



## WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

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A regular meeting of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee was held hybrid on **Wednesday, June 9, 2021** via ZOOM Teleconferencing per Governor Baker's Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20.

Members Present: Ron Fitzgerald    JoAnn Testaverde    Dave Irving  
Richard Early    Johanna True    Lisa O'Connor (remote)  
Brett Murphy    Garry James

Members Absent: Ben Fichera, Chip O'Connor, Scott Wood, Charlie LaBella,  
Paul Tucker, Tony LeSage

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

Mr. Murphy stated that the meeting was being recorded and held hybrid 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 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 6:31 P.M. Mr. Murphy took attendance. All members listed as present were in attendance at Whittier Tech High School. Lisa O'Connor was 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. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for May 12, 2021 as presented.  
Approved by roll call vote - 1 Abstained (J. True)

By motion of Ms. True, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to accept the Treasurer's Report for May 2021 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James 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, 2021 and to issue a note of notes therefore, payable with the fiscal year 2022. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

## OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Murphy reported that they will not be taking a vote on the Superintendent's Evaluation at this time. He stated only 6 responses have been received. He asked members that have not submitted their response to do so in the upcoming month so he can go over the results at the next meeting.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

There was no student representative report.

Ms. Lynch stated there are six (6) individuals retiring this school year. She reported that two (2) of the retirees, Linda Urban and Patricia Lowell were at the meeting that evening. Ms. Lynch stated that the other retirees included Michael Ruggelo, Special Education Instructor; Chris Green, Special Education Instructor; Dan Hayward, HVAC Instructor; and Cathie Baines, Hospitality Instructor. Ms. Lynch recognized each of the retirees and thanked them for their years of dedicated service to Whittier and wished them well in their retirement.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of a Spanish instructor, a cafeteria helper, working forer, biology instructor, marine tech evening education instructor, facilitator and team member for the Early College Preparatory Seminar Program Development, individuals to work in the summer 2021 MCAS enrichment program, individuals to work in the summer vocational enrichment/skills program, substitutes for the summer programs, individuals to work in the academic summer school program and the summer attendance school.

### Budget Update

Ms. Lynch reported that they have met with all of the communities except for Groveland. They will be meeting at the end of the month.

### MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that on May 11th, 12th, 18th and 19th, all grade 10 students took the ELA and math MCAS 2.0. On June 8th and 9th, all grade 9 students took the biology MCAS paper based test. Sign ups for the Summer MCAS 2021 have gone out to all incoming and current grade 9 students.

### Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch provided an update. She reported on Thursday, May 13, 2021, she attended the Early College graduation ceremony. They celebrated 31 students who received Early College credits from Northern Essex Community College. Ms. Lynch thanked Lane Glenn and the entire Early College staff for an amazing evening celebrating the students' achievements. On Friday, May 14, 2021, she attended the remote North Shore Superintendents' Roundtable meeting. There continues to be much discussion on various grants from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. On Wednesday, May 19, 2021, she attended the Fairview Machine Award presentation to Michael Moulton. Mr. Moulton received the Massachusetts Vocational Association State Award for his contributions to Whittier Tech. On Wednesday, May 19, 2021, she went to Northeast Metro Tech with 20 other vocational superintendents to discuss the possible new admission regulations. On Wednesday, May 19, 2021, she attended Newburyport and Amesbury's virtual budget meetings along with Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager. On Thursday, May 20, 2021, she attended the remote MAVA Executive Director interviews. On Tuesday, June 1, 2021, she attended the Haverhill City Council meeting along with Kara Kosmes. On Wednesday, June 2, 2021, she attended the remote Mayor of Haverhill's Task Force on Public Health meeting. On Thursday, June 3, 2021, Whittier held graduation for the Class of 2021. Ms. Lynch thanked all that attended the graduation ceremony for the students and their families. Ms. Lynch thanked the Senior Class Advisors: Alex Valhouli, Kristin Bucco and Melissa Cook. She also thanked the sponsors for the spectacular finish to graduation: Pentucket Bank, Paul and Thelma Muscavitz Memorial Fund; William P. DeRosa, Magellan

