



WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

A regular meeting of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee was held on **Thursday, November 13, 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
Lisa O'Connor Ben Fichera

Members Absent: Charlie LaBella, Tony LeSage, Scott Wood

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

Ms. Gilbert called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. Ms. Gilbert began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. Mr. Laganas introduced new personnel for the 2019-2020 school year.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for October 9, 2019 as presented. Approved – 1 Abstain (L. O'Connor)

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

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business posted.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Catherine McNulty provided an update on sports and activities of the different clubs. Multicultural is getting ready for the Coats for Kids drive. They will be collecting donations beginning December 2nd through January 8th. They are asking the Whittier community to donate gently used coats and jackets that will be dry cleaned at Anton's Cleaners for disbursement throughout the community. Peer to Peer is preparing for the canned food drive competition between the different home rooms and shops for who can bring in the most canned goods with a reward of breakfast at the Poet's Inn. Student Government organized a successful Veteran's Day reception for Whittier's veterans in the library on Friday, November 8th. Coffee and cookies were served by Culinary and staff members were presented with brass dog tags made by Machine Tech. Peer Leaders have been helping out with 8th grade tours. They also helped out with tours for the Open House. They will continue having more leadership training workshops and begin planning for National No One Eats Alone Day. DECA will be taking 14 students to compete at the District level competition on Thursday, December 19th at Merrimack College. Students who place in the top six (6) for their category will compete at the State Level in January. A Whittier DECA member is also organizing a cheer clinic on Saturday, December 8th at Whittier. The planning process and the final results will serve as the students DECA District Competition. This event will be a great community builder as well as a fundraiser for the cheer team. The Interact Club is scheduled to volunteer their time to two community meals planned for the upcoming months. The meals are sponsored by the Haverhill Rotary. Catherine provided an update on sports. Football qualified for the MIAA playoffs. They were defeated in the first round by Greater Lowell Tech. They will play Salem High School Saturday, November 16th at 10:30 am at Whittier. Boys' soccer finished 10-7-1 in the regular season, earning an 8 seed and a home game against North Reading in the first round of the MIAA playoffs. They lost 3-1 and finished the season 10-8-1 overall. Boys' cross country finished up the season with the State Divisionals last Saturday. Girls' cross country finished up the season much stronger than last year, led by their three (3) captains. Girls' volleyball finished the regular season 13-7 which qualified for the MIAA State Tournament. Two Whittier players were named League All Stars. Girls' soccer finished the season 10-7-1 and placed second in the division behind Northeast. The team qualified for the MIAA State Tournament as the 12th seed, bypassing the preliminary round with a bye into the 1st round.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of a CAD Instructor, a School Adjustment Counselor, individual to work in the Breathe Program, an AP Liaison, Mental Health PD Counselors, an ELL Instructor to provide SEI or ESL Training, a Concurrent Enrollment Liaison, and Early College Liaison, a Portfolio Liaison, an individual to design and implement the spring 2020 evening school brochure, and game clock officials and event ticket collectors. Ms. Lynch reported on the resignations of a CAD Instructor, a District Treasurer and a Culinary Arts Instructor for retirement purposes.

Budget Update

There was no budget update.

MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that Whittier has been offering an MCAS prep after school program to juniors who need to retest in either English or math. On November 6, 7, and 8th students were retested in ELA for their competency determination and on November 13 and 14 students will retest in math.

Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch reported that on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, she met with Senator DiZoglio and NECC President, Lane Glenn. They discussed ways they could partner together to help start up small businesses in the area. On Friday, October 18, 2019, she hosted an Area Superintendent meeting. All of the District Superintendents attended. There was a short legal presentation from Attorney Amy Rogers from Lyons and Rogers. On Tuesday, October 22, 2019, she hosted the Superintendent's Advisory Board meeting. At this meeting, an update of academic and vocational programs was provided to members. On Wednesday, October 23, 2019, she attended the MAVA Officers' meeting, the Board of Directors' meeting and the General Membership meeting in Marlborough. On Thursday, October 24, 2019, she attended the General Advisory Board meeting. She thanked Beverly DeSalvo for organizing the meeting and the entire vocational staff for their hard work in preparing for the meeting. On Friday, October 25,

