



## WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

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A regular meeting of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee was held hybrid (remote/in-person) on **Wednesday, August 11, 2021** via ZOOM Teleconferencing 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: Ron Fitzgerald    JoAnn Testaverde    Joseph Haberland  
Richard Early    Scott Wood    Paul Tucker  
Brett Murphy    Garry James  
Chip O'Connor    Charlie LaBella

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

Members Absent: Tony LeSage

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 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. Dave Irving, Johanna True, and Lisa O'Connor were present remotely via ZOOM Teleconferencing. Mr. Murphy began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Murphy requested a moment of silence for former school committee member, Nelson Burns.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Murphy asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Murphy introduced and welcomed Joseph Haberland. Joe is the new Newburyport representative on the Whittier School Committee.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for June 9, 2021 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. LaBella, seconded by Mr. James to approve the Minutes of the Special meeting for June 24, 2021 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

There were no Treasurer's Reports for June and July presented. They will be provided at the September meeting in order to allow the District to fully close the FY21 Budget.

Mr. Murphy reported that Mr. Mahoney, the Treasurer requested student activity account authorizations from the School Committee in accordance with JJF-Student Activity Accounts Policy.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to authorize the Principal to accept money for the following existing student activity organizations: Class of 2020, Class of 2021, Class of 2022, Class of 2023, Class of 2024, Field Trips, Gay/Straight Alliance, Journalism, Key Club, MultiCultural Club, Music/Drama, Peer to Peer, Ski Club, Student Council, United Nations, Skills, Yearbook, Cosmo Tips, Poets Inn Tips, Robotics, Carpentry, Interact Club, General/Misc Student Activities. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

## OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Murphy provided the results of the Superintendent's Evaluation. Mr. Murphy stated that he received responses from 10 members. The results for each Standard were as follows: Standard I - 50% Exemplary and 50% Proficient; Standard II - 60% Exemplary and 40% Proficient; Standard III - 20% Exemplary and 80% Proficient; and Standard IV - 50% Exemplary and 50% Proficient. Mr. Murphy stated that overall the Superintendent is doing an excellent job. Mr. Tucker affirmed that the Superintendent has done an excellent job and has the students best interest in mind.

By motion of Ms. L. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Irving to accept the Superintendent's Evaluation as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

There was no student representative report.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of a moderate disabilities instructor, dental assisting instructor LTS, hospitality instructor, marketing instructor LTS, math tutor, English tutor, science tutor, automotive tech instructor, Director of Pupil Personnel, teaching assistants - vocational (3), Department Head of Guidance & Admissions, Voc/Tech Coord. Evening School, After Dark & Day Programs, English Instructors (2) and Visual Arts Instructor. Ms. Lynch reported on the hiring of nurses to update student health and immunization records over the summer, three learning loss interventionists, guidance curriculum development team members, advisory curriculum development team members, early college summer preparatory seminar program facilitator, evening school director, curriculum design facilitator, fall coaches 2021-2022, summer programs medical support, assessment system trainers, cluster chairs 2021-2022, class/club advisors 2021-2022, co-op liaisons 2021-2022, equity, diversity and inclusion outreach coordinator, student learning loss and intervention coordinators, ELL & Title I grant facilitators and 2021 summer acceleration academy instructors math & English. She also reported on the resignation of a Biology instructor.

### Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that the Business Manager will be providing transfers at the September meeting.

### MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that there was no MCAS update. However, Whittier ran a successful MCAS summer camp during the month of July.

### Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch provided an update. She reported that the Strategic Plan was provided to members in their packets. She provided an update on the Strategic Plan, highlighting the changes for the upcoming school year. The Strategic Plan focuses on learning loss due to last year's school schedule. She stated that objectives have been included to address issues of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, the MSBA Feasibility Project, and the social emotional needs of students. She reported that some of the ESSER grant funds

will be used to meet some of the objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan. Ms. Lynch requested a vote on the Strategic Plan.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to accept the proposed Strategic Plan as presented by the Superintendent. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Ms. Lynch reported that Whittier received over \$800,000 in ESSER II grant funds this summer. She reported that they have been using the funds to address learning loss, technology support, student mental health, HVAC concerns and PPE. She stated there will be learning loss acceleration coordinators for English, math and science; academic/vocational curriculum work; after school tutoring; February and April vacation learning loss boot camps; and an aide in the Guidance Office to assist students transitioning back to school due to mental and physical health absences. Ms. Lynch stated there will be an ESSER III grant later in the fall. Ms. Lynch stated there are new regulations regarding vocational admissions. She stated they will be reviewing data regarding student population and making some changes to Whittier's policy for next month's policy subcommittee meeting. Ms. Lynch reported that over the summer she attended the MASS conference that had a focus on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. She stated it was a wonderful opportunity to reflect and learn from her colleagues throughout the state. She also attended a women's leadership conference called Power Trip. It was an amazing opportunity to meet school leaders throughout the country. Ms. Lynch reported that the Administration spent a half day working on developing authentic leadership skills. They were able to do some team building activities to reflect on what they do well as a team and learn what opportunities they have to grow. The Administrators also had a two hour professional development workshop with one of the School District's Attorneys on the new Title IX regulations and the processes that need to be followed and implemented. The Administrators have also been doing a book club on Equity and Diversity. Ms. Lynch stated that on Wednesday, August 11th, she attended a DESE webinar regarding COVID testing at the school. This will be free to the District. This opportunity will allow Whittier to keep students at school if they are considered a close contact. Ms. Lynch reported that on Wednesday, August 11th, Kara Kosmes led the first building committee meeting. At that meeting, they voted to approve a selection committee for the owner's project manager applications. They also voted the authorization to post the bid for a Owner's Project Manager. Ms. Lynch stated that for next school year, there will be round tables in the cafeteria and half of the gym with four students per table. There will also be some seating on the second floor for those students who would like more room for social distancing while they are eating. Ms. Lynch reported that she reached out to Whittier's school physician regarding masks and he recommends masking this school year. The Academy of Pediatrics and the CDC recommend masking indoors K-12 regardless of vaccination status. Ms. Lynch provided

a policy on face coverings that MASC just released and she recommended that the School Committee adopt the policy.

By motion of Mr. LaBella, seconded by Mr. James to adopt the Face Masking policy in accordance with MASC as recommended by the Superintendent.  
Approved by roll call vote - 1 opposed (J. Testaverde)

#### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal, provided a copy of the proposed Student/Parent Handbook for the 2021-2022 school year for review and approval. He discussed the proposed changes. He stated the major change was the Title IX procedure.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to accept the proposed 2021-2022 Student/Parent Handbook as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

#### BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

There was no Business Manager report. Mr. LaBella asked if the field and track were completed. Ms. Kosmes stated that they are and she will reach out to the architect for a final report to submit to the Committee.

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

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

#### SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met.

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met. They will meet on Monday, August 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met. They will meet on September 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met.

The Policy Subcommittee has not met. They will meet on September 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Irving stated the following policy was provided in the School Committee packets for a second reading: BEDL - Remote Participation Procedures

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Tucker to approve policy BEDL - Remote Participation Procedures for a second and final reading as presented.  
Unanimously approved by roll call vote

#### MEETING DATES

The Regular School Committee meeting is September 8, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

#### NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business posted.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session posted.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Early to adjourn at 7:01 P.M.  
Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lisa Rand*  
Recording Secretary