



WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

A regular meeting of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee was held hybrid (remote/in-person) on **Wednesday, June 8, 2022** via ZOOM Teleconferencing at 115 Amesbury Line Rd., Haverhill, MA per Governor Baker's Act extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the State of Emergency, specifically suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20.

Members Present: Dave Irving Scott Wood JoAnn Testaverde
 Brett Murphy Ron Fitzgerald Garry James
 Paul Tucker Joseph Haberland

Members Remote: Lisa O'Connor, Johanna True, Richard Early

Members Absent: Tony LeSage, Charlie LaBella, Chip O'Connor

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

Mr. Murphy stated that the meeting was being recorded and held hybrid (remote/in-person) via ZOOM Teleconferencing. Per Governor Baker's Act extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the State of Emergency. This Act includes an extension, until July 15, 2022, of the remote meeting provisions. Per Governor Baker's extension, the public was not allowed to physically access the meeting. However, Public Comment was made available via email in advance of the meeting start time and/or prior to Public Comment. The meeting was available for the public to view live via: <https://www.youtube.com/c/WhittierTechHighSchool> Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Mr. Murphy took attendance. All members listed as present were in attendance at Whittier Tech High School. Lisa O'Connor, Johanna True and Richard Early were present remotely via ZOOM Teleconferencing. 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. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for May 11, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the Minutes of Executive Session for May 11, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the Treasurer's Report for May 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Wood 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, 2022 and to issue a note of notes therefore, payable with the fiscal year 2023. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Murphy reported that results of the Superintendent's Evaluation were emailed to all Committee members for review. Mr. Murphy asked if there were any questions. There were none. Mr. Tucker stated that Ms. Lynch is doing a great job. Mr. Irving and Mr. Murphy stated that Ms. Lynch is doing an excellent job. Mr. James thanked Ms. Lynch. Ms. Lynch thanked the Committee members.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to accept the Superintendent's evaluation results as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Taylor Leblanc provided an update on sports and activities of the different clubs. Girls Lacrosse has gone 2 for 6 so far and is improving every game. They've had some tough late game losses but are getting better every day.

The Boys Lacrosse team is having a great season. They have a record of 9-4, with 4 freshmen starting and many first and second year contributors. The Varsity Softball team is halfway through the season and is currently in first place with a record of 7-3 overall and 4-1 in the league. The varsity Baseball team is doing well. They currently have a 6-5 overall record and they are 5-1 in the league. Both the boys and girls track teams have had some amazing performances this season. The new track, the support of the boosters, and all the help they have been getting at home meets has made for great competitions. Visiting teams have had a lot of good things to say, and the team hopes to keep that trend going. Here are a few of the highlights thus far - New School Records: Girls Mile, Girls 2 Mile, Girl's Sprint Medley set at the State Relays and Boys 4x100m relay is on the verge breaking into the top 20 all time best Whittier 4x100m performances. The Chess club is going strong with over 25 members attending last week. They are in the middle of their second tourney and have many new players! The Drama club watched two musicals, *Come From Away* and *Phantom of the Opera*. The Club is taking a brief break so that seniors can prepare for the Senior Talent Show scheduled for May 27th. On May 13th SkillsUSA students who participated in the March 17th District Conference and received a Gold, Silver or Bronze Medal along with ALL students who participated in the April 14th & 29th State Conference - Leadership & Skills Championships will head to Marlborough for the Awards Ceremony. The Whittier Chapter has received a Models of Excellence Award for their participation in the 9/11 Memorial which illustrated the Workplace Skills aspect of the SkillsUSA Framework. Only 24 schools nationwide qualify for this level of recognition. They will be competing in Atlanta GA June 20-25th for the National SkillsUSA Conference. The Environmental club continues to take care of the tower garden in Room 4006 and in the Poet's Inn. The Poet's Inn was able to incorporate cilantro grown from the tower garden in one of their dishes for the admin luncheon last week. The turtles are doing well and will soon be handed back to the head start program for release into the Parker River. The Interact club planted their sunflower peace garden on Tuesday, if everything goes as planned they will have beautiful sunflowers to come back to school in September to enjoy. The Club is working to host the Haverhill Rotary club for lunch on May 24th. The Journalism club is working on the graduation edition of Wildcats Magazine. They plan on sending out a form to the seniors to ask them to share their favorite memories, advice from the seniors, regrets, favorite class, and embarrassing moments. They will also have a short story on awards night, tradesperson of the year, SkillsUSA update, prom and graduation photos. Student government celebrated teachers during the first week of May for Teacher Appreciation Week. The Club celebrated the school's hardworking teachers with announcements, coffee, and cake. The Club is hard at work planning the June 6th elections where new officers for next school year will be elected. At the April 28th Multicultural club meeting, a senior spoke about her wonderful heritage country of Ghana and brought authentic fabrics and fashions to show the club. The Club learned that her family speaks Twi at home and that her father is the main cook in the family. On Thursday, May 12th, a freshman will speak about the Dominican Republic and share about her life experience

