



WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

A regular meeting of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee was held on **Wednesday, May 8, 2019**, at 115 Amesbury Line Road, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Alana Gilbert Lisa O'Connor Dave Irving
Paul Tucker Garry James Charlie LaBella
Brett Murphy Johanna True JoAnn Testaverde
Dick Early Scott Wood Tony LeSage

Members Absent: Chip O'Connor, Ben Fichera

Others Present: Maureen Lynch, Superintendent
Chris Laganas, Principal
Kara Kosmes, Business Manager
Andrew McFarland, Student Representative

Ms. Gilbert called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M. Ms. Gilbert began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

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 8, 2019 as presented. Approved – 4 Abstained (D. Early, J. Testaverde, S. Wood, T. LeSage)

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the Minutes of the Public Hearing on the FY20 Budget for April 10, 2019 as presented. Approved – 4 Abstained (D. Early, J. Testaverde, S. Wood, T. LeSage)

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for April 10, 2019 as presented. Approved – 4 Abstained (D. Early, J. Testaverde, S. Wood, T. LeSage)

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session for April 10, 2019 as presented. Approved – 4 Abstained (D. Early, J. Testaverde, S. Wood, T. LeSage)

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

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Gilbert told members that the results of the School Committee self-evaluation were handed out. She asked everyone to review the results and let her know if there are any questions or comments.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. LeSage to accept the evaluation results into record. Unanimous

Mr. Laganas introduced Jane Moskevitz, Linda Sarno and Bruce Boisselle, Skills USA advisors. Ms. Moskevitz reported that approximately 94 students competed at the Skills USA competition April 26-28, 2019. She introduced the medal winners that were present at the meeting. The students won 15 gold; 4 silver and 6 bronze. There was also a re-elected State Officer and National Voting Delegate from Whittier. The students from Health Services and Design & Visual Communications did the presentations they will be doing at Nationals.

Frank Serreti from Powers and Sullivan reported on the audit reports for Whittier. Mr. Serreti stated the audit went well. He stated the District was well-prepared and provided them with a good audit package of material they had requested beforehand. There were three (3) reports that Mr. Serreti reviewed, the Management Letter, Report of Examination of Basic Financial Statements and Report of Federal Award Programs. He went over financial highlights and reported that the result received was an unmodified opinion which is the best you can get.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to accept the auditor's report as presented. Unanimous

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Andrew McFarland provided an update on sports and activities of the different clubs. DECA competitions have wrapped up for the year. They will be meeting with all interested members before the end of the school year so they can start thinking about their projects over the summer. They are looking forward to continuing to grow the program. Interact Club is hosting the Wildcat Walk on May 16th after school. All clubs and spring athletes are invited to join them. Each walker is asked to obtain a pledge of \$10 to walk. All proceeds will be donated to the Haverhill Relay for Life which benefits the American Cancer Society. Peer Leaders have been entering homerooms to show students how to vote for their student government representatives this week. On May 16th, peer leaders will be participating in the Wildcat Walk. At the end of the month, they will begin training their next group of peer leaders. The Multicultural Club will be hosting the international "Do One Thing for Diversity" day on May 21st. The Whittier community will be asked to personally pledge to "Do One Thing" in their lives for cultural diversity. At their last meeting, a student will be sharing about her family's Ghana heritage. Peer-to-Peer will be working with the Interact Club for the Relay for Life. The Chess Club is having an informal, voluntary in-house tournament this week and next week. Last week they had 14 members participate. Student Government is finishing up on the class election process and will meet the elected candidates. Newly appointed class officers will be meeting with student council advisors to discuss their role as class representatives. Class Officers will develop a student government calendar to plan events for next school year. Student Government advisors will discuss the possibility of planning an activity that will tie in with civic responsibility and the local community. Drama Club will be singing the Star Spangled Banner for graduation. Boys' lacrosse is currently 1-7 and about halfway through the season. They are looking forward to the future and watching the growth and improvement of all their young athletes. Boys' varsity baseball has an 8-1 record. Girls' varsity softball has a 7-1 record. They have three (3) seniors leaving this year. One of those seniors, Nicole Verrette, is the pitcher and has been starting since her freshman year. She is coming up on her high school career total of 500 strikeouts. Girls' lacrosse has 42 student athletes. They have

