



WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

A regular meeting of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee was held on **Wednesday, November 9, 2016**, at 115 Amesbury Line Road, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Alana Gilbert Dave Irving Chris Wile
Richard Early Johanna True Paul Tucker
Scott Wood Tony LeSage Jo-Ann Testaverde
Charlie LaBella Russ Bardsley (7:15)

Members Absent: Nelson Burns, Doug Gelina, Brett Murphy

Others Present: Maureen Lynch, Superintendent
Chris Laganas, Principal
Kara Kosmes, Business Manager
Kelly Fay, Coordinator of Curriculum & Staff Development
Kevin Williams, Director of Technology & Information Systems

Mr. LaBella called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Mr. LaBella began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Ms. Gilbert to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for October 12, 2016 as presented.
Approved, 1 Abstained (S. Wood)

By motion of Mr. LeSage, seconded by Mr. Irving to accept the Treasurer's Report for October as presented. Approved, 1 Abstained (C. Wile)

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Tucker asked for an update on the girls' lacrosse team situation. Ms. Lynch stated she is working with the Athletic Director to possibly form a co-op with Amesbury. However, they are in the preliminary stages.

Mr. LaBella reported that Doug Gelina from Groveland resigned from the Board. The Committee unanimously accepted with regret.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

The student representative was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Lynch provided the update on sports and activities of the different clubs. She stated the GSA Club made a display for open house and they are planning for transgender month. They are going to talk about "coming out" using resources from human rights campaigns. The Multicultural Club had two guest speakers this month. Ms. Gabi Monroe spoke about Lithuanian culture and Mr. Tynes spoke with students about "being an instrument of peace". The Chess Club has multiple students joining every other week. The roster includes 14 students. The FIRST Robotics Team has picked their competition locations and dates. They will be competing March 3 – 7 at the Granite State event in Windham, NH. They will also be competing March 17-19 at the North Shore event in Reading. The Chorus performed at the open house. They performed three small pieces. The Key Club helped raise money for the Haverhill Gazette Santa Fund. They also sponsored a blood drive at Whittier where Red Cross collected 20 pints of blood. They are getting ready to help with Thanksgiving dinner at the Salvation Army. The Peer to Peer Club had a successful Breast Cancer Awareness month. The student body dressed in pink for support during spirit week and the Club sold bracelets with the proceeds going to the American Cancer Society. Many clubs and students volunteered at open house giving tours, demonstrations, and useful advice to prospective students. Boys' varsity soccer team ended the season with a 4-12-2 record. With only one senior on the team this year, the boys are looking forward to a strong, experienced season for next year. The boys' cross country team is having an unbelievable undefeated season and won the CAC meet championship last Saturday. The girls' soccer team had a phenomenal season. They qualified for the state tournament again, but fell short to Bishop Fenwick. The girls' volleyball team ended its season with an 8-12 record. They finished 4th in the league just missing a tournament berth. Two seniors will represent Whittier at the CAC All Star game on November 14th at Mystic Valley High School. The football team had a very tough schedule and their record does not do the team justice as to what a strong season they had. They have high hopes for next season as the JV team had a fantastic record of 6 -3 and the freshmen team had a very impressive 7 – 1 record. The team is looking forward to the Thanksgiving game against Greater Lawrence Tech.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of three route bus drivers, a part-time security monitor, individuals to work in the MCAS retest after school program, individuals to work in the SAT after school program, individuals to work in the evening school program, game clock officials, an event ticket collector, clerical support for the health office and a MacBook/iPad specialist/coach.

The event ticket collector received \$30.00 per game not \$30.00 per hour.

Budget Update

There was no budget update.

MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that Whittier offered an MCAS after school program for juniors and seniors that need to pass the math MCAS. The program ran from October 20th – November 7th. Two transfer students took the ELA/MCAS on November 2nd, 3rd, and 4th and there are 15 students taking the math MCAS November 9th and 10th. This includes two transfer students and one student from the Class of 2003. Results will be available in late January.

Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch reported that on Thursday, October 13, 2016, she attended the NEAS&C “A Showcase of Model School Programs” at the Westford Regency in Westford. She attended the program with Kelly Fay, Curriculum Coordinator, Andrew Pigeon, Assistant Principal and Brian Trainor, Visual and Design Instructor. On Tuesday, October 18, 2016, she hosted the area Superintendents' meeting. She thanked Carol Jacobs from Georgetown, Brian Forget from Triton, and Gary Reese from Amesbury for attending the meeting. On Thursday, October 20, 2016, Whittier held the General Advisory Board meeting. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education was at the meeting along with over 100 industry leaders working with Whittier's vocational staff to ensure they are meeting current industry standards. Ms. Lynch thanked Beverly DeSalvo, Vocational/Technical Coordinator for coordinating the event and doing a wonderful job. She also thanked Mr. LaBella and Mr. Bardsley for attending. On Monday, October 24, 2016, she met with William Lupini, Superintendent at Essex Tech. They took a tour of the building and discussed ongoing school issues. On Monday, October 24, 2016, she met with Charlie Lyons to discuss MSBA and Whittier's Statement of Interest and what the next steps may be. On Tuesday, October 25, 2016, Art Reed, the Police Chief of West Newbury came to Whittier and met with Beverly DeSalvo, Vocational/Technical Coordinator and Ms. Lynch. Whittier is working on a project for the Chief and they discussed possible collaboration efforts. On Tuesday, October 25, 2016, she attended the Ipswich Town meeting with Kara Kosmes, Business Manager. She thanked committee member, Russ Bardsley for attending as well. The Town of Ipswich approved the article to set up a Stabilization Fund. On Wednesday, October 26, 2016, she attended the 7th Annual Massachusetts Jobs and Workforce Summit at Devens Commons. It was a phenomenal event that Governor Baker and most vocational

superintendents attended. On Thursday, October 27, 2016, she hosted the Superintendent Advisory Board meeting. At the meeting, they reviewed Whittier's vocational/technical programs along with the evening school programs. Ms. Lynch thanked all board members for their support including Joseph Bevilacqua from the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce and Hailey Klein from Senator O'Connor-Ives' office for attending. Ms. Lynch also congratulated the Senator on the birth of her son Ronan. On Thursday, October 27, 2016, she attended the YMCA meeting where Kara Kosmes, Whittier's Business Manager was honored as one of the women of the year. On Friday, October 28, 2016, she attended the North Shore Superintendents' Roundtable meeting. A presentation was given by Ron Noble on the status of District Determined Measures. On Monday, October 31, 2016, she met with her mentor, Joan Connelly. This is Ms. Lynch's second year in the induction program. On Tuesday, November 1, 2016, she hosted Dr. Gary Reese, Superintendent of Amesbury and members of the Amesbury School Committee along with Charlie LaBella and Tony LeSage. They were able to have lunch and take a tour of the building. On Wednesday, November 2 – Friday, November 4, 2016, she attended the MASC/MASS Joint Conference in Hyannis. She thanked Dave Irving, Alana Gilbert, Johanna True, Charlie LaBella and Tony LeSage for attending. Ms. Lynch provided an MSBA update. She stated a Statement of Interest was filed last April. She continues to be concerned about the maintenance systems at Whittier and them reaching their expectant lifetime. Last month, Ms. Lynch reported that the chiller broke and a boiler needed to be replaced in the near future. The costs are extensive and she hopes that Whittier will be accepted into the pipeline with MSBA where the state would cover 56% of the cost of those issues. She reported that Whittier continues to reach out to members of the local communities and state legislators to continue the discussion on the needs of the Whittier District. She thanked the School Committee for their continued support.

Ms. Lynch reported that the Ski Club submitted two requests for out of state field trips. The first trip was for January 21, 2017 to Bretton Woods Resort in Bretton Woods, NH. The second field trip request was for March 4, 2017 to Okemo Mountain Resort in Ludlow, VT.

Motion by Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to approve the field trip request from the ski club for January 21, 2017 to Bretton Woods Resort in Bretton Woods, NH as presented. Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Wood, seconded by Ms. True to approve the field trip request from the ski club for March 4, 2017 to Okemo Mountain Resort in Ludlow, VT as presented. Unanimous

Ms. Lynch reported that she received a thank you letter from the Newbury Elementary School for work the Whittier carpentry students did to assist with the building of the new playground at the school. They also thanked culinary students for a wonderful lunch provided to the volunteers and workers on October 12th.

Ms. Kelly Fay, Coordinator of Curriculum and Staff Development provided an academic update through a PowerPoint presentation. She reported that in April 2016, the State adopted new curriculum frameworks/standards in science. The science MCAS will be based on the old standards. Biology courses will not transition to the new frameworks until the MCAS changes. All other courses will work to implement the new standards over the course of the school year. Ms. Fay provided an update on professional learning community (PLC) time. She stated that PLC time has become embedded in the culture of Whittier. Many teachers have credited the MCAS success at Whittier due to the PLC time. She also reported that Whittier has implemented not only grade level/content PLC, but vertical and cross departmental PLC meetings. Ms. Fay provided an update on the health curriculum. She stated that substance abuse and prevention education is a component of the health curriculum at Whittier. The curriculum addresses prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs; the legal, social, and health consequences and self-management skills in order to make healthy decisions. She stated it is aligned to both the state and the national health education frameworks. Ms. Fay reported that Whittier will be undergoing an NEAS&C decennial review in the fall of 2017. She also reported that Whittier is a part of the Commission on Public Schools and within this a member of the Commission on Technical and Career Institutions. There was a question and answer session that followed her report.

