



WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

A regular meeting of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee was held on **Wednesday, December 11, 2019**, at 115 Amesbury Line Road, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Dick Early Paul Tucker Ron Fitzgerald
Garry James JoAnn Testaverde Dave Irving
Brett Murphy Johanna True (7:46) Chip O'Connor
Lisa O'Connor Tony LeSage Charlie LaBella

Members Absent: Ben Fichera, Scott Wood

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

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. Mr. Murphy welcomed Ronald Fitzgerald the new Whittier Tech representative from Salisbury.

Linda Urban, Music/Performing Arts Instructor and students from the Whittier Chorus were introduced. They performed a few holiday songs for the Committee. The Committee went to carpentry to see the holiday float.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for November 13, 2019 as presented.
Unanimous

By motion of Mr. LeSage, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to accept the Treasurer's Report for November 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. Chess Club continues to grow. They had their first in-house tournament and a sophomore student won and has been named the resident chess master. Key Club hosted a blood drive at Whittier, assisted with the open house giving tours, worked a Kiwanis event, volunteered at the Salisbury SeaFestival of Trees, volunteered at the Christmas Stroll, and helped ring the bells for the Salvation Army. On December 12th, they will be helping out at the winter concert and on Saturday they will be at the Salisbury Fire Department's annual Breakfast with Santa. On Tuesday, December 17th, they will be hosting an interclub gathering after school in the library where all clubs can share information in a fun atmosphere. They are asking that everyone who attends bring an item to be donated to a local food pantry. Multicultural Club had a presentation from a student about her heritage country, the Philippines. She spoke about their culture, languages, food, festivals and history. They are collecting coats and jackets for their annual Coats for Kids Drive sponsored by Anton's Cleaners. The chorus is preparing for their winter concert on December 12th. They are singing 12 songs and Santa and Mrs. Claus will be making an appearance to greet children and hand out candy canes. A story telling of the Grinch will be performed by Mr. Porcelli. Auditions are being held for the spring musical. There were 45 students that auditioned and casting will be done over the next few days. Their first read through will be held Tuesday, December 17th and rehearsals will begin after the holiday break. The Peer to Peer Club is running their annual canned food drive until December 18th. All canned goods collected will be delivered to Our Neighbors Table to help feed the needy throughout the holiday season. Peer Leaders are preparing to run a series of team building activities for students during the freshman halftime show. Additionally, some peer leaders will also be attending the winter concert with members of the freshmen class. Ski Club is making arrangements and collecting permission slips for their first ski trip to Gunstock on January 11, 2020. DECA worked with the varsity cheerleading team to organize and hold Whittier Tech's first Cheer Clinic. It was held on December 8th and 14 girls from grades K-5 attended. This event will be presented by Jelena Valentin and Anne Jacques at the District Competition on January 19th at Merrimack College. There will be 16 students competing at the District competition. If they place in the top 7 in their category they will move on to the State competition in Boston in February. Interact Club volunteered to wrap gifts for Ozzie's Kids. They helped wrap about 300 donated gifts that will be distributed to families in need. Their next event will be on January 27th with the Rotary Club serving community meals at the Haverhill Citizens Center. The environment club continues to run the recycling program and is beginning to gather ideas for Earth Day. The Whittier football team battled the rain and a very good Greater Lawrence team to a 28-14 victory on Thanksgiving Eve. This was the first night football

game held at Whittier and with a great crowd and a lot of alumni returning to support the Wildcats. It was a very successful way to wrap up the season. The boys' basketball team has been practicing hard to build chemistry and learn the playbook. The girls' basketball team has had several successful pre-season scrimmages. They will play Shawsheen Tech on Friday, December 13th. Wrestling has approximately 40 participants. They have their first match Saturday, December 14th at North Reading against Lynnfield, Wilmington and Hopkinton. Whittier has a high number of athletes participating in all levels of the co-op hockey team with Amesbury.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of evening school cosmetology instructors, individuals to implement a professional development curriculum and training session for vocational staff on management and entrepreneurship, and part-time English tutors. Ms. Lynch reported on the resignations of a child care instructor, health/physical education instructor and special education instructor for retirement purposes.

Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that she is meeting with Department Heads and the Administration to finalize department submissions to build the FY21 budget.

MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that five (5) juniors took the ELA MCAS retest and six (6) juniors took the math MCAS retest in November. Results from these tests will not be available until the end of January. In January, a free MCAS after school program will be held for all students in grades 10 and 11 that need to retake the biology MCAS.

Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch reported that on Thursday, November 14, 2019 she attended the Newburyport Chamber meeting at the Salisbury Boys' & Girls' Club. Former Boston Bruins player Ray Bourque was in attendance. He gave an inspirational speech about always wanting to be "Perfect" on the ice and that was how he approached every game knowing that he could never be perfect. He gave a substantial donation to the Boys and Girls Club from his foundation. On Thursday, November 14, 2019, she attended the

Georgetown School Committee meeting with Dr. Testaverde. They gave an update about admissions and school programs. On Friday, November 15, 2019, she met with Haverhill Police Chief DeNaro along with Deputy Chief Haugh, School Resource Officer, Ryan Connelly and Principal Laganas. They had a good discussion around school safety protocols. On Tuesday, November 19, 2019, she attended the YMCA Educator of the Year celebration at NECC. She congratulated Jonathan Warne, science teacher and Beverly DeSalvo, Vocational/Technical Coordinator on their nominations. On Thursday, December 5, 2019, she attended the MASS Executive Board meeting at Assabet Valley Technical High School in Marlborough. There have been ongoing discussions on how to work with members of both MAVA and MASS to meet the needs of all of the students in the Commonwealth. On Tuesday, December 10, 2019, she attended the MVSA meeting with Administrative Assistants at Nashoba Tech along with Lisa Rand, Chris Laganas, Brenda Williams, Karen O'Reilly and Gail Butterfield. On Wednesday, December 11, 2019, she attended a meeting with MSBA and was notified officially that Whittier has been invited into the Massachusetts School Building Authority eligibility period. The next step will be setting up a Feasibility Study. Ms. Lynch reported on the outside projects. Carpentry and Electrical are working with Habitat for Humanity; Culinary provided cookies for foster kids of the Merrimack Valley's holiday party and for Ozzie's kids holiday party; Culinary and Health Assisting provided turkey and squash for Opportunity Works holiday party and Health Assisting assisted clients with their meals.

Ms. Lynch reported that the FIRST Robotics Club submitted an out of state field trip request to attend the FIRST Robotics Competition in Salem, NH February 27-29, 2020.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. LeSage to approve the out of state field trip request from the FIRST Robotics Club to attend the FIRST Robotics Competition February 27-29, 2020 in Salem, NH as presented. Unanimous

Ms. Lynch reported that Amy Pocsik has resigned as District Treasurer and she recommended that the School Committee appoint Kevin Mahoney as the District Treasurer.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to appoint Kevin Mahoney as the District Treasurer as recommended by the Superintendent. Unanimous

Ms. Lynch reported that there have been generously donated items to benefit Whittier's educational, vocational and extracurricular activities outlined in a memorandum from the Business Manager dated December 4, 2019.

By motion of Mr. LaBella, seconded by Mr. O'Connor to accept the donations listed in the memorandum from the Business Manager dated December 3, 2019.
Unanimous

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal provided a principal's update. Fall sports are complete. Mr. Laganas congratulated the students, coaches, and parents for another successful sports season. The Boosters Sports Banquet was held December 10th. It was a great event. There were over 300 plus parents and student athletes who attended the banquet. He thanked Ms. McNulty and the rest of the Booster Club family members and new members for putting on such a great event and always being there for the student athletes. The winter sports season began Wednesday, December 4th after Thanksgiving and a couple of snow days. The tours for all 8th grade students continue and should be completed by the holiday break. It has been a wonderful opportunity for potential students to see Whittier and what Whittier is about. The winter concert will be held Thursday, December 12th. The holiday fund is off and running. The fund will help alleviate burdens for some students and their families. Mr. Laganas thanked all those that have donated to the fund and the foundation to date. A special thanks was given to Kristine Morrison, the Guidance Department, Kara Kosmes, Support Staff and Cheryl Begin as they continue to coordinate the process for Whittier students and families throughout the holiday season.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager provided FY20 budget line item transfers in the amount of \$424,733. The transfer will balance several salary and insurance accounts. Salary differences are due to contractual adjustments that occurred after the budget was prepared as well as shifts to and from grants. Insurance budgets currently reflect the estimates that are provided by Whittier's insurance agent when the budget is prepared and the transfer will align these accounts to reflect actual premium costs.

By motion of Mr. LeSage, seconded by Mr. James to authorize budget line item transfers in the amount of \$424,733.00 as outlined in the Business Manager's memorandum of December 5, 2019. Unanimous

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Murphy went over the annual agenda items for January.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met. They will meet on January 8, 2020 at 5 pm.

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met.

The Policy Subcommittee met November 13, 2019.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. LeSage to approve the minutes of November 13, 2019 as presented. Unanimous

Mr. Irving stated that the Expense Reimbursements Policy – DKC was provided in the packets for a first reading.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to approve the Expense Reimbursements Policy - DKC for a first reading as presented.
Unanimous

MEETING DATES

The Regular School Committee meeting is January 8, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business posted. Mr. LaBella would like a report on the evening school program. He will send a request to Superintendent Lynch with specifics.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session posted.

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By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to adjourn at 7:15 P.M.
Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Rand
Recording Secretary