varsity and junior varsity teams that are eager to compete. The boys' and girls' track and field teams are heading into their final week of dual meet competitions. Both teams have been putting in the work to set themselves up for the State Vocational Track and Field Championships on Monday, May 13th and the CAC Track and Field Championships on Saturday, May 18th. Ms. Lynch stated that Andrew's last school committee meeting as student representative before he graduates from Whittier was that evening. She thanked Andrew for his hard work and wished him well in the future. Ms. Gilbert presented Andrew with a thank you gift from the School Committee and wished him well. Mr. Laganas introduced the new student representative, Catherine McNulty.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of a school nurse, school adjustment counselor, carpentry instructor, mathematics instructor, part-time science tutor, individuals to work in the math grade 10 spring MCAS after school program, individuals to work freshman orientation, individuals to work summer 2019 employability experience, an instructor for the online academic summer school 2019, credit for life advisors, individual to work in the summer 2019 attendance school, game clock officials and individuals to work in the grade 11 SAT prep after school program.

Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that at this time there have been five (5) town meetings and all have approved the budget. Those towns are: Groveland, Rowley, Georgetown, Newbury and West Newbury. She reported that Merrimac's town meeting is May 13th, the Ipswich town meeting is May 14th, the Amesbury City Council meeting is May 16th, the Salisbury town meeting is May 20th and the Newburyport City Council meeting is May 21st.

MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that March retest results are in. Six (6) students took the math retest and two (2) passed. MCAS appeals in biology and math were filed for four (4) students in biology and four (4) students in math. Whittier should receive the results by the end of May. The Class of 2019 has 100% pass rate and have completed the MCAS requirement. Class of 2020 has 100% pass rate in the ELA and 99% have passed both the biology and math. Six (6) students need to pass one or two MCAS exams (or be

granted the MCAS appeal) in order to fulfill the MCAS requirement. Currently, Whittier is offering a free MCAS math prep program. Grade 10 students will be taking the math MCAS exam on May 21st and 22nd.

Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch reported that on Thursday, April 11, 2019, she met with Newburyport Bank officials to discuss how they can work together. On Thursday, April 11, 2019, she attended the MAVA Outstanding Vocational Student banquet at Mechanics Hall in Worcester. She congratulated Emily Shal a Health Occupations student for earning that honor. Emily is also the class president. On Monday, April 22, 2019, she attended a Madison Park Study Committee meeting at DESE. This is a working group to try and provide Madison Park assistance in their programs. On Tuesday, April 23, 2019, she attended the Newbury Town meeting along with Kara Kosmes. On Friday, April 26, 2019, she attended the MAVA Board of Directors' meeting and SkillsUSA opening ceremony. She reported it was a very exciting day with many Whittier students competing. On Saturday, April 27, 2019, she attended the SkillsUSA medals ceremony. She reported that Whittier Tech had 15 gold medals. These students will be going to Louisville, KY and she will be going along too. On Monday, April 29, 2019, she attended the Groveland Town meeting with Kara Kosmes and she thanked Amy Pocsik, the Treasurer for attending the West Newbury town meeting that evening. On Tuesday, April 30, 2019, she hosted Major Fiorentini, Superintendent Margaret Marotta and Principal Glenn Burns from Haverhill. She stated they are looking for ways to collaborate in the Advanced Manufacturing Program. On Tuesday, April 30, 2019, she attended the Kiwanis Banquet at DiBurro's for the top students in the City of Haverhill. She thanked Kara Kosmes for organizing the event. On Thursday, April 30, 2019, she attended the Roundtable with Education Chair Jason Lewis in Salisbury. Senator DiZoglio organized the program to discuss education funding. On Wednesday, May 1, 2019, she attended the MVSA Academic Scholars luncheon at Lenzi's in Dracut. She congratulated Tabitha Noyes, the Class Valedictorian and Liam McAllister and Emily Shal the Class Salutatorians. On Friday, May 3, 2019, she hosted the MAVA Officers' meeting at Whittier. Cliff Chiang and Keith Westrich from the Department of Education also attended and discussed possible changes in vocation education regulations. On Monday, May 6, 2019, she attended the Georgetown Town meeting. On Monday, May 6, 2019, she attended the Rowley Town meeting with Kara Kosmes. Ms. Lynch thanked everyone that made the Whittier Tech Foundation's Derby night a success. The foundation was able to earn approximately \$12,000 for students and the mission of the foundation. A great time was had by all and she is looking forward to doing it again next year. Ms. Lynch provided an update on the field project. She reported that there were some issues and construction will begin earlier than expected. There may be the beginnings of construction before graduation. She has been assured they will do everything they can do to have it look nice for graduation. Ms. Lynch stated they are

