



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, September 14, 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: Richard Early Johanna True Garry James Dave Irving
Brett Murphy Ron Fitzgerald Chip O'Connor
Paul Tucker Sandi Coppinger JoAnn Testaverde

Members Remote: Lisa O'Connor, Greg Noyes

Members Absent: Scott Wood, Joseph Haberland

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 March 31, 2023, 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 6:32 P.M. Mr. Murphy took attendance. All members listed as present were in attendance at Whittier Tech High School. Lisa O'Connor and Greg Noyes were present remotely via ZOOM Teleconferencing. Mr. Murphy began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Murphy introduced and welcomed Sandi Coppinger. Sandy is a new Amesbury representative on the Whittier School Committee. 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 August 10, 2022 as presented. Approved by roll call vote - 1 Abstained (S. Coppinger)

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the Minutes of Executive Session for August 10, 2022 as presented. Approved by roll call vote - 1 Abstained (S. Coppinger)

By motion of Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Ms. True to approve the Treasurer's Report for August 2022 as presented. Approved by roll call vote - 1 Abstained (S. Coppinger)

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business posted.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Taylor Leblanc provided an update on sports and activities of the different clubs. She reported that varsity football began their season last week. They played their first game of the season on Thursday, September 8th. They lost to Malden with a final score of 46-38. The energy from the crowd was eminent and great motivation for the team. The Boys Soccer team is off to a nice start! After two scrimmage games (Haverhill/Methuen) they started the season with one tie and one loss. They play again September 14th and 15th. They are excited to play more games and look to improve on last season. Girls Soccer has about 30 girls participating. The team has a strong foundation of soccer skills and is off to a great start with a record of 2-0. The girls are working hard and are looking forward to competing for a second league title and the vocational title. Volleyball is off to a great start! They have over 50 students participating across all four grades. The team has participated in three scrimmages leading up to the opening game of the season. The team had their first game on Friday, September 10th against Greater Lawrence Technical High School. Both JV and Varsity teams came back with a win! JV and varsity both won their second games and are undefeated. Both teams are 2 - 0.

They are excited about the victory, and hope to help set the tone for the season. They have three home games this week (Monday, 9/12, Wednesday, 9/14, and Friday, 9/16), and a freshman round-robin style tournament on Saturday (9/17). The Boys Cross Country team have had some talented runners with 2 Wildcats placing 3rd and 4th against Shawsheen. They are looking at improving in each race and placing more student athletes. The Girls Cross Country Team is led by a Junior Captain who is the returning CAC champion. There are many other talented runners on the roster and they are hoping to have a very promising season come October. Taylor reported on the clubs. She stated there will be a club and activity sign up fair at all lunches on September 15th and September 16th. The Clubs include: Key Club, Student Government, Multicultural club, Gay Straight Alliance, Chess club, United Nations, Interact club, Skills, Yearbook committee, DECA, Environmental club, Ski Club, Peer to Peer, Journalism, Peer Leadership, Drama and Art clubs.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of a school psychologist, teaching assistant - vocational, building substitute, part-time science tutor, English tutor, math tutor, two route bus drivers and evening school instructors. She also reported on the resignation of a math tutor.

Budget Update

There was no budget update.

MCAS Update

There was no MCAS update. There will be an update on MCAS scores at the October school committee meeting.

School Building Update

Ms. Lynch reported that there have been several meetings over the past month. She stated that there will be a Community meeting held on October 6th at 4:00 pm to start introducing the project to the community.

Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch provided an update. On Thursday, August 11, 2022, members from the school building committee went on tours of Essex Tech, Minuteman and Hunking

schools. She thanked Mr. James and Mr. Early for attending. The tours offered them an abundance of information of what they liked in a building and what they did not like in a building. On Friday, August 12, 2022, she attended a meeting with JCJ for a space summary review. This meeting was to look at Whittier's current use of space/classrooms and how that use will project the amount of space MSBA will reimburse. She thanked Katrina Jensen, Coordinator of Data & Assessment for completing a mock schedule for 1400 students. On Wednesday, August 17, 2022, she attended the Whittier weekly Executive Project remote meeting with JCJ and LeftField. On Tuesday, August 23, 2022, she attended the 2nd visioning meeting along with 45 or so community members. On Tuesday, August 23, 2022, she attended the school building committee meeting. On Wednesday, August 24, 2022, she attended the second meeting on space issues and they have made significant progress addressing some questions and concerns about current space. On Monday, August 29, 2022, teachers returned. The day started agreeing that the vision is "to provide students with the best vocational and academic education in the state of Massachusetts, in the safest possible environment both physically and emotionally". Teachers then had the opportunity to discuss "why" they were in the field of education. Based on that purpose and Whittier's goal of being the best, each department and cluster developed goals to meet the vision. On Monday, August 29, 2022, she along with all of the faculty attended the Whittier Ed visioning two hour session. On Tuesday, August 30, 2022, freshmen and new students returned. On Wednesday, August 31, 2022, was the first day of school for all students. On Wednesday, September 7, 2022, she attended the Whittier Executive Project weekly remote meeting. On Wednesday, September 7, 2022, she attended the Whittier Design options review #1 remote meeting. This was an opportunity for them to see very preliminary designs of a renovation, renovation/addition, and a possible new building. On Thursday, September 8, 2022, she attended a meeting with JCJ, the Haverhill Fire Chief and Haverhill Chief of Police. This was an hour long meeting to discuss school safety. She also had a meeting with the Building Inspector and has another meeting set up for tomorrow, September 15th. On Monday, September 12, 2022, she was on a call with Commissioner Riley from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. On Tuesday, September 13, 2022, she attended a school building committee meeting. It was clear from that meeting that they need to be cognizant of the cost of a building and how it may affect taxpayers. On September 14, 2022, she attended the Whittier weekly Executive Project meeting. On September 14, 2022, she attended the AVTE General meeting. The Alliance for Vocational Technical Education is working with the Governor's office on providing more access to vocational education and that includes facility updates. On September 15, 2022, she will be going to Haverhill City Hall with JCJ, Leftfield and Robert Hardy to discuss the building project and the expectations of the Building Inspector, Fire and Police Chiefs.

