



## 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, December 12, 2018**, at 115 Amesbury Line Road, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Alana Gilbert      Garry James      Scott Wood  
Paul Tucker      Dick Early      Chip O'Connor  
Dave Irving      Brett Murphy  
Johanna True      Jo-Ann Testaverde

Members Absent: Charlie LaBella, Lisa O'Connor, Ben Fichera, Tony LeSage

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

Ms. Gilbert called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. Ms. Gilbert began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Ms. Gilbert introduced Roxann Grover. Roxann has worked at Whittier Tech for 40 years as a Health/Physical Education instructor. She was recently named Haverhill's Educator of the Year by the YMCA. The Committee congratulated Roxann and thanked her for her years of service to the District.

Linda Urban, Music/Performing Arts Instructor and students of the Whittier Chorus were introduced. They performed a few holiday songs for the Committee.

The Committee went to carpentry to see the holiday float and to see the new Allied Health Center.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for November 14, 2018 as presented.  
Approved – 1 Abstained (S. Wood)

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

## OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business posted.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Andrew McFarland provided an update on sports and activities of the different clubs. Peer to Peer is sponsoring the "Canned Food Drive" now through December 20<sup>th</sup>. The shop or homeroom that collects the most cans will receive a breakfast on the last day of school before the holiday break. They will also be able to display the winning plaque for the year. It's a great way for the school to help feed the less fortunate for the holidays. Chorus performed at the Poet's Inn on December 11<sup>th</sup> for the MVSA luncheon and at the School Committee meeting this evening. Their concert is Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the auditorium. They will be singing a selection of holiday and secular songs including a medley from the musical "Hamilton." Jack Ulrich, CAD instructor will be performing a song he composed and Santa will be joining them too. Chess Club is meeting every Thursday after school. There are 15 members. All levels of play are welcome and students continuously change partners to experience different strategies. The Key Club had a very busy month starting with the Haverhill Santa Parade. They also volunteered at the Salisbury Sea-Festival of Trees, helped ring the bells for the Salvation Army on two Saturdays, and volunteered at the Christmas Stroll in Haverhill. On December 15<sup>th</sup>, they will be helping out at the Breakfast with Santa in Salisbury and they are making plans to spend a few hours over vacation at the Salisbury Senior Center. They are also discussing fundraising ideas for the spring and looking for volunteer opportunities in the coming months. The Multicultural Club had a team of members teach them how to play a popular Dominican game: Dominoes! They enjoyed hearing about the game and how popular it is with their families. At the next meeting, another member is scheduled to teach them about her family's cultural Christmas traditions. The Club is still collecting Coats for Kids and adults as well through January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Peer Leaders met and received more leadership training. They discussed leaders in their own lives, what they admire about them, and how they can emulate their leadership skills. Peer leaders have also been working with student government to help organize a fundraiser for the Whittier Holiday Fund. In addition, they have started

brainstorming about how they can help out with the Freshman Halftime Show in January. The First Robotics Team has completed most of the safety tests for all of the robot build members. The Team has added a few more students. The hands-on performance testing is still underway. This year's game challenge will be released January 5<sup>th</sup>. Student Government has been meeting to plan and organize the Candy Gram Holiday Fundraiser. This is a student driven initiative along with the guidance of administration to raise money for a holiday fund. Student Government also volunteered for the Festival of Trees in Salisbury. Currently, they are in the process of planning an event for the Governor's visit in January. Boys' Basketball had two days of tryouts and was able to divide the team into varsity and junior varsity rosters. Girls' Basketball is made up of mostly freshmen and sophomores. They hope to grow and build chemistry through their young team and bring promising years to come. Wrestling has a lot of new faces on the team. Boys' Hockey co-ops with Amesbury and is looking forward to a great season.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of three (3) part-time route bus/van drivers, a maintenance mechanic, nurses to support health plan data entry, an IXL eLearning Specialist, and winter coaches. She also reported on the resignations of a Health Assisting/LPN Program Administrator, two (2) cafeteria cooks, a part-time security officer and a CAD instructor for the purpose of retirement.

### Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that she is meeting with Department Heads and the Administration to finalize department submissions to build the FY20 budget.

### MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that there is no MCAS update.

### Superintendent's Update

On Wednesday, December 5, 2018, Ms. Lynch attended the MASS Social Emotional Learning Advancing Cultural Proficiency in our Schools with Patricia Lowell at Assabet

Valley Technical High School in Marlborough. On Tuesday, December 11, 2018, Whittier hosted the Merrimack Valley Superintendents' Association meeting with Administrative Assistants. On Tuesday, December 11, 2018, Ms. Lynch, Kara Kosmes and Bob Hardy had a conference call on the roof gas line repair. They are looking to start the project on December 24<sup>th</sup> and have it completed by December 28<sup>th</sup> if the materials can be delivered on time. The Allied Health Center is just about done. The Capital Skills Grant covered much of the Dental Equipment and part of the renovation. They were able to do this by pre-buying much of this year's equipment using last year's funds. There have been a few change orders that have increased the budget a bit but the Allied Health Center will be used for both day school and night school programs. Ms. Lynch reported that they are working on a new digital sign for the entrance to the school. She thanked Carpentry, Electrical and Masonry for their hard work on building this sign. She also thanked the Class of 2017 and Class of 2018 for a portion of the materials for the sign. She is going to bring proposals for the actual digital sign to the Plant Operations Subcommittee in January. Ms. Lynch stated she received word that Whittier was not invited into the MSBA pipeline again this year. Whittier was close but other schools were needier than Whittier this year. We will apply again next year. Ms. Lynch would like to have Tia Roy who was recently hired as the Community Services and Post-Secondary/Early College Program Advisor attend the January meeting to explain the work she is doing. Ms. Lynch reported that Governor Baker and Lieutenant Governor Polito will be coming to Whittier again. This time Whittier will be part of one his Inauguration events. She invited members of the School Committee to attend the pep rally for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor at 9:00 am on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Ms. Lynch reported that there have been generously donated items to benefit Whittier's educational, vocational and extracurricular activities as outlined in a memorandum from the Business Manager dated December 3, 2018. She requested that the School Committee accept the donations.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to accept the donations listed on the memorandum from the Business Manager dated December 3, 2018.  
Unanimous

Ms. Lynch reported that The Will of Robert C. Takesian left \$10,000.00 to Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School to establish a scholarship in the name of Varris (Tuck) Takesian.

By motion of Dr. Testaverde, seconded by Mr. James to accept the \$10,000.00 scholarship in the name of Varris (Tuck) Takeisan from the Will of Robert C. Takesian as presented. Unanimous

Ms. Lynch thanked the Estate of Robert C. Takesian for this very generous scholarship.

Ms. Lynch reported that the Ski Club submitted two requests for out of state field trips. The first trip was for February 2, 2019 to Waterville Valley Ski Resort in Waterville Valley, NH. The second field trip request was for March 3, 2019 to Okemo Mountain in Ludlow, VT.

Motion by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the field trip request from the ski club for February 2, 2019 to Waterville Valley Ski Resort in Waterville Valley, NH as presented. Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the field trip request from the ski club for March 3, 2019 to Okemo Mountain in Ludlow, VT as presented. Unanimous

#### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal provided a principal's update. The fall sports are complete. Mr. Laganas congratulated the students, coaches and parents for another successful fall sports season. The Boosters held a sports banquet on Thursday, December 6, 2018. It was a great event there were over 300 parents and student athletes who attended the banquet. Winter sports began on the Monday after Thanksgiving and the number of student athletes remains strong. The tours for all 8<sup>th</sup> 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 all about. The administration, guidance department and faculty along with some private donors got the holiday fund off and running. This fund will hopefully alleviate some burdens for Whittier students and families. Mr. Laganas thanked all that have donated to the fund and the foundation to date. Special thanks went out to Kristine Morrison, the Guidance Department, Kara Kosmes, the Admin Team and Elaine Kevgas for coordinating the process.

#### BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager provided bid results for the roof piping improvements Phase I. She reported that the contract was awarded to North Mechanical whose bid price of \$47,500 was the lowest. Ms. Kosmes thanked Tammy D'Entremont for her work in expediting these bid documents.

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

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

#### SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met. They will meet on January 9, 2019 at 5 pm.

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met. They will meet on January 9, 2019 at 6:15 pm.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met.

The Policy Subcommittee has not met. They will meet on January 9, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

#### MEETING DATES

The Regular School Committee meeting is January 9, 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. Wood to adjourn at 7:33 P.M.

Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

*Lisa Rand*

Recording Secretary