



## WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

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A regular meeting of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee was held remotely on **Wednesday, June 10, 2020** via ZOOM Teleconferencing per Governor Baker's Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20.

Members Present: Chip O'Connor    Charlie LaBella    Ron Fitzgerald  
Ben Fichera    Richard Early    Lisa O'Connor  
Brett Murphy    Johanna True    JoAnn Testaverde  
Dave Irving    Garry James

Members Absent: Scott Wood, Paul Tucker, Tony LeSage

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

Mr. Murphy stated that the meeting was being recorded and held remotely via ZOOM Teleconferencing. Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 20, the public was not allowed to physically access the meeting. However, Public Comment was made available via ZOOM Teleconferencing as well as through email in advance of the meeting start time and/or prior to Public Comment. Mr. Murphy took attendance. Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:42 P.M. Mr. Murphy began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Murphy asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for May 13, 2020 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Dr. Testaverde, seconded by Mr. James to accept the Treasurer's Report for May 2020 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Fichera to authorize the District Treasurer under the provisions of Section 6(g) of Chapter 156 of the Acts of 1967 and Chapter 134 of the Acts of the 1972 and with the approval of the Chairperson of the District Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the 12-month period beginning July 1, 2020 and to issue a note of notes therefore, payable within the fiscal year 2021.”  
Unanimously approved by roll call vote

## OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Murphy reported that results of the Superintendent’s Evaluation were provided in the packet. The results for each Standard were as follows: Standard 1- 70% Exemplary and 30% Proficient; Standard II - 60% Exemplary and 40 % Proficient; Standard III - 70% Exemplary and 30% Proficient; and Standard IV - 90% Exemplary and 10% Proficient. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Ms. True stated that the comments were not provided. Mr. Irving asked if the comments could be sent to the members.

By motion of Ms. L. O’Connor, seconded by Mr. LaBella to accept the Superintendent’s evaluation results into record. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

There was no student representative report. Ms. Lynch stated there are four (4) individuals retiring at the end of the school year; Roxann Grover, Health/PE Instructor; Sue Josephs, Culinary Arts Instructor; Mike Ragusa, Automotive Technology Instructor and Beverly DeSalvo, Vocational/Technical Coordinator. Ms. Lynch recognized each of the retirees and thanked them for their years of dedicated service to Whittier and wished them luck in their retirement.

## SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

### Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of two (2) Credit for Life Advisors and three (3) Voter Challenge Program Coordinators. She also reported on the resignation of the Evening School Secretary.

### Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that there was no budget update. They have still not heard anything about Chapter 70 funding for next year. They have submitted a 1/12 budget to the State.

### MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that Whittier is running an online MCAS summer program from July 6th - July 30th, Mondays through Thursday 10:00 am-12:30 pm. Students will get remote learning in English, Mathematics, and Science. The program was offered to all current grade 9,10, and 11 grade students.

### Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch provided an update. She stated that the Commissioner will be providing guidance on how to open next year on June 15th. The Administrative Team is working on different plans for next year. The Commissioner has said that it will be a hybrid model next year. Ms. Lynch reported that three (3) different task force committees have been developed. There are over 60 staff members interested in being a part of these committees. Ms. Lynch reported that town meetings have been set up.

Ms. Lynch reported that the Business Manager has provided a list of items that have been donated to benefit Whittier's educational and vocational programs and requests acceptance of them from the Committee.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to accept the donations for a total value of \$16,326.45 with gratitude as listed on the memorandum dated May 29, 2020 from the Business Manager. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal provided a principal update. He stated that as part of senior graduation week celebrations, a virtual presentation of the Senior Awards night was held on May 20th at 7pm. During this virtual presentation, academic and vocational awards were announced and scholarships were awarded. On May 27th, 28th, and 29th, an optional socially distanced, in-person graduation event was held for the Class of 2020 on the Whittier Tech field. All three nights were beautiful and everyone followed protocols which were required for the health and safety of all involved. Mr. Laganas

