



## 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, February 5, 2020**, at 115 Amesbury Line Road, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Chip O'Connor Paul Tucker Ron Fitzgerald Lisa O'Connor  
Garry James Scott Wood Charlie LaBella  
Brett Murphy Johanna True Tony LeSage

Members Absent: JoAnn Testaverde, Dave Irving, Ben Fichera, Richard Early

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.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. LeSage to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for January 8, 2020 as presented. Unanimous

By motion of Mr. LeSage, seconded by Ms. True to accept the Treasurer's Report for January 2020 as presented. Unanimous

### OLD BUSINESS

Tia Roy, Director of Community Partnerships provided an evening school update through a PowerPoint presentation. She provided a program overview with a focus on the spring 2020 semester. She discussed the cost and offerings in the evening school program, provided a cost comparison with other evening school electrical programs, information on the student population, enrollment for the spring 2020 programs, an enrollment breakdown by city/town for the spring 2020 programs, grant funded program highlight, a year by year enrollment comparison, future trends and direction of the evening school program.

Katy Parsons, Teacher Coach provided an overview of her role and responsibilities as Teacher Coach through a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Parsons started in this position in 2017. Her first class, along with the new staff in 2017, was the new staff from 2016 in their second year of teaching. Ms. Parsons discussed new staff demographics over the last four (4) years, feedback from the new staff and her role during the school day and beyond to support new teachers. She provided examples of the different tools she uses to help new staff members become acclimated to teaching.

#### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Catherine McNulty provided an update on sports and activities of the different clubs. Chess Club membership is steady and 12 students have entered the 2<sup>nd</sup> tournament. Key Club started an after school service project for the Merrimack Valley Hope Mission Project, an organization that distributes brown lunch bags every Friday for those in need. Multicultural Club's January meeting was hosted by a student originally from Colombia, South America, who presented her heritage and home country. The Music/Drama Production is rehearsing for the spring show. Student Government is planning for the 2020 Prom with the help of the Prom Committee. The theme is the Great Gatsby/Roaring 20's theme. Peer Leaders helped with the freshmen halftime show. They lead small groups of freshmen through team building activities. DECA will compete in the State competition February 27-29, 2020. They have five (5) students competing against the rest of the State. Any team that places will move on to compete at the International Conference. The Interact Club participated in serving community meals at the Haverhill Citizens center on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The Environmental Club is running the recycling program and advocating for additional resources to expand. Skills USA students are preparing for the District Conference. They have 177 students registered for this conference. The boys' basketball team is 8-6 and if they win two (2) more games they will qualify for the playoffs. The girls' basketball team is 12-4 and tied for first place in the league. They have qualified for the 2020 MIAA state tournament. The Varsity Cheer Team is preparing for their upcoming competition season. They will take the mats for the first time on February 16<sup>th</sup> at Billerica High School. The wrestling team is 16-2. They finished 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Pelham Tournament and 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the State Vocational Tournament. The hockey team is 3-9-1. The JV hockey has a five (5) game winning streak, with a big win over Central Catholic and Nashua this past weekend.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of individuals to work in the evening school spring 2020 program, and individuals to work in the biology MCAS retest after school program. Ms. Lynch reported on the resignations of a District Safety & Security Director/Route Bus Driver and Math Instructor.

### Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that the Executive Subcommittee met February 5, 2020 and reduced the budget from 6.79% to a 6.32% budget increase for next year.

### MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that the November MCAS retest results are in. There were 5 students that took the ELA retest and 4 passed and 6 students took the math retest and 3 passed. Ms. Lynch reported that an appeal on a Biology MCAS for a senior was received. On February 5-6, 2020, 17 juniors and 15 sophomores will take the biology retest. The MCAS pass rate is: Class of 2020 – 100% and Class of 2021 93.4%.

### Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch reported that on Thursday, January 9, 2020, she met with James Peyser, Secretary of Education along with members of the MAVA board. Secretary Peyser discussed the opportunity for increasing the adult education program. There will be state funds used to help with educating adult learners. On Friday, January 10, 2020, she attended the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Mayors & Managers meeting at the Andover Country Club at the Andover Country Club in Andover along with Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager. On Monday, January 13, 2020, she attended the MAVA Officers' meeting in Malden. They met with Commissioner Riley. Discussions included new regulations, admissions, and access concerns. On Wednesday, January 15, 2020, she attended the Merrimack Valley Superintendents' Association meeting at the Lanam Club. At that meeting, Attorney Long presented new laws and regulations concerning schools. On Wednesday, January 15, 2020, she attended the Haverhill Education Coalition along with Kara Kosmes and Patricia Lowell.

