



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, April 12, 2023** via ZOOM Teleconferencing at 115 Amesbury Line Rd., Haverhill, MA per the 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 until March 31, 2023.

Members Present: Greg Noyes Johanna True Scott Wood
 Brett Murphy Ron Fitzgerald Garry James
 Dave Irving Richard Early Sandi Coppinger
 George Lay Kurt Slevoski

Members Remote: Lisa O'Connor

Members Absent: Joseph Haberland, Chip O'Connor

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

Mr. James stated that the meeting was being recorded and held hybrid (remote/in-person) via ZOOM Teleconferencing per the Act extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the State of Emergency. This Act includes an extension, until March 31, 2025, of the remote meeting provisions. Per the 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. James called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M. Mr. James took attendance. All members listed as present were in attendance at Whittier Tech High School. Lisa O'Connor was present remotely via ZOOM Teleconferencing. Mr. James began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. James asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Ms. True to approve the Minutes of the Budget Workshop for March 15, 2023 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Noyes to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for March 15, 2023 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session meeting for March 15, 2023 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Ms. Coppinger to approve the Treasurer's Report for March 2023 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Mr. Wood left the meeting at 6:37 pm

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. James reported that 10 school committee members turned in their school committee self-evaluation forms and that the results were provided in the packet. He asked if there were any questions or comments.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Taylor Leblanc provided an update on sports and activities of the different clubs. Baseball has elected their captains and are looking forward to a great season. The team started with a big win over Newburyport and then a tough loss to Amesbury. They opened up their league schedule against Greater Lawrence on Wednesday April 12th. Softball had 52 student athletes come out for the program. The varsity girls are off to a great start with a win over Cathedral High School. They are very excited for the upcoming season and hoping to make it back to the state tournament. Girls' Lacrosse started the season off with Amesbury and had over 25 student athletes participating. They won their first game against Mystic Valley and are currently 1-1. Boys' Lacrosse is off to a great start! They are 3-0 and had their first shut out. Volleyball is excited to be having their first ever winter boys volleyball team. They have 21 students participating and opened up the season with a 3-0 win over Lynn Tech.

At their first meet, the girls' track team broke both the 100m school record and the 4x100m school record. The Boys' Track team is also off to a good start this season. Their first meet showcased some of Whittier's best performances for the 100 m, 4x100m relay and 1 mile races. Skills USA is preparing to travel to Marlborough with 92 students to participate in the State Leadership Conference and championships. They are returning to the pre-Covid schedule with all contests happening over two days and medals announced at the end. National Qualifiers will be announced at the Closing Ceremonies on April 29th. The Multicultural Club hosted a presentation with the Peer to Peer Club about Bystander Intervention. In addition, they participated in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion student focus group on March 30th. Key Club wrapped up its last bunch of cards for the year. They made Easter cards that were delivered to assisted living locations and meal delivery programs in Amesbury and Newburyport. Peer Leadership met with the DEI student group and discussed ways to improve, promote and educate the school's diversity and equity awareness among students and teachers. The Interact Club sent out Easter cards to area homes in Haverhill. They had a spring basket raffle in which they raffled two baskets and were able to raise money for more holiday cards. The Club president and vice president attended a Haverhill Rotary Club meeting on March 23rd and they are hosting the rotary meeting at The Poet's Inn on April 13th. The Chess Club is holding its second tournament this week. The last one lasted a month because the finalists were so equally matched. Student Government is working on preparations for teacher appreciation week and trying to coordinate something special with all the other clubs. They are also proud of the student faculty basketball game and hoping to do another one in the fall. In May, they will finalize preparations for the June elections for the classes of 2024, 2025, and 2026. GSA is planning their Day of Silence, which is being observed on Friday, April 14th. Their end of the year Pride Party is scheduled for May 25th. Environmental Club is continuing to work on their tree projects. Everything will be complete when the signs are printed by CAD. They started seedlings for a tower garden that will be in the Poet's Inn. They are organizing a trash clean up day on April 27th in celebration of Earth Day. The Drama Club had performances of *Mamma Mia!* on March 17, 18, and 19. They are so proud of each and every one of the students involved and are so thankful to all of the staff members and administrators who volunteered their time to help. They are now shifting their focus to the Senior Talent show scheduled for May 26th. Art Club is making tissue paper flowers for the Aspen Hill Prom and continuing to work on paintings and ceramic sculptures. Yearbook Club has sent the 2023 yearbook to the printer, Josten's Publishing. They anticipate delivery one week in advance of graduation. The students did a great job with photography, photo editing, page layout and vendor relations.