stated that it was wonderful to be able to host the in-person event and acknowledge the incredible achievements of the Class of 2020. Mr. Laganas reported that the students and staff continue to move forward with remote learning and continue to come up with creative lessons to keep students engaged. Virtual meetings with Administrators, and Cluster Chairs continue to happen on an ongoing basis. Mr. Laganas congratulated all the staff, students and parents for continuing to carry on during these unprecedented times. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if Mr. Laganas knew how many seniors participated in the graduation ceremony over the three (3) days. Mr. Laganas stated that he had a list of 316 students and 300 names were read over the three (3) days.

#### BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager provided a request for approval of a FY21 General Fund Reserve Transfer to increase the General Fund Revenue - E&D to \$500,000 and decrease the General Fund Revenue - Chapter 70 by \$500,000. She reported that state revenues have taken a large hit due to COVID-19 and to plan on reductions in Chapter 70 funding for next year. It is unclear however, what those reductions will look like and there has been no date given as to when the revised numbers will be released. She stated that it has been strongly recommended by both the Department of Revenue and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that regional school districts supplement their FY21 revenues with funds from their Excess and Deficiency account. E&D funds from Whittier's certified FY19 balance will no longer be certified after June 30, 2020 and will not be available to use as a revenue source after that date. Ms. Kosmes stated that because of that, the use of any FY19 certified E&D funds must be voted now in order to be used as a revenue source for the FY21 budget. Jay Sullivan of DESE has recommended that the best way for the School Committee to do this is to vote to approve a decrease in Chapter 70 revenue and an increase in E&D revenue by the same amount. Ms. Kosmes stated that it has also been recommended that regional districts not use all of their certified E&D as a FY21 revenue source. After the transfer, the E&D balance will be \$235,339.

By motion of Ms. True, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the FY21 General Fund Reserve Transfer to increase the General Fund Revenue - E&D to \$500,000 and decrease the General Fund Reserve - Chapter 70 by \$500,000 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Murphy went over the annual agenda items for June. There will be a July meeting. Mr. Irving asked about the MASC/MASS Joint Conference in November. He asked Ms. Lynch to let the Committee know when she hears something.

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee met on May 20, 2020.

By motion of Mr. LaBella, seconded by Mr. James to accept the minutes of May 20, 2020 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met. They may meet in July to discuss the opening of school.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met. They will meet when the budget is approved.

The Policy Subcommittee has not met. However, there are policies in the packet for a second and final reading as well as some for a first reading that were reviewed by legal counsel and ready for approval by the Committee.

Mr. Irving stated that the following policies were provided in the School Committee packets for a second and final reading: BEDH, IE, ID, IGB, IHB, IHBEA, JB, JFBB, JH, JICH, JIH, JLCB, JLCC, JRA, JII, IC/ICA, JBB, JICFA, and JJH-R.

By motion of Mr. LaBella, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to approve policies BEDH, IE, ID, IGB, IHB, IHBEA, JB, JFBB, JH, JICH, JIH, JLCB, JLCC, JRA, JII, IC/ICA, JBB, JICFA, and JJH-R for a second and final reading as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Mr. Irving stated that the following policies were provided in the School Committee packets for a first reading: IHAM, IJOA, JFABD, JFABE, JFABF, JHD and JRD.

By motion of Dr. Testaverde, seconded by Mr. James to approve policies IHAM, IJOA, JFABD, JFABE, JFABF, JHD and JRD for a first reading as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

## MEETING DATES

The Regular School Committee meeting is July 8, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

## NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business posted.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Murphy stated there is a need to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining - WREA; Support Staff - Teaching Assistants and 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 adjourn.

By motion of Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Irving to enter into Executive Session and upon completion will adjourn. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

The Committee went into Executive Session at 7:23 P.M. and will not return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lisa Rand*  
Recording Secretary