganas reminded everyone that the school play, *Clue*, will be held on Friday, March 18th, Saturday, March 19th at 7 pm and Sunday, March 20th at 2 pm. On Thursday, March 17th, the SkillsUSA qualifying test will take place at Whittier. Mr. Laganas stated there

are 182 students from Whittier registered for this event. The students are competing in their trade areas. The Guidance Counselors are wrapping up interviews for incoming 9th grade students. They are finished with all outside visits and are doing make up visits. The Winter Sports Awards Night will be held on March 12th at 6 pm in the gym.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager, provided the bid results for marine equipment and supplies for informational purposes. It was awarded to the sole bidder, Yamaha Marine Corporation USA. Ms. Kosmes reported that on February 23, 2022, the District received notification that its Excess and Deficiency Fund was certified for FY21 by the Department of Revenue.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Murphy went over the annual agenda items for April. He stated only six self-evaluation forms have been received. He requested that members that have not submitted their self-evaluation forms to do so by April 1st.

By motion of Mr. LaBella, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to move the Annual Organization meeting to April 13, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee met February 9, 2022 and February 22, 2022.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of February 9, 2022 and February 22, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met. They will meet at 6 pm before the May meeting.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee met February 3, 2022 for negotiations with WREA - Teachers Unit.

By motion of Ms. L. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the minutes of February 3, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

The Policy Subcommittee has not met. They will meet at 5:45 pm before the May meeting.

MEETING DATES

The Annual Organization Meeting is at 6:15 pm. The Public Hearing on the FY23 budget is April 13, 2022 at 6:25 pm. The Regular School Committee meeting is April 13, 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 6:55 P.M.
Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Rand
Recording Secretary