there. The Robotics team has received First Robotics equipment to build student First Robotics skills and are currently building physical chassis platforms. May is mental health awareness month, Peer to Peer will be promoting random acts of kindness. The Key Club held a successful Change Wars competition last month. The freshmen class came in 4th place with 89 points, Sophomores in 3rd with 885 points, Seniors in 2nd with 2,552 points, making the Juniors first place with 7,336 points. \$93 was donated to the winning class and \$170 was donated to Sweet Paws Rescue in Groveland. As this school year comes to a close, they are starting to brainstorm ideas for community service for next year. The yearbook went out to press and should be in-transit this week or next. Students have started photographing juniors participating in spring sports, for use in the 2023 yearbook.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of a route bus driver, staff to develop & integrate alignment of early college program, staff to create a full-scale promotion of Whittier's Early College program, staff to develop an early college co-advising model, staff to work on an admissions data team, staff to work on a financial literacy team, staff to update and reexamine curriculum, an instructor to work with curriculum teams, staff to create an early college grade 10 course, curriculum facilitators, grading team lead, and a grading team. She also reported on the resignations of a health office aide and school adjustment counselor.

Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that all eight (8) of the towns in the Whittier District have passed the budget so Whittier has the 2/3rd approval needed and therefore the FY23 budget has passed.

MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that on June 7th and 8th, grade 9 students took the biology MCAS for graduation. Whittier will be offering a free MCAS summer program for all freshmen and sophomores July 5th - 28th from 8 am - 12 pm. Students can sign up for Session 1, Session 2 or both Sessions 1 and 2.

School Building Update

On May 17th Brett Murphy, Dick Early, and the Superintendent interviewed and voted to have JCJ be the Architect for the building project. On June 9th, JCJ will be meeting

with Bob Hardy to pick up original drawings. Next week JCJ will be meeting with the administrative team to begin to develop the Educational Plan.

Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch provided an update. On Thursday, May 12, 2022, Ms. Lynch attended the Early College Graduation at NECC. It was a wonderful event where 55 seniors were able to experience what a college graduation was like and they were able to earn 727 credits. On Tuesday, May 17, 2022, Ms. Lynch attended a remote Whittier Fidelity Foundation meeting along with Kara Kosmes, Paul Moskevitz, and Amanda Crosby. On Thursday, May 19, 2022, Ms. Lynch attended the Newburyport Budget Hearing along with Kara Kosmes. On Friday, May 20, 2022, Whittier hosted the DESE/Whittier Spring working group for a site visit. On Friday, May 20, 2022, Ms. Lynch attended the Whittier Early College Provisional Designation remote meeting. She reported that Whittier will no longer have the word provisional with the title. She thanked Tia Gerber for all her hard work in making this a reality for Whittier students. On Tuesday, May 24, 2022, Ms. Lynch attended the Merrimack Valley Chamber Executive meeting. She was recently appointed the Chair of the Education Committee. On Tuesday, May 31, 2022, Whittier had senior sign out and the prom. Ms. Lynch thanked Whittier's Senior Class advisors Alex Valhouli, Melissa Cook, and Kristen Bucco for all of their hard work in making this a successful prom. On Wednesday, June 1, 2022, Ms. Lynch attended the Whittier Educational Visioning Planning remote meeting with LeftField and JCJ. The meeting was to start planning on the Educational Vision of the Building Project. On Thursday, June 2, 2022, Whittier held graduation. It was a wonderful night celebrating the accomplishments of all of Whittier's seniors. Ms. Lynch congratulated the Class of 2022. On Monday, June 6, 2022, Ms. Lynch attended the Workforce Competitive Trust Fund Advisory Committee meeting. She was asked to be a member of the committee by the under secretary of education and was sworn in as a board member of the committee. On Monday, June 6, 2022, she attended the Haverhill City Council meeting along with Kara Kosmes. On June 8, 2022, she attended a Public Relations & Crisis Management for School Administrators remote course.

Ms. Lynch reported that the Whittier Tech Foundation has received \$16,000 of a \$24,000 endowment from William Primack MS and Philip Primack. Starting in FY23, \$750 will be awarded annually to a graduate of the Dental Assisting Program who intends to pursue a career or further education in the field of dentistry. The name of the award is "The Dr. Joseph and Celia Primack and Shirley Lucia Dental Assisting Award".

Dr. Primack was a dentist in Haverhill and William and Philip are his two sons. Celia was Dr. Primack's wife and Shirley was his longtime dental assistant. Ms. Lynch thanked William and Philip Primack for this generous endowment and requested the School Committee's acceptance of this scholarship.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to accept the \$24,000 endowment from William Primack MS and Philip Primack with gratitude as presented by the Superintendent. Unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to accept the donations for a total value of 199,060.00 with gratitude as listed on the memorandum dated June 1, 2022 from the Business Manager. Unanimously approved by roll call vote.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal, provided an update. He reported that the Senior Activities were a great success. They had the Mock Crash, Talent show, Honors night, Senior prom, Senior awards/ barbeque and then graduation. Mr. Laganas thanked everyone involved. Mr. Laganas thanked Mrs. McNulty, Mrs. Russo and other members of the Booster Club for all their efforts. They opened the snack shack the night of the graduation and made over \$3,000 for Whittier athletes. Term 4 grades are due next week and final exams are scheduled June 10, 13-15. The last day of school is June 16th for students. Grades/report cards will be available electronically and can be requested in paper form by calling the Guidance office or Principal's office. Mr. Laganas congratulated all the Spring sports coaches and athletes for all their success this year. Sports Awards night is Monday, June 13th at 6pm. Mr. Laganas thanked Bob Hardy's maintenance crew for everything they have done throughout the school year and especially the set up for graduation and the athletic fields for the entire year!

