



## WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

---

A regular meeting of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee was held on **Wednesday, March 13, 2019**, at 115 Amesbury Line Road, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Alana Gilbert      Lisa O'Connor      Scott Wood  
Paul Tucker      Dick Early      Charlie LaBella  
Tony LeSage      Brett Murphy      Johanna True

Members Absent: Chip O'Connor, Dave Irving, Jo-Ann Testaverde, Garry James, Ben Fichera

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

Ms. Gilbert called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Ms. Gilbert began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for February 13, 2019 as presented.  
Approved – 1 Abstained (L. O'Connor)

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the Executive Session minutes for February 13, 2019 as presented. Approved- 1 Abstained (L. O'Connor)

By motion of Mr. LeSage, seconded by Mr. Wood to accept the Treasurer's Report for February 2019 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. DECA had 11 students compete at the State competition and they did a great job representing Whittier. The Interact Club will be meeting to discuss how they can assist with the school play. They are also participating in the annual Whittier Relay for Life. Peer Leadership is recruiting for next year. They have been brainstorming ways to get the word out about Peer Leadership and ways to help freshman learn about the clubs they can join at Whittier. The Environmental Club continues to run the recycling program and will be making some posters to showcase at The Green Expo in Newburyport on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Students will also be making public service announcements about renewable energy and climate change and how it affects different technical areas. The Key Club is making plans to work the upcoming musical selling tickets, taking tickets at the door and offering refreshments during intermission. They will be holding their annual spring blood drive and on April 1<sup>st</sup> and they are planning to hold an April Fools' Day Walk to raise money for local charities. The Chess Club is still playing chess. New members show up every week and next week they are going to start using clocks. Student Government had the opportunity to attend the Freshmen Halftime Show and speak to all the freshmen about Student Government with the hopes of recruiting freshmen volunteers and future Student Government Officers. The Multicultural Club had a wonderful presentation by one of their members about the Chriskindlemarket in Nuremberg, Germany. The student also brought in authentic Lebkuchen for members to decorate and eat. On Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, one of the students will be presenting about his family culture from the Ivory Coast. The varsity boys' basketball ended their season 8-11, and 7-9 in the conference. The wrestling team finished the season 13-9. Whittier had two wrestlers make it to the second day of the Division II State Tournament. This year, the MIAA also held the first ever Girl's State Tournament. Whittier had a champion, Catherine McNulty, at the 170 pound weight class. The varsity girls' basketball team did not qualify for the State Tournament but have hopes for next year. The varsity boys' hockey team fell short in the winning column. They are excited for next year.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of a health assisting instructor (LTS), plumbing instructor (LTS), individuals to work in the math retest MCAS after school program winter 2019, individuals to work in the ELA grade 10 spring MCAS after school program, an above the influence program manager, above the influence advisors, an individual to perform an ELL program review for the Coordinated Program Review, a DESE Behavioral Health Framework & Assessment Tool facilitator, DESE Behavioral Health Framework & Assessment Tool team members and attendance makeup monitors.

### Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that the Committee held a budget workshop March 13, 2019 and discussed a budget which contained a 3.25% increase. The public hearing for the FY20 budget is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 6:15 pm.

### MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that on March 7-8, 2019, six (6) juniors took the math MCAS retest. Whittier is currently running a free MCAS after school program for grade 10 to prepare for the ELA MCAS which will be administered March 26-27, 2019. This is the first time Whittier will give an MCAS exam on an electronic device.

### Superintendent's Update

On Monday, February 25, 2019, Ms. Lynch attended the Merrimac Finance Committee meeting. On Wednesday, February 27, 2019, she went to Greater Lawrence Vocational Technical High School and met with Superintendent John Lavoie and Liz Bennet. They discussed current vocational/technical programs and how the two schools can work together. On Monday, March 4, 2019, she attended the West Newbury Selectmen meeting. On Wednesday, March 6, 2019, she had a conference call with Cliff Chuang from DESE along with Chris Laganas, Patty Lowell and Beverly DeSalvo. They discussed enrollment and admissions. On Thursday, March 7, 2019, she attended the MAVA Officers' meeting; the Board of Directors' meeting and the General meeting at the Best Western in Marlborough. On Friday, March 8, 2019, she attended the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce State Senate Breakfast forum. On Monday, March 11, 2019, she met with Representative Diana DiZoglio. They discussed the proposed changes to the Foundation Formula and other concerns related

to school finance and vocational education. On Tuesday, March 12, 2019, she attended the Merrimack Valley Superintendents' Association meeting at the Lanam Club. Members of NEMLEC and the STARS program were there and discussed school safety and emergency services they provide. Ms. Lynch spoke about the threats that Whittier received. She stated they are determined to find the person responsible for the threats. The threats do not represent who or what Whittier is about. She stated they will continue to work with the Haverhill Police Department and the State Police to ensure everyone is safe. The threats are scary and are taken seriously. She thanked the administration, staff, students, state police and Haverhill police for all of their help and support.