Poetry intends to read poetry over the loudspeaker during the morning announcements in celebration of National Poetry Month.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of early college assessment reviewers, attendance makeup monitors, staff to work in the April 2023 vacation boot camp, CTI summer program workers, an early college boot camp prep program instructor, a financial literacy manager, financial literacy program advisors, individuals to create scope & sequences for the new SkillsUSA electives and a reading specialist. She also reported on the resignations of an electrical instructor and administrative assistant to the principal for retirement purposes.

Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that the Public Hearing on the FY24 budget was held April 12, 2023 and the budget books will be distributed to cities and towns.

MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that on March 28th and 29th, 321 sophomores took the ELA MCAS and sophomores will take the math MCAS May 16-17th.

School Building Update

Ms. Lynch reported that MSBA will be voting April 26th to move Whittier into Schematic Design. There have been many meetings to ensure that everything needed is done for this stage of the Feasibility Study. Ms. Lynch thanked the entire team for a job well done. On April 11th, there was a walkthrough for the CM RFP Pre-Proposal

Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch provided an update. On Friday, March 17, 2023, she attended the Exchange Club of Haverhill's St. Paddy's Breakfast with Kara Kosmes. On Friday, March 17, 2023, she hosted a Superintendents' luncheon at Whittier. All of the District Superintendents were in attendance. This time offered them the opportunity to discuss budget concerns and other common district matters. On Monday, March 20, 2023, she attended a Finance webinar. This was a webinar on Chapter 70 funding.

On Wednesday, March 22, 2023, she attended the MASS 18th Annual Women's Educational Leadership Network Conference in Worcester. This was her first time attending the conference. It was wonderful to hear about other women leaders' experiences. On Thursday, March 23, 2023, she attended co-teaching training with the Administrative Team. This was the first PD of many in looking at improving the Co-Teaching model. On Tuesday, March 28, 2023, she attended the remote Whittier School Building Committee meeting. On Wednesday, March 29th, April 5th and April 12th, she attended Whittier's weekly executive project meetings. On Wednesday, March 29, 2023, she attended the online MSBA Facilities Assessment meeting. It was a great meeting as Whittier moves into the schematic design phase. On Thursday, March 30, 2023, she met with Lane Glenn the president of NECC in the Poet's Inn. They discussed ways they can work together beyond the Early College Program. On Friday, March 31, 2023, Whittier hosted the North Shore Superintendents' Roundtable Legislative meeting. They had the Superintendents from all over the NorthShore as well as local state legislators to discuss school funding and budget concerns. Ms. Lynch thanked the Culinary Team for an exceptional meal. Everyone was very impressed! On Friday, March 31, 2023 - April 2, 2023, she attended the CTE conference. At the conference, she attended the keynote speaker discussion, an update on licensure provided by DESE, and the banquet where Kai Reed was recognized as the state Outstanding Vocational Student of the Year. On Monday, April 3, 2023, Whittier hosted a budget breakfast in attendance was: Orlando Pacheco from Georgetown, Angus Jennings from West Newbury, Karen Snow from Salisbury, Stephen Crane from Ipswich and Carol McLeod from Merrimac. On Tuesday, April 4, 2023, Whittier hosted another budget breakfast in attendance was: Natalie Lovett from Rowley, Ethan Manning from Newburyport, Tracy Blais from Newbury, Rebecca Oldham from Groveland and Angel Perkins from Haverhill. On Wednesday, April 5, 2023, she attended the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Economic Development conference at the Phoenician in Haverhill with Kara Kosmes. On Thursday, April 6, 2023, she met with Tom Zuppa, John Guilfoil and Deb Santos to discuss the building project and how Whittier can inform the community about it effectively. On Thursday, April 6, 2023, Whittier hosted the Annual General Advisory Board meeting with the Chairpersons, School Committee and Superintendent followed by the Advisory Board Dinner. Ms. Lynch thanked the freshman students for the SkillsUSA presentation, Jayden Craig the state president of SkillsUSA, Scott Robertson for sharing his thoughts about the building project. She also thanked Amanda Crosby and Paul Moskevitz for putting the event together and the Culinary Team.