Ms. Lynch provided her goals for the 2022-2023 school year for acceptance by the School Committee.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Tucker to accept the Superintendent's goals for the 2022-2023 school year. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Ms. Lynch 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. She requested a vote on the Strategic Plan. Mr. Noyes asked about Goal 1, Objective 3. He wanted to know who sponsors it. Ms. Lynch stated it is grant funded from last spring. Mr. Noyes asked who was in charge. Ms. Lynch stated the AP Liaison oversees it. Mr. Noyes asked about Objective 6 - graduation rate. Ms. Lynch stated that Ms. Jensen will provide clarification at the October meeting.

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

Ms. Lynch reported that she has two (2) field trip requests from Culinary/Hospitality to go to the Cliff House Hotel, Cape Neddick, ME on October 12th and October 19th. These field trips are out of state and require the approval of the school committee.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to approve the two (2) field trip requests form Culinary/Hospitality to go to the Cliff House Hotel, Cape Neddick, ME on October 12 and October 19, 2022 as presented by the Superintendent. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Ms. Lynch handed out invitations to School Committee members to attend the Community Forum for the building project on October 6, 2022 from 4:00 - 5:00 pm in the Whittier Tech Auditorium. The meeting will be live streamed and on all social media forums. Invitations will be sent to towns/cities, libraries and senior centers.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal, provided an update. He stated that on August 23rd, Whittier hosted a successful well-attended freshmen and new student parent orientation from 6 -7:30 pm in the cafeteria. They welcomed all the parents/guardians. Topics discussed included School Safety, Student Discipline/Expectations, Student Services, Internet Use, Parent Portal, Sports and Athletes, Extracurricular Clubs,

Booster Club information and they offered tours of the building. On Monday, August 29th all staff reported and new staff members were welcomed. At the end of the day, everyone gathered in the auditorium to listen to motivational speaker Norm Bosio. On Tuesday, August 30th freshman and new students were acclimated to Whittier and navigated through their daily schedules. On Wednesday, August 31st all students reported. The Assistant Principals and Mr. Laganas met with all students and reviewed the Whittier Tech Student Parent Handbook/Code of Conduct with a focus on Harassment and Bullying, and Whittier's cell phone policy. Additionally, the Guidance Dept Head, Co-op Coordinator, Athletic Director, MCAS Coordinator and class advisors all made grade-level specific presentations. There are 309 and counting students participating in fall sports. This includes football, boys' and girls' soccer, volleyball, golf, cross-country and cheerleading. On Monday, Sept 12th, Mr. Laganas met with all the club advisors to discuss the club fair showcase, which will be held in the main lobby during lunches on Sept 15th, 16th and then next week on Tuesday & Wednesday. There are over 20 extra-curricular clubs. Whittier continues its commitment to the safety of students and staff through the ongoing monitoring of school safety procedures and protocols. On September 14th after school, Whittier staff participated in safety training exercises. The agenda included A.L.I.C.E. scenarios, protocols, and practical training.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager provided bid results for informational purposes. The successful vendors were the lowest responsible bidders. Ms. Kosmes reported that Martinage Engineering was awarded a 3 year contract for wastewater compliance monitoring; Edgemont Oil LLC was awarded a 3 year contract for diesel fuel pump services; and Steven Brown was awarded the sale of a table saw from surplus property.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

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

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met.

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met. They will meet in late October/early November.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met.

The Policy Subcommittee met on September 7, 2022.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Tucker to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2022 policy subcommittee meeting as presented. Approved by roll call vote - 1 Abstained (S. Coppinger)

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Tucker to suspend the rules for the sole purpose of fast tracking the policies. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Mr. Noyes asked how homeschool students are graded for the admissions process. Ms. Lynch stated same as non-home schooled students. Ms. Lynch went over the recommended changes to the admission policy. Mr. Irving stated that the changes to the other policies were legal references that needed to be added to current policies. The recommended changes were highlighted in yellow.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Tucker to approve the following policies for a first and final reading as presented - Admissions Policy; JIC - Student Discipline; JICA - Student Attire; AC - Non-Discrimination Including Harassment and Retaliation; AC-R - Non Discrimination including Harassment and Retaliation; GBA - Equal Employment Opportunity; GCF - Professional Staff Hiring; JB - Equal Educational Opportunities; JFBB-1 - School Choice
Unanimously approved by roll call vote

MEETING DATES

The next Regular School Committee meeting will be October 12, 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. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to adjourn at 7:21 P.M.
Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Rand
Recording Secretary