



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 13, 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 Dave Irving Richard Early
 Brett Murphy Ron Fitzgerald Garry James
 Joseph Haberland

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

Members Absent: Tony LeSage, Scott Wood, Chip O'Connor, Paul Tucker

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 6:41 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 Jo-Ann Testaverde 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. Irving, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the Minutes of the Budget Workshop for March 9, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. LaBella to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for March 9, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. LaBella to approve the Treasurer's Report for March 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Murphy reported that 12 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. New member training needs to be addressed. Ms. Lynch will address that with new members.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Ryan Link provided an update on sports and activities of the different clubs. Girls Lacrosse started the season off on a winning note and that has continued so far into the season. The varsity softball team has its home opener Monday, April 11th against Lawrence high school. The varsity baseball team started off the spring season with a win over Greater Lawrence. The team lost their next two games against two strong non-league teams in Amesbury and Georgetown. The Track and Field team had their first home meet in over 2 years on the new track on April 7th against Greater Lowell. It was a challenging meet with Greater Lowell coming off a full indoor track season; however, there were several highlights in the meet from the Whittier teams: a sophomore broke the school's mile record and another sophomore became the second best triple jumper of all time from Whittier. Sophomores won respective events in the 100m dash and the 110 hurdles. The teams also had strong showings for the boys discus and girls javelin throwers. Their next home meet is on May 5th against Northeast. This week they will go to Essex Tech where they will have their first opportunity this season to be timed on a laser timing system. Chess club continues to meet every Thursday. They will be holding their second in-house chess tournament next week. The drama club's play went well. They are viewing some current musical productions and sharing their opinions on them. The Poetry Club is preparing bags of poems to be handed out on Thursday, April 28, 2022 as part of the national "Put a Poem in Your Pocket Day." Bags of poems will be delivered to all English classes and shop areas (with poems specifically related to the particular shop).

Teachers will be asked to share the poems with their students. The poems are being printed on cardboard stock and are small enough to fit into a pocket. The Environmental Club planned an Earth Day trash clean up for outside of the school April 14th. The tower garden in Poets is set up and is currently growing mint, basil, lettuce, and swiss chard. They also helped out carpentry with nesting boxes for eastern bluebirds and swallow tails for the Parker River Clean Water Association. They have been invited to help clean up the blanding's turtles' nesting sites along the Parker River on April 23rd. The Interact and Peer to Peer Clubs will deliver Easter cards to Baker Katz, the Oxford, and the Lake View house in Haverhill. They will be planting a peace sunflower garden in May on Whittier Tech grounds. The Journalism Club has been working in conjunction with Mrs. Parsons on stories for the April edition of the Wildcats magazine. The Multicultural Club will meet on April 14th. At that meeting, student leaders will give a presentation and lead discussion on Bystander Intervention and ways they can assist those who are experiencing harassment or bullying in our presence. The Robotics Club students are learning to program in 'Arduino C' and Python. Key Club is finishing Change Wars. It began on April 1st and ends April 14th. The class with the most points will win the money in their jar. The rest of the money will be donated to Sweet Paws Rescue in Groveland. They will have a final report of money raised at next month's School Committee meeting. In addition, members have once again begun to go out and provide service in the community, This past Monday a few members helped serve at Community Meals in Haverhill. The 2022 yearbook is complete and has been sent to the printer. They expect delivery by May 26th, in time for distribution to the seniors before they graduate. The yearbook staff is now busy with photography for the 2023 yearbook. Student photographers have been busy going to the shops and photographing juniors. They will soon be going to spring sports events, photographing junior athletes in action for use in the 2023 yearbook. The Art Club continues to thrive. A few new members have joined and many regular members continue to enjoy working and socializing within this relaxed and creative environment.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of attendance make-up monitors, an individual to design the Evening School Brochure for fall 2022 and spring coaches for the 2021-2022 season. She also reported on the resignations of a guidance office aide and administrative assistant to the assistant principals. Ms. Lynch stated that the family of Jennifer Bell is donating a \$2,500.00 scholarship to benefit two graduating Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School students who are going on to secondary education from the DVC/Graphics shop. Ms. Lynch thanked the family of Jennifer Bell for this generous scholarship and requested the School Committee's acceptance.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to accept the \$2,500.00 scholarship from the family of Jennifer Bell to benefit two graduating Whittier Tech seniors who are going on to secondary education from the DVC/Graphics shop with gratitude as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Ms. Lynch stated that Applied Graphics, Inc. in Amesbury is donating a \$1,000.00 scholarship to an exceptional student with financial need who will be pursuing post-secondary training/college or will continue in their trade and has not received any other scholarship. Ms. Lynch thanked Applied Graphics of Amesbury for this generous scholarship and requested the School Committee's acceptance.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to accept the \$1,000.00 scholarship from Applied Graphics in Amesbury to an exceptional student with financial need who will be pursuing post-secondary training/college or will continue in their trade and has not received any other scholarship with gratitude as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that the Public Hearing on the FY23 budget was held April 13th and the budget books will be distributed to cities and towns.

MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that on March 22-23, 2022 the sophomores took the English MCAS exam. Whittier will be running a math MCAS after school program to prepare the students for the math MCAS. Sophomores will take the math MCAS on May 17-18, 2022.

Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch provided an update. On Wednesday, March 16, 2022, she had an interview with Winn from WHAV. This is a monthly spot on WHAV radio. It's a good opportunity to share what is happening at Whittier Tech. On Thursday, March 17, 2022, she attended a remote MVRTA/Whittier Tech Bus Shelters meeting along with Paul Moskevitz, the vocational coordinator. Representative Andy Vargas was on the call as well. The meeting was to discuss if Whittier Tech can help with building some bus shelters in Haverhill. On Wednesday, March 23, 2022, she attended a remote Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Board meeting. On Wednesday, March 23, 2022, she attended a remote CTE Working Group Spring Pilot Kickoff. We are in a pilot program with DESE on how to do tiered focus reviews differently. On Thursday, March 24, 2022, she attended the Police Chief conference. She had the pleasure along with Judy Klimkiewicz to give the Schettini Award to Police Chief David Scott from

Pepperell for his work in school safety. On Thursday, March 31, 2022, she attended the remote 2022 WELN Building Allyships Among Women Leaders conference. On Thursday, April 7, 2022, 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 members that attended. It was a great night and even better that our very own Ryan Link was the guest speaker. He did an amazing job. On Monday, April 11, 2022, she hosted a budget meeting with Groveland, West Newbury, Merrimac and Amesbury along with Kara Kosmes. This was an opportunity for us to share information regarding Whittier's building project and budget for next year. On Tuesday, April 12, 2022, she attended a remote School Building Committee meeting. She congratulated Charlie LaBella for being the Chairperson of the School Building Committee. She also reported that Brett Murphy, Dick Early along with herself will be the team working with MSBA on choosing an architect. Ms. Lynch reported that she has two field trip requests from Culinary to go to The Old Salt Restaurant and Lamie's Inn in Hampton, NH on May 25, 2022 and June 1, 2022. This was an out of state venue and required the approval of the School Committee. She also had a field trip request from Automotive Technology to go to New England Dragway in Epping, NH on June 3, 2022. This was also an out of state venue and required the approval of the School Committee.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the two field trip requests from Culinary to go to the Old Salt Restaurant and Lamie's Inn in Hampton, NH on May 25, 2022 and June 1, 2022 as presented and Automotive Technology to go to New England Dragway in Epping, NH on June 3, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Ms. Kristine Morrison, Director of Pupil Personnel Services provided an Admissions Update. She reported that this year 698 applications were processed compared to 562 last year. She reported that 360 applicants have been initially accepted for a possible 320 seats for the Class of 2026 and 262 students have committed to attend next year. There was a brief question and answer session that followed her report.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal, provided an update. The winter sports awards night was held March 15th. There was a different format this year. Each team gathered in individual places throughout the school to have a private team get together. Mr. Laganas thanked all the winter athletes, coaches, and booster club for their hard work during the winter season. Spring sports have started. They are waiting for some nice weather. Mr. Laganas thanked all the athletes and coaches for their time and effort. He wished them good luck for the season. Mr. Laganas congratulated all the students

involved in the play "Clue". He thanked Sarah Anderson and Elaine Bucher for coordinating the event and to all the staff and students that contributed to it. Especially Mr. Sandlin's carpentry students, who created the set for the play. On Thursday, March 17th, the SkillsUSA District qualifying test was held at Whittier. The students won 16 gold medals, 18 silver medals and 10 bronze medals. The SkillsUSA Leadership Championships will be held on April 14th. There will be 32 students and 4 advisors attending this event in Marlborough. Advisory Board night was held Thursday, April 7th. There were over 200 attendees from all the industry partners that attended the event. The culinary staff and students started early that morning to prepare for it. Ryan Link was the guest speaker. The MVA and MAVA will be hosting the Vocational Technical Student Awards Ceremony in Worcester on April 14th. Jada Banks will be the recipient of the award from Whittier Tech. Mr. Laganas reported that senior sign out and senior prom will be held on May 31st and graduation on June 2nd at 7 pm. The last day of school for students is June 16th.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager, provided the Variance Analysis for July 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022 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 will be hosting a Derby & Dessert Party at The Renaissance in Haverhill on May 7th from 5:30-7:30 pm. If anyone is interested in attending, they can purchase tickets online.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Murphy went over the annual agenda items for May. Mr. Murphy would like a copy of the list of subcommittee members. He asked if anyone would like to be added or removed from a Subcommittee to let him know 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. They will meet at 6 pm on May 11th.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met.

The Policy Subcommittee has not met. They will meet at 5:45 pm on May 11th.

MEETING DATES

The Regular School Committee meeting is May 11, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business posted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

By motion of Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. James to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the 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 7:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Rand
Recording Secretary