



WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

A regular meeting of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee was held on **Wednesday, February 13, 2019**, at 115 Amesbury Line Road, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Chip O'Connor Garry James Scott Wood
 Paul Tucker Dick Early Charlie LaBella
 Tony LeSage Brett Murphy Johanna True

Members Absent: Dave Irving, Jo-Ann Testaverde, Alana Gilbert, Lisa O'Connor,
 Ben Fichera

Others Present: Maureen Lynch, Superintendent
 Chris Laganas, Principal
 Kara Kosmes, Business Manager

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Mr. Murphy began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for January 9, 2019 as presented.

By motion of Mr. LeSage, seconded by Mr. Wood to accept the Treasurer's Report for January 2019 as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business posted.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

There was no student rep report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of a part-time security officer, instructors to work in the ELA grade 10 spring MCAS after school program, instructors to work in the evening school program for spring 2019 and a pit orchestra drummer and sound technician for the spring musical. She reported on the resignation of a plumbing instructor.

Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that the Executive Subcommittee met on February 13, 2019 and reduced the budget from 4.83% to a 3.25% budget increase for next year.

MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that November MCAS Retests are in: Whittier had 3 juniors take the ELA MCAS and all 3 passed. Whittier had 14 juniors take the Math MCAS and 8 passed. The 6 students who have yet to pass will retake it again on March 7th and 8th. Class of 2019 – 100% ELA, 100% math, 99.8% biology (1 student left to pass the science MCAS). Class of 2020 – 100% ELA, 98.2% math, 95.3% biology. There were 10 juniors and 1 senior that took the biology MCAS retest on February 6th and 7th. Whittier is currently running a Title I program for grade 10 students to prepare for the ELA MCAS at the end of March and a math MCAS program for the 6 juniors who will retake in 4 weeks.

Superintendent's Update

On Friday, January 11, 2019, Ms. Lynch hosted Representative Andy Vargas. They toured the school and were able to discuss vocational education in the District. On Monday, January 14, 2019, Ms. Lynch attended the Merrimack Valley Chamber Annual Mayors & Managers Breakfast at Andover Country Club. Local mayors, including mayors from Haverhill, Newburyport, and Amesbury were in attendance. On Monday, January 14, 2019, she attended the MAVA meeting at DESE. They met with the Commissioner and his vocational team. They discussed vocational funding and

expanding access to all students. On Wednesday, January 16, 2019, she attended the Merrimack Valley Superintendents' Association breakfast at the Lanam Club. The Commissioner was in attendance and gave a brief overview of where he sees education going in the Commonwealth. On Thursday, January 17, 2019, she attended the Ipswich School Committee meeting along with Kara Kosmes and Garry James. They provided a brief overview of enrollment and an update on Whittier's programs. On Friday, January 18, 2019, she attended the North Shore Superintendents' Roundtable Legislative breakfast at Essex Tech. Legislators from the communities discussed Chapter 70 funding and how the Foundation Formula needs to be updated. On Thursday, January 24, 2019, she attended the MASS Mid-Winter meeting. On Thursday, January 24, 2019, she attended a Turf Field meeting along with Kara Kosmes, Chris Laganas and Robert Hardy. On Friday, January 25, 2019, she attended the MAVA Board of Directors' meeting at Assabet. On Thursday, January 31, 2019, she attended a meeting at Blackstone Valley Tech to discuss concerns with funding, Chapter 74 approvals and legislative initiatives. On Thursday, February 7, 2019, Whittier hosted the Haverhill Rotary luncheon. Ms. Lynch thanked Kara Kosmes for speaking so eloquently to the attendees. On Friday, February 8, 2019, she attended the North Shore Superintendents' Roundtable. On Monday, February 11, 2019, she attended the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce "A Special Report from Washington" meeting in Andover. Congressman Seth Moulton and Congresswoman Laurie Trahan were in attendance. Ms. Lynch reported on the outside projects. Culinary Arts will be going to the Georgetown Council on Aging for a Valentine's Luncheon on February 27, 2019; carpentry completed and will be installing a trophy case in Newburyport this week; metal fabrication is making new school letters for the Cashman School in Amesbury and culinary arts prepared the luncheon for Rotary on February 7, 2019 at Whittier.

Ms. Lynch reported that Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank is donating a \$1,000.00 scholarship to benefit a graduating Whittier Tech senior of lower to moderate income financial status.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Tucker to accept the \$1,000.00 scholarship from Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank to benefit a graduating Whittier Tech senior of lower to moderate income financial status. Unanimous

Ms. Lynch thanked Lloyd Hamm, President/CEO of the bank and the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank for the generous scholarship.

Ms. Lynch reported that Align Credit Union is donating a \$500.00 scholarship to benefit a graduating Whittier Tech senior.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Tucker to accept the \$500.00 scholarship from Align Credit Union to benefit a graduating Whittier Tech senior. Unanimous

Ms. Lynch thanked Kelly Tahan, of Align Credit Union and the Align Credit Union for the generous scholarship.

Ms. Lynch reported that the Provident Bank is donating two (2) \$500.00 scholarships to benefit graduating Whittier Tech seniors of lower to moderate income financial status that reside in the Salisbury, Amesbury or Newburyport areas.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. James to accept the two (2) \$500.00 scholarships from the Provident Bank to benefit graduating Whittier Tech seniors of lower to moderate income financial status that reside in the Salisbury, Amesbury or Newburyport areas. Unanimous

Ms. Lynch thanked David Mansfield, CEO of the bank and the Provident Bank for these generous scholarships.

