



## 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, June 14, 2023** via ZOOM Teleconferencing at 115 Amesbury Line Rd., Haverhill, MA per the 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 until March 31, 2025.

Members Present:   Greg Noyes       Johanna True       Scott Wood  
                          Brett Murphy     Sandi Coppinger    Garry James  
                          Dave Irving       Richard Early  
                          George Lay        Kurt Slevoski

Members Remote:   Lisa O'Connor

Members Absent:   Joe Haberland, Chip O'Connor, Ron Fitzgerald

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

Mr. James stated that the meeting was being recorded and held hybrid (remote/in-person) via ZOOM Teleconferencing per the Act extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the State of Emergency. This Act includes an extension, until March 31, 2025, of the remote meeting provisions. Mr. James called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Mr. James took attendance. All members listed as present were in attendance at Whittier Tech High School. Lisa O'Connor was present remotely via ZOOM Teleconferencing. Mr. James began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. James asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment. Ms. Lynch reported that Shay Sullivan, a long-standing English instructor at Whittier Tech passed away. There was a moment of silence.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Ms. Coppinger to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for May 10, 2023 as presented.  
Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Ms. True, seconded by Mr. Noyes to approve the Minutes of Executive Session for May 10, 2023 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Noyes, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the Treasurer's Report for May 2023 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Murphy to authorize the District Treasurer under the provisions of Section 6(g) of Chapter 156 of the Acts of 1967 and Chapter 134 of the Acts of the 1972 and with the approval of the Chairperson of the District Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the 12-month period beginning July 1, 2023 and to issue a note of notes therefore, payable with the fiscal year 2024. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

## OLD BUSINESS

Mr. James reported that results of the Superintendent's Evaluation were included in the school committee packet emailed to all Committee members for review. Mr. James asked if there were any questions. There were none.

By motion of Ms. True, seconded by Mr. Irving to accept the Superintendent's evaluation results as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Dawensky Gustave provided an update on sports and activities of the different clubs. Yearbook Club reported that the yearbooks were delivered to the school on Sunday, May 28th, and distributed to the seniors on June 1st. The Robotics Club exhibited consistent attendance with 6-8 students attending sessions once or twice a week. Approximately half of the students focused on programming skills, while the others engaged in social activities involving drones and computers. The Drama Club's activities for the year have come to a close. They successfully organized and conducted the Talent Show for the graduating class of 2023. The club members are already gearing up to plan next year's production, starting in the fall. The Chess Club experienced great participation, with over 25 students attending weekly meetings. Notably, a student from the class of 2023 demonstrated exceptional skills and served as the chess champion throughout the year. The club is now looking forward to crowning a new champion for the upcoming year. Student Government held elections on June 9th, and the student body elected officers for the classes of 2024, 2025, and 2026.

The Interact Club has been actively involved in various community initiatives. They sent their first student from the electrical shop to the RYLA event. Additionally, they participated in community meals at the citizens center in Haverhill on May 22nd. The club members also undertook the task of stripping and painting the fence posts in Bradford Common, which will serve as the venue for the new farmers market this summer. To wrap up the year, they are collaborating with several service clubs in Haverhill for a large volunteer project. The SkillsUSA team is concluding their year with a remarkable achievement. Eleven students will be representing Massachusetts at the 2023 National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. They will participate in various categories such as Career Pathways Showcase, Team from DVC and Marketing, Electronics Robotics, State Officer Elect, National Voting Delegates, and Massachusetts State President. The Leadership Team for the 2023-2024 school year has already held two meetings and is planning a team-building activity in late summer. The Environmental Club has achieved significant milestones this year. Through collaboration with the Parker River Clean Water Association, they successfully contributed to the care of blanding turtles and released them back into the wild over the Memorial Day weekend. Additionally, they initiated a tree identification project and identified 12 trees that will be labeled in the fall. The club also engaged in hydroponic gardening, planting kale, basil, rainbow chard, and parsley in their tower garden. Moreover, they successfully raised earthworms in their vermiculture bin. The Poetry Club met on a weekly basis, fostering a creative environment for writing and sharing poetry. They also explored published works by renowned poets, including John Greenleaf Whittier. The club actively sought out poetry contests for students to showcase their work. During National Poetry Month, they displayed poetry in the hallways and shared it with teachers. They are excited to generate more interest next year with innovative ideas. The Girls Lacrosse team had a remarkable season, achieving a record of 7 wins and 9 losses. This marks the most wins in the history of the program, and the team looks forward to continuing their progress in the upcoming season

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of a biology/chemistry instructor, a hospitality instructor, a history instructor, two math instructors, an electrical instructor, individuals to work in the biology MCAS after school program, an instructor to provide SEI refresher/introduction workshop to peers, nurses to update student-health

and immunization records, co-op liaisons for 2023-2024, cluster chairs for 2023-2024, an OSHA hot works coordinator for 2023-2024, an articulation agreement coordinator for 2023-2024, student learning loss and intervention coordinators for 2023-2024, a working forer for 2023-2024, an ELL program/grant facilitator for 2023-2024, an equity, diversity and inclusion outreach coordinator for 2023-2024, and an individual to design and implement the evening school brochure for fall 2023. She also reported on the resignations of an accounts payable clerk and English instructor.

#### Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that all eight (8) of the towns in the Whittier District have passed the budget so Whittier has the 2/3rd approval needed and therefore the FY24 budget has passed.

#### MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that on June 6-7, 2023, Whittier had 324 students take the biology MCAS exam for a graduation requirement. Whittier ran a free MCAS after school program at the end of May to prepare students for the exam.

#### School Building Update

Ms. Lynch reported that OPM, David Sandoin from Leftfield will be speaking to the Committee. She reported that they have a very busy few weeks with various meetings as they move through schematic design. Ms. Lynch introduced David Sandoin the OPM from LeftField. He provided an update on the school building project to the School Committee through a PowerPoint presentation. He updated the Committee on where they are in the project and where they are going. He reported that there are two different methodologies to getting the project approved and explained those methodologies to the Committee. After his presentation, there was a question and answer session. Mr. Sandoin reported that the schematic design will be submitted to MSBA in October. MSBA will approve the project at the end of November or beginning of December and they will know the exact cost at that time. The School Building Committee chose to move forward with the election method for approval of the project. Mr. Sandoin reported that Consigli was the highest ranked CM firm and provided a copy of the agreement for the Committee to review and approve. He provided a summary of the agreement to the Committee.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the Consigli contract and have the Superintendent, Maureen Lynch sign the contract as presented.  
Approved by roll call vote - 1 Abstained (D. Early)

### Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch provided an update. On Thursday, May 11, 2023, she attended the Early College Recognition Ceremony at Northern Essex Community College. Whittier had a student graduate with her Associates Degree. On Thursday, May 11 and May 12, 2023, she attended the Whittier User Group meetings along with faculty, and JCJ staff. This was an opportunity for Administrators and teachers to see preliminary designs and provide constructive criticism. On Monday, May 15, 2023, she attended the Salisbury town meeting along with Kara Kosmes. On Wednesday, May 17 - 18, 2023, she attended the CMR interviews along with Kara Kosmes, Bob Hardy, Brett Murphy, Dick Early and members of JCJ Architecture and the OMP LeftField. On Monday, May 22, 2023, she provided a monthly update to Win on WHAV Radio. On Monday, May 22, 2023, she attended the Amesbury City Council meeting along with Kara Kosmes and school committee member Sandi Coppinger. On Tuesday, May 23, 2023, she attended the Whittier School Building Committee meeting. On Tuesday, May 23, 2023, she attended the Newburyport Budget meeting along with Kara Kosmes. On Wednesday, May 24th, May 31st, June 7th and June 14th, she attended Whittier's weekly executive project meetings. On Wednesday, May 24, 2023, she attended Whittier's Awards Night. This is always one of her favorite nights honoring National Technical Honor Society Students, Perfect Attendance, Honor Roll, SKILLSUSA, and pinning Health Assisting students. On Thursday, May 25, 2023, she attended the MASS Spring conference in Marlborough. On Friday, May 26, 2023, she attended the JGPR Building project meeting online. They discussed how to continue to inform the community about the building project. On Tuesday, May 30, 2023, she attended the senior prom. It was an amazing night and the kids had a great time. On Thursday, June 1, 2023, Whittier held graduation. Ms. Lynch thanked all committee members that attended. On Monday, June 5, 2023, she attended the Haverhill City Council meeting along with Kara Kosmes. They unanimously approved Whittier's budget. On Tuesday, June 13, 2023, she attended the Whittier School Building committee meeting online. On Wednesday, June 14, 2023, she attended the CMR sub-group meeting to approve meeting minutes. On Wednesday, June 14, 2023, she met with JCJ and LeftField, along with, Kara Kosmes, Chris Laganas, Adam Gagne and Tricia Fleming regarding security for the new building.

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal, provided an update. He reported that the senior activities surpassed all expectations, with great success. The lineup included the Mock Crash, the Talent show, Honors Night, the Senior Prom, the Senior Awards Barbecue, and the Graduation ceremony. Mr. Laganas thanked everyone who contributed to these remarkable events. The Seniors exhibited remarkable poise and their conduct truly deserves applause. Mr. Laganas thanked the maintenance crew, for everything they

have done throughout the school year and especially the set up for graduation and the athletic fields for the entire year! The spring sports season had excellent performances from Boys Lacrosse, Softball, Track, and Baseball, in the state tournaments. The amount of young talent within all the sports teams is promising for the future. The sports banquet was held last Thursday and was a success. They had an ice-cream sundae and slush social. The sports field served as the host for the Pentucket Boys and Girls Lacrosse State Tournament. On Wednesday, June 14th, Ipswich and Manchester Essex will compete in the State Girls Semifinals scheduled for 6 PM. Mr. Laganas thanked Rich Porcelli who announces a majority of the sports and manages the jumbotron. He announces and performs throughout the entire fall, winter and spring sports seasons. Mr. Laganas thanked the booster club, Mrs. McNulty, Mrs. Russo and other members for all their efforts. They opened the snack shack the night of the graduation and for all athletic events. Term 4 grades are due on Friday and final exams started this week Monday through Thursday. The last day of school is a half day on June 16th. Grades/report cards will be available electronically next week and can be requested in paper form by calling the Guidance office or Principal's office. Mr. Laganas wished the entire Whittier family a safe and exciting summer as we close up school this Friday.

#### BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager, provided a list of items that have been donated to benefit Whittier's educational and vocational programs in the school committee packets and requested acceptance of them from the Committee. The donations total \$60,725.00.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Noyes to accept the donations for a total value of 60,725.00 with gratitude as listed on the memorandum dated June 7, 2023 from the Business Manager. Unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Ms. Kosmes provided an update on the Whittier Tech Educational Foundation. She reported that the 6th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, August 14th at the Black Swan Country Club in Georgetown. This is always a fun event which raises a significant amount of money for scholarships and other student needs. More information can be found on the Whittier Tech website under the Foundation link. In addition to golf and lunch registration, there are various levels of sponsorship opportunities.

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. James went over the annual agenda items for June. Mr. James asked for nominations for delegates for the MASC/MASS conference.

By motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Coppinger to nominate Dave Irving as delegate for the MASC/MASS Joint Conference. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Coppinger to nominate George Lay as alternate delegate for the MASC/MASS Joint Conference. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

The following members stated they plan to attend the conference: Johanna True, Garry James, George Lay and Dave Irving.

Mr. James stated there is no need for a July meeting unless there is an emergency and in that case the Chair would call a meeting.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Wood to forego the July meeting unless there is an emergency at which time the Chair would call for a meeting. Approved by roll call vote - 1 opposed (G. Noyes)

Mr. James stated that the meeting in August is scheduled for August 9th and asked if any members had objection to moving it to Tuesday, August 8th instead.

By motion of Mr. Noyes, seconded by Mr. Irving to move the August school committee meeting to August 8th. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met.

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met. They will meet August 8th at 5:30 pm.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee met on May 3, 2023.

By motion of Mr. Noyes, seconded by Ms. True to approve the minutes of May 3, 2023 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

The Policy Subcommittee met May 10, 2023.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the minutes of May 10, 2023 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

The following policies were presented for a first reading: AA-Regional School District Legal Status; BDFA-E - School Improvement Plan; BDFA - School Council; CHA/CHC - Development and Dissemination of Procedures; JICK - Harassment of Students; KE - Public Complaints; JB - Equal Educational Opportunities; JBB - Educational Equity; JFABE - Educational Opportunities for Military Children; JFABF - Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care; JH - Student Absences and Excuses; JHD - Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance; JIC - Student Discipline; JICA - Student Attire; JICE - Student Publications; JICFA - Prohibition of Hazing; JICFB - Bullying Prevention; JIH - Searches and Interrogations; JII - Student Complaints and Grievances; JJ- Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities; JJE - Student Fund-Raising Activities; JJF -Student Activities Accounts; JJIB - Interscholastic Athletics; JKAA - Physical Restraint of Students; JL - Student Welfare; JLC - Student Health Services and Requirements; JLCB - Immunization of Students; JLCC - Communicable Diseases; JRD - Student Photographs; KA - School/Community Relations Goals; KBA - School-Parent/Guardian Relations Goals; KBE -Relations with Parent/Booster Organizations; KDB - Public's Right to Know; KDD - News Media Relations/News Releases

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve AA-Regional School District Legal Status; BDFA-E - School Improvement Plan; BDFA - School Council; CHA/CHC - Development and Dissemination of Procedures; JICK - Harassment of Students; KE - Public Complaints; JB - Equal Educational Opportunities; JBB - Educational Equity; JFABE - Educational Opportunities for Military Children; JFABF - Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care; JH - Student Absences and Excuses; JHD - Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance; JIC - Student Discipline; JICA - Student Attire; JICE - Student Publications; JICFA - Prohibition of Hazing; JICFB - Bullying Prevention; JIH - Searches and Interrogations; JII - Student Complaints and Grievances; JJ- Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities; JJE - Student Fund-Raising Activities; JJF -Student Activities Accounts; JJIB - Interscholastic Athletics; JKAA - Physical Restraint of Students; JL - Student Welfare; JLC - Student Health Services and Requirements; JLCB - Immunization of Students; JLCC - Communicable Diseases; JRD - Student Photographs; KA - School/Community Relations Goals; KBA - School-Parent/Guardian Relations Goals; KBE -Relations with Parent/Booster Organizations; KDB - Public's Right to Know; KDD - News Media Relations/News Releases for a first reading as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote



**MEETING DATES**

The Regular School Committee meeting is August 8, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business posted. Ms. Lynch stated there are a couple of retirees this year; Brenda Williams and Beverly Terrazzano. Brenda was the Administrative Assistant to the Principal and Beverly was a route bus driver and cafeteria worker. Ms. Lynch thanked them for their many years of service.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no Executive Session posted.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Wood to adjourn at 7:31 P.M.  
Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lisa Rand*  
Recording Secretary