Mr. Kevin Williams, Director of Technology and Information Systems provided a Technology update through a PowerPoint presentation. He provided an infrastructure update. He stated that they increased the internet connection speed by 900%; firewalls have been upgraded to handle more traffic and they have upgraded to second generation of Wi-Fi. Mr. Williams provided a 1:1 update. This is the first year all students have iPads. He reported that staff has integrated technology as a school-wide goal. Mr. Williams reported that they redesigned the school website and developed a brand new website for evening school. He also discussed the advanced tracking activity available. He stated Whittier is using more and more technology such as Twitter to expand community engagement. There was a question and answer session that followed his report.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal provided a principal's update. He reported that the advisory board for the vocational programs was held on Thursday, October 20th. It was well attended. The Department of Ed was at the advisory board to review the facilities for the medical assisting program, which was approved last Wednesday. Students will be going to the Skills USA Fall Leadership conference November 20th – 22nd. Open House was held November 6th from 1 – 4 pm. It was well attended. There were many interactive activities, staff presentations and a choral presentation. The shop areas had demonstrations, which included a project discovery display, medical assisting and a Skills USA table. The middle school tours began this week. Tours will be completed before the winter break. The first quarter is over and report cards will be issued on Thursday, November 10th. Parent's night will be held on Thursday, November 17th from 6 – 8 pm. Parents will be able to have brief meetings with their child's academic teachers and visit their child's vocational teacher. Also, from 5-6 pm, there will be a grade 9 information session about choosing a technical program and at the same time the "Hidden in Plain Sight" presentation will be held in the health room. Roxann Grover will be there to answer any questions parents may have. The Booster Club continues their ongoing efforts to raise funds for student athletes through the pie fundraiser with "Mann Orchards". Mr. Bardsley reported that he was at open house and it was well-attended and showed a lot of interest in the school. Mr. Wood asked if all the sending districts participate in the tours. Mr. Laganas said everyone is participating. Ms. Gilbert asked if the tours are for 7th and 8th graders. Mr. Laganas stated they are only for 8th graders.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager provided an update on the bleacher project. The old bleachers were demolished and removed during the week of October 10. The excavation process commenced immediately after that. Trenches were dug and two thirds of the footings were poured prior to the micro burst that occurred on October 21st. The heavy rains that occurred during that weather event required that some of the excavation work be redone including slight adjustments to some of the footings and the pumping of rainwater from trenches that had filled. This took one day to complete so the project remains on schedule and did not involve any additional cost to the project. The bleachers are scheduled to arrive early next week and it is expected to take approximately four weeks to assemble and install them.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

The Committee Chairperson, Charles LaBella went over the annual agenda items. He reported that they will discuss the reorganization meeting date next month. Mr. LaBella reported that he received a letter from the Superintendent notifying the Committee of her wish to commence negotiations for a successor Agreement. Mr. LaBella stated they will discuss it at a salary negotiations meeting and report back to the full Committee in December.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met.

The Instructional Subcommittee met November 9, 2016. At the meeting, Dr. Testaverde was nominated as chairperson of the subcommittee.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met. They will meet with the Superintendent on December 7, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

Mr. Tucker stated that he would be added to another subcommittee if there is a need.

The Policy Subcommittee has not met. Policy GBEC was presented for a second reading.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Tucker to accept the second reading of GBEC – Drug Free Work Place Policy as presented. Unanimous

Mr. Wood asked if the Superintendent had anything in writing relative to the above policy from the WREA. Ms. Lynch stated she does not but she worked on the policy with the union President.

MEETING DATES

The next Regular School Committee meeting is December 14, 2016 at 7 P.M.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. LaBella asked Ms. Lynch if the chorus could come to the December meeting. Ms. Lynch will look into it. Mr. Irving provided an update on the MASC/MASS conference on the resolutions that were passed. The other members that attended spoke about their experiences at the conference as well. Mr. LaBella would like an evening school update

School Committee Minutes
November 9, 2016
Page 8

in January. Mr. LaBella stated in December the packets will not be mailed anymore. The information will be uploaded onto the iPads. If members would like a printed copy, please request that it be emailed to them and they can print it out or they can pick one up at the school.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session posted.

By motion of Mr. Early, seconded by Mr. Irving to adjourn at 8:14 PM.
Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Rand
Recording Secretary