They were able to give a brief presentation on what Whittier Tech can offer students. After their presentation, Representative Vargas gave a brief overview of the Student Opportunity Act. On Friday, January 17, 2020, she attended the North Shore Superintendents' Roundtable Legislative meeting at Essex Tech. The meeting was with Northshore legislatures to discuss the increase needs of students needing mental health services. On Wednesday, January 22, 2020, she was interviewed by WHAV Radio. They discussed opportunities that are available for students and the possibility of Whittier Tech getting a building project. On Thursday, January 23, 2020, she attended the MASS Mid-Winter meeting in Marlborough along with Chris Laganas. On January 23, 2020, she went to Greater Lawrence Technical High School to hear the Governor speak about offering evening school programs. On Friday, January 24, 2020, she attended the MAVA Board of Directors' meeting at Assabet Valley Technical High School in Marlborough. The Board continues to work together on providing access to all students in the Commonwealth. On Tuesday, January 28, 2020, she attended the Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board Quarterly meeting at Lawrence General Hospital. The Governor's proposal for evening programs at the vocational schools was discussed. On Friday, January 31, 2020, she hosted an Area Superintendent meeting at Whittier. She thanked Carol Jacobs from Georgetown, Brian Blake from Ipswich, Brian Forget from Triton, Sean Gallagher from Newburyport, and Michael Phinfer from Haverhill for attending.

Ms. Lynch reported that David Goudsward and Heather Bernard are donating a \$1,000.00 scholarship to establish the Kenneth R. Bernard Fund. This award will be given to defray the cost of tools and equipment for a graduating Machine Technology senior who intends to enter the trade rather than pursue higher education.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. LeSage to accept the \$1,000.00 scholarship to establish the Kenneth R. Bernard Fund as presented by the Superintendent. Unanimous

Ms. Lynch reported that the Ski Club submitted an out of state field trip request to Mount Sunapee in Newbury, NH on February 29, 2020.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. LeSage to approve the out of state field trip request from the Ski Club to Mount Sunapee in Newbury, NH on February 29, 2020 as presented. Unanimous

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal provided a principal's update. All students have completed mid-term exams and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter has begun. Parents' night will be held February 6, 2020 from 6-8 pm. Freshmen have chosen their shops and they will start Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup>. Guidance counselors are out on interviews to all the middle schools. This week they are at Little Whittier, Georgetown, Amesbury and Pentucket. On Thursday, March 19, 2020, the entire junior class will be attending the Shakespearian play Macbeth at the North Shore Music Theatre in Beverly, MA. The students will be leaving Whittier at 8:15 am and will be returning around 1:00 pm. Whittier will be hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Travis Yell Memorial Dual Wrestling Tournament on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. There are 9 teams participating in the Tournament. They are Gloucester, Triton, Pentucket, Georgetown, Monty Tech, Essex Tech, Masconomet, Bristol Aggie, and Marblehead/Swampscott. This has been a very successful event in the past to honor the life of alumni and former wrestler and son of Whittier's bus driver, Heidi Yell. This year's school play is "Pippin" and will be held on March 20-22, 2020. The play tells the story of Pippin, a young prince who longs to find passion and adventure in his life. His coming of age tale is imagined with the help of the leading player and a magical troupe of dazzling circus performers.

## BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

There is no Business Manager's report.

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

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

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee met January 8, 2020 and February 5, 2020.

By motion of Mr. LaBella, seconded by Mr. James to approve the minutes of January 8, 2020 as presented. Unanimous

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met.

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The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met.

The Policy Subcommittee has not met.

#### MEETING DATES

The Budget Workshop is March 11, 2020 at 5:00 P.M. The Regular School Committee meeting is March 11, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

#### NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business posted.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session posted.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Tucker to adjourn at 7:31 P.M.  
Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lisa Rand*  
Recording Secretary