2019, she attended the North Shore Superintendents' Roundtable. At that meeting, they discussed implicit bias and had a presentation from Karla Behr. On Tuesday, October 29, 2019, she attended the Merrimack Valley Workforce Board Annual meeting at Greater Lawrence Technical High School. On Thursday, October 31, 2019, she met with Dougan Sherwood from the Haverhill Chamber of Commerce. Dougan, Chris Laganas, Paul Moskevitz and Ms. Lynch took a tour of the building and discussed ways to collaborate with the Haverhill Chamber. On Thursday, October 31, 2019, she met with Tim Piwowar, Superintendent of Billerica Public Schools. They discussed vocational education in the State and how they can improve communication between MAVA and MASS. On Wednesday, November 6, 2019, the MAVA Officers met with the leadership team of MASS to discuss ongoing concerns regarding access to vocational education and how to work collaboratively to benefit the students in the State. On Wednesday, November 6 – Friday, November 8, 2019, she attended the MASC/MASS Joint Conference in Hyannis along with Lisa Rand, Kara Kosmes, and school committee members: Garry James, David Irving, Dr. Testaverde, Johanna True, Charlie LaBella, Tony LeSage and Alana Gilbert. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to attend great workshops and spend time together. She thanked all that attended.

Ms. Lynch reported that the Ski Club has submitted an out of state field trip request to Gunstock Mountain in Gilford, NH on January 11, 2020.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the out of state field trip request from the Ski Club to Gunstock Mountain in Gilford, NH on January 11 2020 as presented. Unanimous

Dr. Kelly Fay, Coordinator of Curriculum & Staff Development provided an academic update through a PowerPoint presentation. She provided the curricular changes in history, math science, English and elective courses. In history, the transition has been made to the new Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks; all freshmen are taking US History I and a new "Civics Engineering Project" is being introduced this year to all freshmen students. In math, an AP Calculus AB class is being offered for seniors, a new Algebra III course has been implemented in the junior year and a new Statistics course in the senior year. In science, all sophomore and senior students are taking either Chemistry or Environmental Science and they are in the process of transitioning to the new frameworks for biology to be prepared for the upcoming Next Generation MCAS 2.0 exam. In English, this is the first full year of the Junior/Senior English project; they continue to implement the Writing with Colors program in grade 9 and 10

classes and have begun implementing Notice and Note reading strategies into the English curriculum. They have transitioned the Journalism elective to be a Journalism and Digital Storytelling class. Dr. Fay reported that World Language/Foreign Language and PE/Health frameworks are in the process of being revised. Dr. Fay provided an update on professional development. There was a brief discussion after her presentation. Ms. Lynch thanked Dr. Fay for all her hard work.

Mr. Kevin Williams, Director of Technology and Information Systems provided a Technology update through a PowerPoint Presentation. He provided an infrastructure update. He reported that they have doubled the internet speed and replaced the firewall/web filter to support the increased internet speed. Over the summer they do annual health checks on key components of the infrastructure. Mr. Williams also stated that they work with teachers to train for the MCAS 2.0 as well as the WIDA (another electronic test). He stated Whittier continues to be 1:1 with iPads. Mr. Williams attended training on trial software from Pearson with other staff members. He reported that they continue with initiatives for outreach to the community such as the new digital signage, internet/social media and the new scoreboard. Mr. Williams provided some website statistics and spoke about future projects such as school information system replacement and new phone and intercom systems. There was a brief discussion that followed his presentation.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal provided a principal's update. He reported that Open House was held on Sunday, November 3, 2019 and was well attended. There were many interactive activities and staff presentations. The middle school tours began last week. Tours will be completed before the winter holiday break. The first quarter is over and report cards were issued on Friday, November 8, 2019. Parent's night will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2019 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 during that evening, there will be a grade 9 information session about choosing a technical program. NECC will also be there to answer any questions about Whittier's early college program. The "Above the Influence" program continues its quest to educate students about the negative influences of alcohol and drugs. During parent's night, a display will be set up "Hidden in Plain Sight" an interactive display. This presentation will be held in the Health Room (2102) from 5 pm until 8 pm. The Booster Club continues their ongoing efforts to raise funds for student athletes.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager provided an FY21 Budget Calendar with the proposed calendar dates to meet with the Executive Subcommittee in the design of the budget for review and approval.

By motion of Mr. Early, seconded by Mr. James to accept the proposed FY21 budget calendar as presented. Unanimous

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Ms. Gilbert reported that there were no annual agenda items for December.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met.

The Instructional Subcommittee met October 9, 2019.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to approve the minutes of October 9, 2019 as presented. Unanimous

The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met. They will meet in January.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met.

The Policy Subcommittee met November 13, 2019.

MEETING DATES

The Regular School Committee meeting is December 11, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business posted. However, members that attended the MASC/MASS conference in Hyannis provided an update to the full Committee. Ms. Lynch stated she will have the Job Coach attend the December meeting. Ms. Lynch thanked Ms. Gilbert for her time on the Whittier School Committee and wished her well. Ms. Gilbert stated it has been a pleasure to be a member of the Committee.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session posted.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Murphy to adjourn at 7:57 P.M.
Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Rand
Recording Secretary