Ms. Lynch reported that Eastern Bank is donating a \$2,000.00 scholarship to benefit graduating Whittier Tech seniors.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Wood to accept the \$2,000.00 scholarship from Eastern Bank to benefit graduating Whittier Tech seniors as presented. Unanimous

Ms. Lynch thanked Laura Kurzrok, Executive Director of Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation and Eastern Bank for the generous scholarship.

Ms. Lynch reported on outside projects. She reported that culinary provided a St. Patrick's Day luncheon on March 13<sup>th</sup> to the Salisbury Council on Aging; carpentry is evaluating a project request from Ipswich and new letters for the Cashman Elementary School in Amesbury are being delivered.

Ms. Lynch reported that machine technology submitted a request for an out-of-state field trip to go to Wilcox Industries Corp in Newington, NH on April 2, 2019 and on April 9, 2019.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the out-of-state field trip requests from machine technology to go to Wilcox Industries Corp in Newington, NH on April 2, 2019 and April 9, 2019 as presented. Unanimous

Ms. Lynch reported that the hospitality program has submitted an out-of-state field trip request for students to go to the Wentworth by the Sea Hotel in New Castle, NH on April 3, 2019.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. LeSage to approve the out-of-state field trip request for hospitality students to go to the Wentworth by the Sea Hotel in New Castle, NH on April 3, 2019 as presented. Unanimous

Ms. Lynch reported that she has an out-of-state field trip request for staff to bring students to NH Job Corps Center in Manchester, NH on April 10, 2019.

By motion of Mr. LeSage, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the out-of-state field trip request for students to go to NH Job Corps Center in Manchester, NH on April 10, 2019 as presented. Unanimous

#### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal provided a principal's update. He reported that all winter sports finished up a week ago. He congratulated all student athletes and coaches. The winter banquet was held March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. He thanked the Booster Club and Mrs. McNulty, the President for all the time and work she puts into Whittier's student athletes. All spring sports teams are set to start Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. DECA, Distributive Education Clubs of America, went to the Marriot Copley Hotel at the Prudential in Boston March 7-9, 2019 and competed in the entrepreneurship, hospitality, and financial literacy. Skills USA (Districts) is leaving Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> for Greater Lowell where over 200 Whittier students will participate. As part of Skills USA competition, the "Music and Memory" students are putting an Alzheimer Awareness event on March 31<sup>st</sup> from 1 – 4 pm at Whittier. The Spring Musical "Curtains" will be held March 22-24, 2019. It will be held Friday at 7pm, Saturday at 7 pm and Sunday at 2 pm. The guidance team is wrapping up interviews for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders. First Robotics is going to their second competition at Reading High School, March 15– 17, 2019. They are 7<sup>th</sup> seeded out of 39 teams.

#### BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager provided bid results for Diesel Fuel Oil and School Supplies for informational purposes. Ms. Kosmes provided Amendment No. 1 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 approved in one year increments, therefore this request is for year two of the contract. Ms. Kosmes stated that meal counts are up this year, breakfast counts have increased by 13.6% and lunch counts have increased by 6.83%. Ms. Kosmes introduced Joe Armenti the District Manager for Whitson's and Kevin Welch the Food Service Director. They brought a couple of food samples with them, fruit parfaits and smoothies, two items that are available to students at breakfast and lunch.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Early to approve Amendment No. 1 to the Food Service Management contract with Whitson's Culinary Group as outlined in the Business Manager's memorandum of March 5, 2019. Unanimous

School Committee members commended Whitson on their work at Whittier.

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

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

#### SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee met February 13, 2019 and March 13, 2019.

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

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee met February 13, 2019.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the minutes of February 13, 2019 as presented. Unanimous

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met. They will meet on April 3, 2019 at 3 pm.

The Policy Subcommittee has not met. They will meet on April 10, 2019 at 5:45 pm.

#### MEETING DATES

The Annual Organization meeting is April 8, 2019 at 5:00 P.M. The Public Hearing on the FY20 Budget is April 10, 2019 at 6:15 P.M. The Regular School Committee meeting is April 10, 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. Wood, seconded by Mr. Early to adjourn at 6:57 P.M.  
Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lisa Rand*  
Recording Secretary