Aerospace, Maffei Plumbing and Heating, Branch Street Dental in Methuen and Baker-Katz Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

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 \$29,429.00 with gratitude as listed on the memorandum dated June 2, 2021 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. He stated they had the mock crash, National Technical Honor Society induction night, outdoor senior formal/prom, outdoor senior sports banquet, rehearsal/senior awards luncheon and graduation. He thanked everyone involved in these activities. The Booster Club is back. He thanked Mrs. McNulty, Mrs. Russo and other members for their efforts. Final exams are June 9-15, 2021 and final grades are due by 3 pm on June 15th. The last day of school for students will be June 16th. The COVID vaccine shot will be available on June 11th for those receiving their second shot through the school. There were 177 staff and students scheduled to get this shot. Mr. Laganas thanked the entire staff, Bob Hardy's maintenance crew and students for getting through the last few hot days to continue their learning process. Mr. Laganas wished the entire Whittier family a safe and exciting summer!

#### BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager, provided a request for approval of FY21 Budget line item transfers in the amount of \$1,179,085.00. The transfer request will allow the District to move forward with the purchase of equipment and supplies for next year. Included in this transfer are adjustments that will bring into balance several other accounts.

By motion of Ms. True, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to authorize the FY21 line item transfers as outlined in the Business Manager's memorandum dated June 9, 2021. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Ms. Kosmes provided bid results for paving projects (milling & overlay, walkway repairs) for informational purposes.

Ms. Kosmes reported that added to the agenda was an approval to execute the MSBA Feasibility Study Agreement. She stated that MSBA has asked to receive this document prior to their June 23<sup>rd</sup> board meeting. As such, she requested the School Committee's approval of the Agreement which outlines the general terms and conditions that all school districts must adhere to when working with MSBA on a school building project.

By motion of Dr. Testaverde, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the MSBA Feasibility Study Agreement provided in the memorandum from the Business Manager dated June 4, 2021. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Murphy went over the annual agenda items for June. There are no policy updates at this time. Mr. Murphy asked for nominations for delegates for the MASC/MASS conference.

By motion of Dr. Testaverde, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to nominate Dave Irving as delegate for the MASC/MASS Joint Conference. Approved by roll call vote - 1 Abstained (D. Irving)

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Ms. True to nominate Garry James as alternate delegate for the MASC/MASS Joint Conference. Approved by roll call vote - 1 Abstained (G. James)

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 Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to forego the July meeting unless there is an emergency at which time the Chair would call for a meeting. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

#### SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met.

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met. They will meet in September.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee met May 19, 2021.

By motion of Mr. Early, seconded by Mr. James to approve the minutes of May 19, 2021 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

The Policy Subcommittee met May 12, 2021.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to approve the minutes of May 12, 2021 as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Mr. Irving stated the following policy was provided in the School Committee packets for a first reading: BEDL - Remote Participation Procedures

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to approved policy BEDL - Remote Participation Procedures for a first reading as presented. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

#### MEETING DATES

The Regular School Committee meeting is August 11, 2021 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 conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel - Director of Pupil Personnel and upon completion of Executive Session will return to open session.

By motion of Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to enter into Executive Session. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

The Committee went into Executive Session at 7:05 P.M.

The Committee returned to Open Session at 7:18 P.M.

Mr. Murphy reported that in Executive Session the Committee approved the proposed three (3) year contract for the Director of Pupil Personnel.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. James to approve the proposed three (3) year contract for the Director of Pupil Personnel recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Salary Negotiations subcommittee with a salary of \$143,733.00 for the 2021-2022 school year, reviewed annually thereafter. Unanimously approved by roll call vote

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to adjourn at 7:19 P.M.  
Unanimously approved by roll call vote

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lisa Rand*  
Recording Secretary