On Tuesday, April 11, 2023, she attended the remote Whittier School Building Committee meeting. On Tuesday, April 11, 2023, she attended the Whittier CM RFP Pre-Proposal Walkthrough meeting. Ms. Lynch requested approval of the job descriptions for Associate Principal and Instructional Technology Specialist positions. The draft job descriptions were provided in the school committee packets to committee members for review and approval.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Noyes to approve the job description of the Associate Principal position as recommended and presented by the Superintendent. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the job description of the Instructional Technology Specialist position as recommended and presented by the Superintendent. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Ms. Lynch requested acceptance of a new scholarship from the Haverhill Garden Club. They would like to establish the Nancy Lagasse Memorial Scholarship for a graduating senior in the amount of \$1,000.00. Nancy was the founder of the Haverhill Garden Club. The student should be a Haverhill resident with a grade average of B or better who will be attending a two-year or four-year college, and plans to study botany, horticulture, earth sciences, biology, environmental studies, conservation, or a related field such as landscape architecture. A preference should be given to a student who has demonstrated interest in environmental sustainability and the community through extra-curricular activities or employment. Ms. Lynch thanked the Haverhill Garden club for this generous scholarship.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to accept the \$1,000 scholarship from the Haverhill Garden Club as presented by the Superintendent with gratitude. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Ms. Kristine Morrison, Director of Pupil Personnel Services provided an Admissions Update. She reported that this year 694 applications were processed compared to 698 last year. She reported that 371 applicants have been initially accepted for a possible 330 seats for the Class of 2027. The rank order waitlist will continue to be reviewed as seats are determined to be available between April and August 2023. As of April 12, 2023, Ms. Morrison reported that 266 students have committed to attend Whittier in the fall. There was a brief question and answer session that followed her report.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal, provided a copy of the proposed 2023-2024 school calendar for approval.

By motion of Mr. Noyes, seconded by Ms. Coppinger to accept the proposed 2023-2024 school calendar as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Mr. Laganas also provided a copy of the proposed Student/Parent Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year for review and approval. He discussed the proposed changes.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Murphy to accept the proposed 2023-2024 Student/Parent Handbook as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager, provided the Variance Analysis for July 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023 according to the Annual Agenda. She reported that the District remains on track financially. Transfers will be done at the end of the year to balance accounts as needed. Ms. Kosmes reported that the Whittier Tech Foundation recently received a new \$500 scholarship. The Scott Marchand SP Commercial Services HVAC Student Scholarship. This is a one-time award to be given to a graduating HVAC student. These funds can be used for college or a technical program, evening school, or to purchase tools for work. Ms. Kosmes thanked them for this generous donation. Ms. Kosmes reported that the Whittier Tech Foundation will be celebrating the Kentucky Derby with two events. The first is a raffle with a first prize of \$10,000. Only 300 tickets will be sold and there are only about 50 tickets left. Ms. Kosmes stated that the winning ticket will be pulled at the Kentucky Derby party which will be held on May 6th at 5 pm at the Bradford Country Club. The event will have food, live music, raffle prizes and a chance for those attending to show off their best derby attire. Tickets are available online at "foundation@whittiertech". All proceeds from both events will benefit student scholarships.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. James went over the annual agenda items for May. Mr. James asked if anyone would like to be added or removed from a subcommittee to let him know or Ms. Lynch before the next meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met.

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met. They will meet May 3, 2023 at 3:00 pm.

The Policy Subcommittee has not met. They will meet on May 10, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

MEETING DATES

The Regular School Committee meeting is May 10, 2023 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 Mr. Fitzgerald to adjourn at 7:11 P.M.

Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Rand

Recording Secretary