



## WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

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A regular meeting of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee was held on **Wednesday, October 9, 2019**, at 115 Amesbury Line Road, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Alana Gilbert      Dick Early      Paul Tucker  
Garry James      JoAnn Testaverde      Dave Irving  
Brett Murphy      Johanna True      Chip O'Connor  
Charlie LaBella      Tony LeSage      Scott Wood (6:34)

Members Absent: Lisa O'Connor, Ben Fichera

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

Ms. Gilbert called the meeting to order at 6:32 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 Regular School Committee meeting for September 11, 2019 as presented. Unanimous

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

### OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business posted. However, Ms. Gilbert reported that she spoke with Mike Gilbert regarding the discussion in last month's meeting about whether school committee members should be responsible for payment if they sign up to attend a conference and do not attend. She brought forward some language for a policy for the policy subcommittee to review. Mr. Irving read the proposed policy to members. Policy will meet on this in November.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

There was no student representative report.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of three (3) route bus drivers, individuals to work in the fall 2019 grade 12 SAT prep after school program, individuals to work in the fall 2019 ELA/Math MCAS retest after school program, a co-op coordinator for the allied health area, an art club advisor, individuals to work in the fall 2019 evening school program and a JV boys' soccer coach.

### Budget Update

There was no budget update.

### MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that Katrina Jensen, Coordinator of Data & Assessment was at the meeting and would be providing an MCAS presentation later in the evening.

### Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch reported that on Thursday, September 12, 2019, she attended the DESE meeting on Madison Park with Commissioner Riley. There has been a small group of vocational Superintendents working on an Action Plan to help Madison Park. On Monday, September 23, 2019, she attended the Northshore Superintendent Roundtable Legislative meeting in Danvers. At that meeting, they met with various State Senators and Representatives in the Northshore District to discuss proposed School Funding Bill. It seems that all schools will benefit from the proposed legislation. On Wednesday, September 25, 2019, she attended the Northeast Regional Planning meeting in Lawrence. At that meeting, they looked at the Blue Print for jobs in the area. Areas of manufacturing and health care continue to be at the forefront. On Thursday, September 26, 2019, she attended the Links of Hope dinner at the Seaglass in Salisbury. It was a wonderful event that raised several thousand dollars to help those with substance abuse issues. On Friday, September 27, 2019, she attended the MAVA Board of

Directors' meeting in Marlborough. On Wednesday, October 2, 2019, she attended the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner at DiBurro's along with Kara Kosmes. They had the opportunity to see Governor Baker again and advocate for vocational education in the Commonwealth. On Thursday, October 3, 2019, Congresswoman Lori Trahan visited Whittier. It was a wonderful visit with two of Whittier's Skills USA students touring the Congresswoman for an hour. Other local guests included Representative Lenny Mirra and Mayor Fiorentini. They were able to see the Allied Health Center, HVAC at the beginning of the renovation, and Metal Fabrication to see what is known as the "Mega Kitty" (a huge steel wildcat). On Friday, October 4, 2019, she attended the 2019 Special Education Summit in Peabody presented by Lyons & Rogers, LLC. There was a review of new special education laws, new school discipline concerns, and a case law update. On Monday, October 7, 2019, she attended the MAVA Officers' meeting in Malden. The Commissioner is looking at access to vocational students by sending districts. On Tuesday, October 8, 2019, she attended the MVSA meeting at the Lanam Club in Andover. At that meeting, Karla Behr presented on strategic planning.

Ms. Lynch reported that Skills USA has submitted an overnight field trip request to attend the Skills USA Falls State Leadership Conference in Marlborough on November 24, 2019 – November 26, 2019.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to approve the overnight field trip request from Skills USA to attend the Skills USA Fall State Leadership conference in Marlborough on November 24 – 26, 2019 as presented.  
Unanimous

Ms. Beverly DeSalvo, Vocational/Technical Coordinator provided a PowerPoint presentation on the vocational/technical programs. She reported that the DESE granted final approval of the Chapter 74 Dental Assisting Program in June 2019. She stated that enrollment is strong with 15 sophomores and 22 juniors/seniors. She reported that Whittier was awarded a 2019 Capital Skills grant in the amount of \$420,000 to update equipment and renovate existing space in HVAC. She also reported that on September 26, 2019 paperwork was submitted for a 2020 Capital Skills grant in the amount of \$500,000 for state of the art equipment for drafting and electronics/robotics. Ms. DeSalvo reported that the YMCA opened the Whittier Early Education Center at the beginning of the school year. This is a great opportunity for the childcare students at Whittier to work and observe in the building. Ms. DeSalvo reported that as of October 1, 2019 there are 130 seniors on co-op working in their trade or 41% of the senior class.