also discussing a score board. There has been much discussion that if they get the right score board there is an opportunity to advertise and fundraise. She has another meeting set up with the scoreboard company on Friday at 11 a.m. if any school committee members are interested in attending. Ms. Lynch stated that the Trowel Trade Competition was held at Whittier on May 8th. She stated the hardscaping team of Lauren Powers, Asayah Hernandez and Brian Levesque won first place; the hardscaping team of Jonathan Caron, Jordan Gouthier and Christopher McNulty won fourth place; and Lily Fox won first place in the brick and block competition.

Ms. Lynch reported that Skills USA has submitted an overnight and out of state field trip request to the Skills USA National Competition in Louisville, KY on June 24-29, 2019.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to approve the request from Skills USA to attend the Skills USA National Competition in Louisville, KY on June 24-29, 2019 as presented. Unanimous

Ms. Lynch reported that given the in-district acceptances for incoming freshmen, there will be no seats for school choice students for the 2019-2020 school year.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. James to not allocate seats for school choice for the 2019-2020 school year unless the student began at Whittier and moved out of the District. Unanimous

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal provided a copy of the proposed 2019-2020 school calendar for approval.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Tucker to accept the proposed 2019-2020 school calendar as presented. Unanimous

Mr. Laganas provided a copy of the proposed 2019-2020 Student/Parent Handbook for review and approval.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Wood to accept the proposed 2019-2020 Student/Parent Handbook as presented. Unanimous

Mr. Early left the meeting at 7:49 PM

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager stated that to continue to prepare financially for the capital needs of the building and grounds, there was a request for approval for an E&D transfer in the amount of \$350,000 to the Stabilization Fund in the School Committee packets. At the end of FY18, the Department of Revenue certified \$838,397 in Excess and Deficiency funds for Whittier. After this transfer Whittier will have \$488,397 in E&D. She is requesting that the School Committee increase the FY19 general fund operating budget to \$24,782,140 which is an increase of \$350,000. The revenue for this increase will come from the Excess and Deficiency account and there will be no change to the member municipalities' assessments.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. LeSage to transfer \$350,000 from E&D to the Stabilization Fund to increase the FY19 general fund operating budget to \$24,782,140 as presented and set forth in the memorandum from the Business Manager dated May 1, 2019. Unanimous

Ms. Kosmes stated that in the School Committee packets there was a revised Student Activity Procedure Manual as recommended in the FY18 Audit Management Letter for approval by the School Committee to reflect changes and updates made by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. James to approve and adopt the Student Activity Procedure Manual as presented and recommended in the FY18 Audit Management Letter. Unanimous

Ms. Kosmes provided bid results for Hazardous Waste Removal Services, Athletic Field Upgrades and Rental of Space for Early Childcare Program for informational purposes.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Ms. Gilbert went over the annual agenda items for May. She asked members to fill out the Superintendent evaluation forms provided in their packets and return them by the last week of May.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met.

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met.

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The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met. They will be on June 12, 2019 at 6:15 PM.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met.

The Policy Subcommittee met April 10, 2019 to review the proposed Facilities Use Policy and May 8, 2019. They will meet again on June 12, 2019 at 6 PM.

By motion of Mr. LaBella, seconded by Mr. LeSage to approve the minutes of April 10, 2019 as presented. Unanimous

Mr. Irving stated that the Facilities Use Policy was provided in the packets for a first reading. However, he would like to move it forward for a first and final reading to fast track it.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Murphy to suspend the rules to fast track the facilities use policy for a first and final reading. Unanimous

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the Facilities Use Policy for a first and final reading as presented. Unanimous

MEETING DATES

The Regular School Committee meeting is June 12, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business posted. Ms. Gilbert attended the Day on the Hill and provided an update to the Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session posted.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. LeSage to adjourn at 8:15 P.M.
Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Rand

Recording Secretary