



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, May 11, 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: Dave Irving Richard Early (6:34) JoAnn Testaverde
Brett Murphy Ron Fitzgerald Garry James
Paul Tucker Joseph Haberland

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

Members Absent: Tony LeSage, Charlie LaBella, Johanna True, Scott Wood

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 6:30 P.M. Mr. Murphy took attendance. All members listed as present were in attendance at Whittier Tech High School. Lisa O'Connor, 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.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the Minutes of the Annual Organization meeting for April 13, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the Minutes of the Public Hearing on the FY23 budget for April 13, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. James to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for April 13, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the Minutes of Executive Session for April 13, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the Treasurer's Report for April 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 Lacrosse is 2-6 and improving every game. Some tough late game losses but getting better every day. Boys Lacrosse is having a great season. They are currently 9-4, with 4 freshmen starting and many first and second year contributors. The Varsity Softball team is halfway through the season and is currently in first place with a record of 7-3 overall and 4-1 in the league. The varsity Baseball team is doing well. They currently have a 6-5 overall record and they are 5-1 in the league. Both the boys and girls track and field teams have had some amazing performances this season. The new track, the support of the boosters, and all the help they have had at home meets has made for great competitions. Visiting teams have had a lot of good things to say, and they hope to keep that trend going. A few highlights from track and field are: New School Records: Girls Mile, Girls 2 Mile, Girl's Sprint Medley set at the State Relays and the

Boys 4x100m relay is on the verge of breaking into the top 20 all time best Whittier 4x100m performances. Chess club is still going strong with over 25 members attending last week. They are in the middle of their second tourney and have many new players! The Drama Club watched two musicals *Come From Away* and *Phantom of the Opera*. The club is taking a brief break so that seniors can prepare for the Senior Talent Show scheduled for May 27. On May 13th, SkillsUSA students who participated in the March 17th District Conference and received a Gold, Silver or Bronze Medal along with ALL students who participated in the April 14th & 29th State Conference - Leadership & Skills Championships will be going to Marlborough for the Awards Ceremony. The Whittier Chapter has received a Models of Excellence Award for their participation in the 9/11 Memorial which illustrated the Workplace Skills aspect of the SkillsUSA Framework. Only 24 schools nationwide qualify for this level of recognition. They will be competing in Atlanta GA June 20-25th for the National SkillsUSA Conference. The Environmental Club continues to take care of the tower garden in 4006 and in the Poets. The Poet's Inn was able to incorporate cilantro grown from the tower garden in one of their dishes for a luncheon last week. The turtles are doing well and will soon be handed back to the head start program for release into the Parker River. The Interact Club planted a sunflower peace garden Tuesday and if everything goes as planned they will have beautiful sunflowers when they come back to school in September. They will be hosting the Haverhill Rotary Club for lunch on May 24th. Journalism is beginning to work on the graduation edition of Wildcats Magazine. They plan on sending out a form to seniors asking them to share their favorite memories, advice from the seniors, regrets, favorite class, and embarrassing moments. They will also have a short story on awards night, tradesperson of the year, SkillsUSA update, prom and graduation photos. Student government celebrated teachers during the first week of May for Teacher Appreciation Week. The Club celebrated them with announcements, coffee, and cake. The Club is hard at work planning June 6th elections where they will elect officers for the next school year. Student government has conditional approval to hold a homecoming dance in the fall. At the multicultural meeting on April 28th, a senior spoke about her wonderful heritage country of Ghana and brought authentic fabrics and fashions to show them. The Club learned that her family speaks Twi at home and that her father is the main cook in the family. On Thursday, May 12th, a freshman will speak about the Dominican Republic and share about her life experience there. Peer to Peer will be promoting random acts of kindness during May for mental health awareness month. Key Club held a successful Change Wars competition last month. The freshmen class came in 4th place with 89 points, Sophomores in 3rd with 885 points, Seniors in 2nd with 2,552 points, and the Juniors first place with 7,336 points. \$93 was donated to the

winning class and \$170 was donated to Sweet Paws Rescue in Groveland. As this school year comes to a close, they are brainstorming ideas for community service for next year. The yearbook went out to press and should be in-transit this week or next. Students have started photographing juniors participating in spring sports, for use in the 2023 yearbook. Ms. Lynch stated that this was Ryan's last school committee meeting as student representative before he graduates from Whittier. She thanked Ryan for his hard work and wished him well in the future. She presented Ryan with a thank you gift from the School Committee. Mr. Laganas introduced the new student representative, Taylor Leblanc. She is a carpentry student from Haverhill.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of an English Instructor, two (2) English/reading instructors, a math instructor LTS, an administrative assistant to the assistant principals, individuals to work in the April 2022 vacation boot camp, a learning loss coordinator, April break early college prep class instructor, individuals to work in the math grade 10 spring MCAS after school program, an ELL teacher to work with the curriculum teams, a SPED teacher to work with the curriculum teams, individuals to work in the CTI summer program, individuals to work in the summer MCAS enrichment program and individuals to work in the summer 2022 employability experience program. She also reported on the resignations of an engineering instructor, a teacher coach/English instructor and a mathematics instructor.

Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that as of May 11, 2022, Merrimac, Georgetown, Newbury, Rowley and Ipswich have approved Whittier's budget. Upcoming town budget meetings are West Newbury May 14th, Salisbury May 16th and Groveland May 23rd. Upcoming meetings with the cities are Amesbury, May 17th, Newburyport, May 19th and Haverhill, June 6th.

MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that on May 17th and 18th, Grade 10 students will be taking the Mathematics Grade 10 MCAS. She also reported that 15 seniors took the AP Calculus A/B exam on Monday, May 9th.

Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch provided an update. On Thursday, April 14, 2022, Whittier hosted a breakfast budget meeting with Salisbury and Ipswich. On Thursday, April 14, 2022, Whittier hosted a luncheon with the Fidelity Foundation regarding possibly working together on equipment needs. On Thursday, April 14, 2022, she attended a remote meeting for the Marine Service Technology Advisory Board with Whittier's DESE Liaison. Whittier is hoping to open a Chapter 74 Program this fall. On Thursday, May 5, 2022, she attended a remote meeting with the DESE Commissioner. He provided a COVID update, emergency licensure information, and that the COVID Testing Program will continue to the end of the year. On Friday, May 6, 2022, she attended a remote meeting for the Whole Group Discussion of Problems of Practice/Quality System of Support Working Group. This is a pilot program to look at our vocational programs instead of doing a tiered review. Ms. Lynch thanked Amanda Crosby, vocational coordinator, for taking a leadership role in this project. Ms. Lynch thanked the Foundation for a wonderful Kentucky Derby Party at the Renaissance Club. It was a fabulous night and they were able to raise some money for the Foundation. Special thanks to Kara Kosmes and Tia Gerber for their hard work. Ms. Lynch provided a building project update. Whittier has hired LeftField as the OPM and now they are going through the process to hire an architect. There were 5 applications to review with MSBA. Ms. Lynch thanked Chairperson, Brett Murphy and member Dick Early for taking the time to review those applications. On May 3rd, they were able to narrow the architects down to 3 to interview further. Since that meeting on May 3rd one of the three has withdrawn their application. As a result, on May 17th, they will be interviewing 2 architect firms and along with MSBA make a determination about who Whittier will be moving forward with as an architect. Ms. Lynch recommended that Whittier hire a consultant to assist in the building process that understands the complexities of regional agreements, legislative action and the MSBA process beyond the services of the OPM. She hopes to bring something to the School Committee next month for approval. Ms. Lynch provided a COVID update. Whittier has definitely seen an uptick in cases. As of May 11th, there were 10 staff members and 30 students that tested positive. Ms. Lynch sent out an email to staff recommending that they wear a mask for a period of time. Ms. Lynch reported that given in-district acceptances for incoming freshmen, there will be no seats for school choice students for the 2022-2023 school year.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to not allocate seats for school choice for the 2022-2023 school year unless the student began at Whittier and moved out of the District. Unanimously approved by roll call vote.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal, provided a copy of the proposed 2022-2023 school calendar for approval.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to accept the proposed 2022-2023 school calendar as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager, reported that a request for approval of a transfer in the amount of \$900,000 from the E&D account to the Stabilization Fund was provided in the packets. At the end of FY21, the Department of Revenue certified \$1,026,005 in Excess and Deficiency funds for Whittier. After the transfer, there will be \$126,005 in E&D but she anticipates that the account will be replenished by funds that remain in the operating budget at the close of the fiscal year. In order to accomplish this, there is a request for the School Committee to increase the FY22 general fund operating budget to \$27,410,418. The revenue for this increase will come from E&D and will result in no change to the member municipalities' assessments.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Tucker to transfer \$900,000.00 from the E&D Account to the Stabilization Account to increase the FY22 general fund operating budget to \$27,410,418.00 as presented and set forth in the Business Manager's memorandum dated May 4, 2022. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Murphy went over the annual agenda items for June. He reported that the information for the Superintendent's Evaluation was provided in the packet. The Superintendent asked if there were any questions. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Tucker asked questions.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met.

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met. They will meet on May 19th at 3 pm.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee met May 11, 2022. Mr. Hardy provided a facilities update.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met. They will meet on May 18th at 3 pm.

The Policy Subcommittee met May 11, 2022. They reviewed policies from MASC and will bring them to the June meeting for approval.

MEETING DATES

The Regular School Committee meeting is June 8, 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 conduct a collective bargaining session with the WREA Teachers' Union and discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the WREA Teachers' Union, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the position of the public body and the chair so declares and upon completion of Executive Session will adjourn.

By motion of Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Irving to enter into Executive Session to conduct a collective bargaining session with the WREA Teachers' Union and discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the WREA Teachers' Union, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the position of the School Committee and upon completion of Executive Session will adjourn.
Approved by roll call vote - 1 No (R. Early)

The Committee went into Executive Session at 7:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Rand
Recording Secretary