She also reported that according to the one year follow up survey for the Class of 2018 there is a 92% positive placement rate.

Ms. Katrina Jensen, Coordinator of Data & Assessment provided an MCAS update through a PowerPoint presentation. She reported that in the spring 2019 was the first administration of the MCAS 2.0 in ELA and math for high schools. All Whittier students took the MCAS 2.0 on iPads. The new performance levels are exceeds requirement, meets requirement, partially meets requirement, and does not meet requirement. Meets requirement is the new "gold standard" and compares to the old advanced category. She provided an MCAS performance comparison of Whittier vs. State in ELA. Whittier is 4% above the state for all students, 9% above the state for special education students and 12% above the state in economically disadvantaged students. She also provided an MCAS performance comparison of Whittier vs. State in mathematics. Whittier is 6% above the state for all students, 17% above the state for special education students and 17% above the state in economically disadvantaged students. Ms. Jensen provided an MCAS performance comparison of Whittier vs. State in biology. Whittier is even with the state for all students; 4% above the state for special education students and 5% above the state for economically disadvantaged students. She also provided MCAS competency determination at graduation along with accountability changes. She went over the indicators and provided the overall results according to these indicators. Whittier does not require assistance or intervention.

Ms. Patricia Lowell, Director of Pupil Personnel Services provided the October 1, 2019 School Census. For informational purposes, she also provided the October 1, 2018 School Census report and a comparison between the two years. Currently, the Special Education population is at 21.5%, which is 1.4% lower than last year's percentage of 22.9%. There was a brief question and answer session that followed her presentation.

#### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal provided a principal's update. He reported that Spirit Week dates have been set for the week of October 14<sup>th</sup>. Starting Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> and ending on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> with a Pep Rally. Each day there will be a different theme: Tuesday, Crazy Hat Day, Wednesday, Squad Day, Thursday, Decade and Friday, Class Colors for the Pep Rally to end the week. Open House will be held on Sunday, November 3, 2019 from 1-4 pm. The Guidance Department will host the college fair on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> during lunches in the gymnasium for juniors and

seniors. PSAT's will be held Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Whittier continues its commitment to safety of students and staff through ongoing monitoring of school safety procedures and protocols. Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, Whittier held a parent safety night. The agenda included ALICE protocols, new vaping issues and a presentation from the Haverhill Police Department, Officer Connelly and Sargent Lynch on social media and drug recognition. ALICE drills will continue to be held throughout the school year.

#### BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager provided the five-year capital plan for the Committee's review according to the annual agenda. This serves as a planning document that is updated each year to project the District's capital needs over a 5 year period and is used in the budget development process. Ms. Kosmes reported that a fifth Statement of Interest has been submitted to MSBA and if accepted, many of the infrastructure items noted on the five-year capital plan will be addressed through that process. Mr. Wood left at 7:25 pm. Ms. Kosmes also provided the variance report according to the annual agenda. There were several shifts of salaries to and from grants in order to best maximize the use of grant funds. A transfer will be presented in the future to balance some of the account overages due to these and other contractual salary changes. Ms. Kosmes reported that the Student Activity Accounts are audited each year as part of the District's annual financial audit. It was recommended that inactive accounts be closed and any remaining funds be transferred to another Student Activity Account. The Students Against Destructive Decisions club is no longer active and the account has not been used for several years. The account has a balance of \$1,029.80 and Peer to Peer club is similar in its purpose and very active. She would like to transfer this money into the Peer to Peer Student Activity Account.

By motion of Mr. Early, seconded by Mr. LeSage to transfer the Students Against Destructive Decisions Student Activity Account balance of \$1,029.80 into the Peer to Peer Student Activity Account as outlined in the Business Manager's memorandum dated September 27, 2019. Unanimous

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Ms. Gilbert went over the annual agenda items for November.

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met.

The Instructional Subcommittee met October 9, 2019.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee met on September 11, 2019.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the minutes of September 11, 2019 as presented. Unanimous

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met.

The Policy Subcommittee has not met. They will meet on November 13, 2019 at 6:15 PM.

## MEETING DATES

The Regular School Committee meeting is November 13, 2019 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 Mr. James to adjourn at 7:38 P.M.  
Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lisa Rand*  
Recording Secretary