



WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

A regular meeting of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee was held on **Wednesday, April 10, 2019**, at 115 Amesbury Line Road, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Alana Gilbert Lisa O'Connor Dave Irving Garry James
Paul Tucker Ben Fichera Charlie LaBella
Chip O'Connor Brett Murphy Johanna True

Members Absent: Jo-Ann Testaverde, Richard Early, Scott Wood, Tony LeSage

Others Present: Maureen Lynch, Superintendent
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. Murphy to approve the Minutes of the Budget Workshop for March 13, 2019 as presented. Approved – 3 Abstained (G. James, B. Fichera, D. Irving)

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for March 13, 2019 as presented. Approved – 3 Abstained (G. James, B. Fichera, D. Irving)

By motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Irving to accept the Treasurer's Report for March 2019 as presented. Unanimous

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Gilbert reported that she has received eight (8) school committee self-evaluation forms and hopes to go over the results at the next meeting. She asked members that have not passed in one to do so before the next meeting.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Andrew McFarland provided an update on sports and activities of the different clubs. The Chess Club has many new members each week. They have continued with the timing clock and have started a friendly competition within the Club. Student Government is preparing to hold elections for the 2019-2020 school year. They also represented Whittier at Student Government Day at the State House in Boston on April 5, 2019. The Diversity Club had a member give a presentation about her family's Muslim culture and their trip to Saudi Arabia over February break. Another member shared about his family's culture from the Côte d'Ivoire. They are preparing for "Do One Thing" for diversity promotion in May. The Drama Club worked very hard for a wonderful school play. The students enjoyed the performances and are looking forward to next year. The chorus will begin rehearsals after April break. The Interact Club assisted in selling tickets for the school play. They also helped serve their second community meal at the Haverhill Citizen Center. They will continue to partner with Haverhill Rotary to assist them in whatever they need. They are also looking forward to participating in the Relay for Life at Whittier in May. DECA States wrapped up in March with 11 students competing. They did not have any students advance to the international level but did get recognized for achieving Thrive Level. Peer Leadership has been helping student government prepare for freshman elections. They will be entering freshman homerooms to help them with the election process. They are also in the process of recruiting for next year. The Key Club had a successful blood drive and is focusing on year end activities. The Environmental Club has been working on posters to hang in the cafeteria for Earth Day as well as posters to represent Whittier at the environmental symposium in Newburyport. In addition, they are discussing a possible field trip to the Audubon at Parker River and having a tour with Johanna True or their environmental educator. The girls' lacrosse team has a combined 45 players from Whittier, Sparhawk and Amesbury. It is the first year of having a JV team. The regular season began on April 10, 2019. The boys' lacrosse has been working hard to prepare for their upcoming season. The team is made up of 25 boys with only 7 upperclassmen. Their season began on April 9, 2019 at Swampscott High. The boys' and girls' track teams have a combined total of 120+ athletes. Many of these athletes are new to track. The girls' softball team is looking to go far in the States again this year and continue their winning ways by setting their sights on becoming League Champions

five (5) years in a row. The boys' baseball team is off to a great start this year. They won their first game against Nashoba Tech and played Shawsheen on April 10th.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of an ELL instructor to provide SEI or ESL training and spring coaches. She also reported on the resignations of a cafeteria worker and a part-time science tutor.

Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that the FY20 Public Hearing on the budget was held earlier that evening and the budget books will be distributed to cities and towns.

MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that Whittier just completed its first online MCAS testing with 279 grade 10 students on March 26 and 27. The testing went very well and results will be made available before the end of the school year.

Superintendent's Update

On Friday, March 15, 2019, Ms. Lynch attended North Shore Superintendents' Roundtable meeting. The meeting was held at Whittier. Senator Bruce Tarr and many other local legislators attended to meet with Senator Lewis and Senator Chang Diaz to discuss education funding. On Wednesday, March 20, 2019, she attended the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors' meeting at Joseph's in Haverhill. On Monday, March 25, 2019, she hosted a budget meeting for finance committee members from Rowley, Salisbury, and Newburyport. On Tuesday, March 26, 2019, she attended the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce Annual Legislative meeting at Sylvan Street Grille in Salisbury. Representative Kelcourse and Senator Dizoglio spoke at the event. Ms. Lynch thanked Patty Lowell and Chris Laganas for attending the event with her. On Thursday, March 28, 2019, she hosted a budget meeting for finance committee members from Ipswich, West Newbury, Amesbury, Haverhill and Merrimac. On Thursday, March 28, 2019, Whittier hosted the Spring Advisory Board meeting. There were over 250 people at the event. Ms. Lynch thanked Beverly DeSalvo for all her hard work putting the event together. She also thanked all the members of the Advisory Board for volunteering their time to help the faculty and