Ms. Lynch reported that DECA submitted a request for an overnight field trip to attend the DECA State Conference on March 7, 2019 – March 9, 2019 in Boston.

By motion of Mr. LeSage, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the overnight field trip request from DECA to attend the DECA State Conference on March 7-9, 2019 in Boston as presented. Unanimous

Ms. Lynch reported that the Cheerleading Coach has submitted an out-of-state field trip request for the cheerleaders to attend a Cheerleading Competition on February 16, 2019 at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH.

By motion of Mr. LeSage, seconded by Mr. James to approve the out-of-state field trip request for the cheerleaders to attend the Cheerleading Competition February 16, 2019 at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH as presented. Unanimous

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal provided a principal's update. He reported that the school year is past the half-way point. It is the 106th day of school. All students have completed mid-term exams and the 3rd quarter has begun. The freshmen have chosen their shops and started in their vocational area on February 13th. The guidance team is wrapping up interviews to all the middle schools. After vacation they will finish up with Haverhill's Hunking and Consentino schools. Whittier's wrestling coach, Ryan Richards, put together a wrestling tourney that was held on Saturday, February 2nd called the Travis Yell Memorial Dual Tournament. The tournament was held at Whittier and was a great event. The gymnasium was full of wrestlers and parents from Whittier, Essex Tech, Gloucester, Triton, Pentucket and Bristol Aggie. Triton won the event with a 5 to 0 record. The tourney raised \$1,000.00 towards the scholarship fund for a Whittier student. Also, the Booster Club ran the concession stand and raised \$800.00 at the event for the team to pay for camps and clinics. This year's school play is "Curtains" and will be held on March 22, 23 and 24th.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager reported that a Statement of Interest will be submitted again to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the renovation of the building. Before the application can be submitted, the School Committee needs to approve it.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. LeSage to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest form dated January 31, 2019 for the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School located at 115 Amesbury Line Road, Haverhill, Massachusetts which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future as noted in priorities 3, 4, 5 and 7 of this application regarding total renovation of existing building and systems updates project; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Unanimous

Ms. Kosmes stated that in order for the District to move forward with the Child Care program, under M.G.L. Chapter 30B Section 16 Real Property, the School Committee must first declare the space available for use with the restriction that it be used only as an early child care center or similar educational purpose and that the use be compatible with the functioning of the school.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Wood to declare the building space outlined below as available for lease, with the restriction that it be used only as an early childcare center or similar educational use, and that the use be compatible with the functioning of the school (M.G.L. c. 40, §3). Two second floor classrooms on the southwestern side of the building currently identified as room numbers 2006 and 2008, with an existing walkthrough hallway which leads to a 231 square foot area consisting of a bathroom, an office area and an area that presently houses a washer/dryer. Size of the total area is 1,881 square feet.
Unanimous

Ms. Kosmes reported that on February 8, 2019 the District received notification that its Excess and Deficiency Fund was certified in the amount of \$838,397 by the Department of Revenue.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Murphy, Vice Chairperson went over the annual agenda items for March. He reported that the School Committee Self-Evaluation forms were handed out that evening. He asked members to please fill them out and return them at the next meeting. Ms. Lynch provided a budget review from the Executive Subcommittee meeting earlier that evening for the members that were not at that meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee met January 9, 2019 and February 13, 2019. They will meet again on March 13, 2019 at 5:00 P.M.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. LeSage to approve the minutes of January 9, 2019 as presented. Unanimous

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee met January 9, 2019 and February 13, 2019. Mr. Tucker reported that they discussed the Turf Field project and it is going according to plan. Mr. Wood stated that he did not make the motion in the January 9th meeting minutes relative to the electric sign. His vote should reflect that he opposed that motion.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the minutes of January 9, 2019 as amended. Unanimous

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee met January 16, 2019.

By motion of Mr. James, seconded by Mr. LeSage to approve the minutes of January 16, 2019 as presented. Unanimous

The Policy Subcommittee met January 9, 2019.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. LeSage to approve the minutes of January 9, 2019 as presented. Unanimous

Ms. Lynch stated that the vote on the use of building procedures is going to be tabled. The Attorney reviewed the document and proposed a policy that needs to be brought to the Policy Subcommittee for review.

MEETING DATES

The Budget Workshop is March 13, 2019 at 5:00 P.M. The Regular School Committee meeting is March 13, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business posted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Murphy stated that there is a need to enter into Executive Session to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel – plant facilities manager and upon completion of Executive Session will return to open session.

By motion of Mr. LeSage, seconded by Mr. LaBella to enter into Executive Session. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

The Committee went into Executive Session at 6:53 P.M.

The Committee returned to Open Session at 7:13 P.M.
Mr. LeSage left the meeting and did not return to open session.

By motion of Mr. LaBella seconded by Mr. James to accept the proposed three (3) year contract for the Plant Facilities Manager and salary increase as recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Salary Negotiations subcommittee. Approved by roll call vote – (1 opposed S. Wood)

Mr. Wood said his decision to vote no was not based on the individual or job performance but on the issuance of a contract.

By motion of Mr. LaBella, seconded by Mr. Wood to adjourn at 7:14 P.M.
Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Rand
Recording Secretary