



## 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, March 11, 2020**, at 115 Amesbury Line Road, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Chip O'Connor Paul Tucker Ron Fitzgerald  
Scott Wood Richard Early Lisa O'Connor  
Brett Murphy Johanna True JoAnn Testaverde

Members Absent: Dave Irving, Garry James, Charlie LaBella, Ben Fichera,  
Tony LeSage

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 Ms. L. O'Connor to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for February 5, 2020 as presented.  
Approved – 2 Abstained (R. Early, J. Testaverde)

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Ms. L. O'Connor to accept the Treasurer's Report for February 2020 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. DECA had five (5) members compete at the State Conference February 27-29, 2020. The Drama Club will be performing "Pippin" on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm and on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2 pm. The Multicultural Club had a wonderful presentation by two (2) students about their heritage country and background. They also celebrated Dominican Independence Day on February 27<sup>th</sup>. They are looking for ways to observe Linguistic Heritage month in April. Girls' track had their first meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to share expectations and show students how to sign up. They had their first practice on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The wrestling team finished the season 26-2. They placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 13 teams at the sectional tournament and crowned one champ at 160lbs, Jeremias Collazo. Catherine McNulty competed in the girls' state tournament and finished first place. This is her 2<sup>nd</sup> state championship in two (2) years. Peer Leadership members did an excellent job planning and helping out during "No Child Eats Alone Day" on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Peer Leaders learned what social isolation looks like and how to help others who may be experiencing it. Art Club is helping the Music Department with their upcoming musical production, "*Pippin*". They will be creating some set design pieces and props in the Visual Arts classroom. Peer to Peer is preparing for their upcoming wellness activity, "Kick Butts & Vaping" Day to be held on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. A table will be set during lunches with information on how students and staff can quit smoking and vaping.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of an early education & care instructor, a security officer, a hospitality management instructor, individuals to work in the ELA/math MCAS retest after school program, disproportionality in SPED grant hires, individuals to work in the MCAS ELA grade 10 after school program and spring coaches.

### Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that a budget workshop was held March 11, 2020 and a budget was discussed which contained a 6.5% increase. The public hearing for the FY21 budget is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 6:15 pm.

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### MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that On February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 32 sophomores and juniors took the Biology retest. The results should be available in April. On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>, one junior took the ELA MCAS retest. On March 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 3 juniors took the math MCAS retest. On March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, all sophomores will take the ELA MCAS for their diploma. The MCAS will be administered on student iPads as the MCAS 2.0 is now an online test. To prepare, we are running an after school program free of charge to students on Mondays and Thursdays through March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Statewide Graduation and Dropout Rates have been made public. Whittier has improved in both areas since last year. Both of these categories are extremely important with the accountability system.

<u>Whittier Graduation Rates</u>	<u>State of Massachusetts</u>
2018 – 96.9%	2018 – 87.9%
2019 – 97.7%	2019 – 88.0%

<u>Whittier Dropout Rates</u>	<u>State of Massachusetts</u>
2018 – 0.8%	2018 – 1.9%
2019 – 0.6%	2019 – 1.8%

### Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch reported that on Friday, February 7, 2020, she attended the Haverhill Chamber Annual Business Awards meeting at the Atkinson Country Club. Whittier was the recipient of the education award. On Friday, February 7, 2020, she attended the MAVA/MASS meeting at Assabet Valley. They continue to have open dialogue regarding admissions and other mutual concerns. On Monday, February 10, 2020, she hosted Mayor Cassandra Gove from Amesbury. Mayor Gove was able to take a tour of the building and have lunch at the Poet's Inn. On Wednesday, February 12 – 15, 2020, she attended the AASA Conference in San Diego. It was a wonderful three days of professional development in CTE programs, Social Emotional Learning and Crisis

Management. On Monday, February 24, 2020, she attended the Merrimac Finance meeting along with Kara Kosmes. They were able to give a school and budget update. On Tuesday, February 25, 2020, she met with Northern Essex Community College to discuss the possibility of using space at the college and writing a grant together. On Friday, February 28, 2020, she attended Northeast Metro Tech and met with Charlie Lyons, David DiBarri, Heidi Riccio and Glenn Koocher to discuss the Governance of vocational technical high schools. On Monday, March 2, 2020, she met with Paul School Committee Minutes

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Whitcomb, CEO of Whitson's along with Kara Kosmes. He was able to give them an update about the company and they were able to give feedback regarding food service. On Monday, March 2, 2020, she hosted members from Northern Essex Community College to again discuss ways to work together and expand access to students. On Thursday, March 5, 2020, she attended the MAVA Officers' meeting; the Board of Directors' meeting and the General meeting at the Best Western in Marlborough. On Friday, March 6, 2020, she attended the MAVA/MASS meeting. On Tuesday, March 10, 2020, she attended the MVSA meeting at the Lanam Club and the meeting was spent discussing coronavirus. Ms. Lynch reported that she provided school committee members with a copy of the letter that was sent out to the Whittier Tech Community regarding the Coronavirus. She stated she continues to get updates from the DESE and the Department of Public Health. At this time, they are trying to control the amount of visitors that come to the school.

#### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal provided a principal's update. He reported that all winter sports finished a few weeks ago. He congratulated all student athletes and coaches. The winter banquet is cancelled for March 12, 2020. Once again, he thanked the Booster Club and Mrs. McNulty, the President of the Booster's Club for all the time and work put into Whittier's student athletes. All spring sports are scheduled to begin on Monday, March 16, 2020. Skills USA Districts was cancelled. It was scheduled for March 12, 2020 at Greater Lowell. The spring musical "*Pippin*" will be held March 20-22, 2020. Guidance is finishing up interviews for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders. The First Robotics competition at Reading High School on March 13-15, 2020 was cancelled.

#### BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager provided Amendment No. 2 to the Food Service Management contract with Whitson's Culinary Group for approval by the School Committee. The original RFP was for a five year period, however the State Bureau of Nutrition requires that the contracts be executed in one year increments, therefore this request is for year three of the contract. Ms. Kosmes reported that the program is

continuing to do well. Comparing last year's financial data to this year, daily lunch participation has increased by 3%, average daily revenue has increased by 7.7%, labor costs have decreased by 5.3% and product costs have decreased by 4%.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Ms. L. O'Connor to approve Amendment No. 2 to the Food Service Management contract with Whitson's Culinary Group as outlined in the Business Manager's memorandum of March 4, 2020. Unanimous

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Ms. Kosmes reported that on February 13, 2020, the District received notification that the Excess and Deficiency Fund was certified in the amount of \$735,339 by the Department of Revenue.

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Murphy went over the annual agenda items for April He asked that members send in their self-evaluation form before the next school committee meeting.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee met February 5, 2020 and March 11, 2020.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Ms. True to approve the minutes of February 5, 2020 as presented. Approved - 3 Abstained (L. O'Connor, J. Testaverde, R. Early)

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met. They will meet at 5:45 pm on April 8, 2020.

The Policy Subcommittee has not met. They will meet in May to go over new policy updates from MASC.

#### MEETING DATES

The Annual Organization meeting is April 6, 2020 at 5:00 P.M. The Public Hearing on the FY21 Budget is April 8, 2020 at 6:15 P.M. The Regular School Committee meeting is April 8, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

## NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business posted.

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## EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session posted.

By motion of Mr. Early, seconded by Mr. Wood to adjourn at 6:53 P.M. Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lisa Rand*  
Recording Secretary