students. On Tuesday, April 9, 2019, Ms. Kosmes and Ms. Lynch had lunch with Mayor Fiorentini from Haverhill. They toured the Advanced Manufacturing shop and he was very impressed with the program. On Wednesday, April 10, 2019, she attended the Merrimack Valley Superintendents' Association meeting at the Lanam Club. Ms. Lynch stated she met with Alana Gilbert and Katy Parsons the WREA President last week to discuss ways to increase school funding in schools. Ms. Lynch stated she met with Representatives and is hopeful that there will be changes to the school formula. Ms. Lynch reported on upcoming senior activities. She stated the mock crash will be May 23rd; the talent show May 24th; senior sign out May 28th; senior prom May 28th; rehearsal/senior awards luncheon May 30th; and graduation May 30th.

Ms. Lynch reported that Lowell Five Cents Savings Bank is donating a \$500.00 scholarship to benefit a graduating Whittier Tech senior.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Murphy to accept the \$500.00 scholarship from Lowell Five Cents Savings Bank to benefit a graduating Whittier Tech senior as presented. Unanimous

Ms. Lynch thanked Alison Kalman and Lowell Five Cents Savings Bank for the generous scholarship.

Ms. Lynch provided the job description for the Director of Community Partnerships for approval by the School Committee.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the job description for the Director of Community Partnerships as presented. Unanimous

Ms. Lynch provided the job description for the Coordinator of Cooperative Education for approval by the School Committee.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the job description for the Coordinator of Cooperative Education as presented. Unanimous

Ms. Lynch reported that Skills USA has submitted a request for an overnight field trip to attend the Skills USA State Competition April 25-27, 2019 in Marlborough, MA.

By motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the overnight field trip to attend the Skills USA State Competition April 25-27, 2019 in Marlborough, MA as presented. Unanimous

Ms. Patricia Lowell, Director of Pupil Personnel Services provided an Admissions Update. She provided the admission report for the 2019-2020 school year. She reported that 422 in-district students were accepted for the 2019-2020 school year compared to 376 for the 2018-2019 school year. She reported that 531 in-district applications were processed for the 2019-2020 school year compared to 487 in the 2018-2019 school year. Ms. Lynch thanked Ms. Lowell and her team for doing a phenomenal job and meeting the deadline.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

There was no Principal report.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager provided the Variance Analysis according to the Annual Agenda. She reported that accounts with available funds are highlighted in green and can be used to offset accounts with negative balances which are highlighted in yellow. Transfers to balance accounts will be done at the end of the year.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Gilbert went over the annual agenda items for May. She asked members to review the subcommittees and let her know if any changes need to be made.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met.

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee met March 28, 2019.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the minutes of March 28, 2019 as amended. Unanimous Ms. O'Connor was not in attendance at that meeting.

The Policy Subcommittee met April 10, 2019 to review the proposed Facilities Use Policy. It will be brought to the full Committee next month for a first reading. They will meet again on May 8, 2019 at 6:15 PM.

MEETING DATES

The Regular School Committee meeting is May 8, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business posted. Ms. Gilbert asked if anyone was interested in attending Day on the Hill on May 1, 2019. She stated if they would like to attend to let Maureen or Lisa know. She is planning to attend.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Gilbert stated there is a need to enter into Executive Session to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel – Business Manager and to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel – 12 month staff, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee and upon completion of Executive Session will return to open session.

By motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. James to enter into Executive Session. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

The Committee went into Executive Session at 7:09 P.M.

The Committee returned to Open Session at 7:28 P.M.

Ms. Gilbert reported that in Executive Session the School Committee voted on the Business Manager's contract and salary increases for non-union personnel – 12 month staff.

By motion of Ms. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. LaBella to approve the proposed five (5) year contract for the Business Manager and salary increase as recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Salary Negotiations subcommittee. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Ms. True, seconded by Mr. James to increase the salary of the Comptroller from \$63,397 to \$77,000 effective April 10, 2019 and approve a 2.25% salary increase for the Comptroller for the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Salary Negotiations subcommittee. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to approve a 2.25% salary increase for the Director of HR/Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent for the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Salary Negotiations subcommittee. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve a 2.25% salary increase for the Director of Technology and Information Systems for the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Salary Negotiations subcommittee. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve a 2.25% salary increase for the Director of Pupil Personnel for the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Salary Negotiations subcommittee. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve 2.25% salary increases for non-union personnel per the Superintendent's memo dated April 3, 2019 which was approved by the Salary Negotiations subcommittee. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Murphy to increase the salary for the route bus drivers from \$51.38 per route to \$55.00 per route for the 2019-2020 school year as recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Salary Negotiations subcommittee. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to adjourn at 7:37 P.M.
Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Rand
Recording Secretary