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager reported on the audit reports for Whittier from Powers and Sullivan. The opinion on the financial statements is unmodified, which is a clean opinion and best you can have; all reporting deadlines were met; the information received was accurate; and no material weaknesses were found. Ms. Kosmes reported that the Management letter addressed two items. The auditors have recommended that the District consider utilizing Time and Attendance Software that integrates with the payroll system. The FY23 budget does include funds for this purpose.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to accept the auditor's report as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Ms. Kosmes reported that a request for a transfer of \$695,000 from the Capital Outlay account to the Capital Projects Special Revenue Fund was provided in their packets. This will allow these funds to be available for the MSBA project as it moves forward.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Irving to transfer \$695,000.00 from the Capital Outlay account to the Capital Projects Special Revenue Fund as outlined in the Business Manager's memorandum dated May 31, 2022. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Murphy went over the annual agenda items for June. Mr. Murphy asked for nominations for delegates for the MASC/MASS conference.

By motion of Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to nominate Dave Irving as delegate for the MASC/MASS Joint Conference. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to nominate Garry James as alternate delegate for the MASC/MASS Joint Conference. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Mr. Murphy stated there is no need for a July meeting unless there is an emergency and in that case the Chair would call a meeting.

By motion of Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to forego the July meeting unless there is an emergency at which time the Chair would call for a meeting.
Approved by roll call vote - 1 opposed (P. Tucker)

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met.

The Instructional Subcommittee met on May 19, 2022.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to approve the minutes of May 19, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

The Plant Operations Subcommittee met May 11, 2022.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of May 11, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee met May 25, 2022.

By motion of Mr. Early, seconded by Mr. Tucker to approve the minutes of May 25, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

The Policy Subcommittee met May 11, 2022.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the minutes of May 11, 2022 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Wood to suspend the rule to fast track policies. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the following policies for a first and final reading as presented - AC - Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation; AC-R - Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation; ACAB - Sexual Harassment; and JICK - Harassment of Students. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

MEETING DATES

The next Regular School Committee meeting will be August 10, 2022 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 - support staff association, to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel - plant facilities manager, to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel - 221 administrators 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 position of the School Committee and upon completion of Executive Session will return to open session.

By motion of Mr. James, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining - support staff association, to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel - plant facilities manager, to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel - 221 administrators 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 position of the School Committee and upon completion of Executive Session will return to open session. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

The Committee went into Executive Session at 7:11 P.M.

Mr. Wood left the meeting

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

Mr. Murphy reported that in Executive Session the School Committee voted the following:

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to approve a three-year contract renewal for the Support Staff and include a 2.75% salary increase for each of the 3 years; increase sick time from 12.5 to 15 days for 10 month employees; increase the stipend for massachusetts electrical and massachusetts plumbing licenses from \$2,500 to \$7,500 provided they go to Whittier to attend the classes and after they pass the test and submit licensure to the Superintendent's Office; attend evening school classes at Whittier Tech at no charge as recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Salary Negotiations Subcommittee. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Dr. Testaverde, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve a 3 year contract renewal for the Plant Facilities Manager and include a 2.75% salary increase for each of the 3 years and increase his personal days from 3 days to 5 days. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Dr. Testaverde, seconded by Mr. James to approve a 3 year contract renewal for the 221 Administrators and include a 2.75% salary increase for each of the 3 years. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Dr. Testaverde, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the recommended salary increases for all non-union personnel 12 month staff as recommended by the Superintendent. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Dr. Testaverde, seconded by Mr. James to approve a 2.75% salary increase for the Director of Technology & Information as recommended by the Superintendent. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Dr. Testaverde, seconded by Mr. James to approve a 2.75% salary increase for the HR Director/Administrative Asst. to the Superintendent as recommended by the Superintendent. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Dr. Testaverde, seconded by Mr. James to approve a 2.75% salary increase for the Business Manager as recommended by the Superintendent. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Dr. Testaverde, seconded by Mr. James to approve a 2.75% salary increase for the Comptroller as recommended by the Superintendent. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Dr. Testaverde, seconded by Mr. James to approve a 2.75% salary increase for the Director of Community Partnerships as recommended by the Superintendent. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Dr. Testaverde, seconded by Mr. James to approve a 2.75% salary increase for the Director of Pupil Personnel as recommended by the Superintendent. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to adjourn at 7:32 PM. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Rand
Recording Secretary