



WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

A regular meeting of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee was held on **Wednesday, September 11, 2019**, at 115 Amesbury Line Road, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Alana Gilbert Dick Early Lisa O'Connor Chip O'Connor
Garry James JoAnn Testaverde Dave Irving Paul Tucker
Brett Murphy Johanna True Ben Fichera (6:44)

Members Absent: Charlie LaBella, Tony LeSage, Scott Wood

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

Ms. Gilbert called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. There was a moment of silence for the victims of 9/11. 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. Irving to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for August 14, 2019 as presented. Unanimous

By motion of Ms. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. James to approve the Minutes of Executive Session for August 14, 2019 as presented. Unanimous

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

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business posted.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Catherine McNulty provided an update on sports and activities of the different clubs. After school activities and clubs are going to start meeting September 12, 2019 and will continue to meet after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the year. The Whittier Club Fair was held this week in the lobby during lunches to help inform students about the clubs that are offered. DECA will attend the Fall State Leadership conference in October. DECA's first meeting will be on September 17, 2019. Interact Club is working on organizing more community based events this year. They will continue to host the Wildcat Walk in the spring as well as volunteer for the community based meals at the Haverhill Citizens Center. Their first meeting will be on September 19, 2019. The Multicultural Club will hold their first meeting on September 12, 2019. They will discuss activities for the year that will include the Coats for Kids Drive and the "Do One Thing for Diversity" promotion. The chorus will be starting on September 12, 2019. They will be discussing the winter concert and going over repertoire selections. The Whittier Poetry Society will be meeting on September 12, 2019. They will be working with the English/Literacy Department on a project for the November Open House. They plan to visit Whittier's Home in Amesbury this fall. They hope to have students volunteer at the Whittier Home in Amesbury on September 21, September 22 and September 28th. Chess Club will begin next week and they anticipate a large, lively group! Peer Leadership had 45 members help out during the first-year student day. They helped freshmen read their schedule, open lockers, and navigate the building. They will also be helping out at the club fair. Their first meeting will be next Thursday and members will receive leadership training on facilitating and managing a group. Student Government worked collaboratively with school administration and class advisors to plan a very successful Senior Kick-Off Day. They look forward to some important upcoming events such as Spirit Week and the Pep Rally. The girls' varsity volleyball team had a great opening day with a season-opening win against Greater Lawrence last Wednesday and Chelsea on Monday. The Cheerleading team had more than 30 girls and boys try out. They are moving very quickly with learning new skills and planning to compete in 3 competitions next month, with many more to follow after the league competition in November. The boys' soccer team started on August 22nd, with 40 boys trying out for both teams. The team is currently 1-1-0. Girls' soccer has 23 girls on the roster. The team is currently 1-1-0 beating Greater Lawrence 4-0 and losing a heartbreaker to Northeast 2-1. Cross country is going well. The boys and girls teams are looking impressive at practice. Their first meet was September 11th. The Whittier football team had a great team victory last Saturday at Austin Prep.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of an interim transportation coordinator, a part-time Spanish instructor, a culinary vocational aide, an art instructor LTS, and instructors for the fall 2019 evening school program. She also reported on the resignations of an art instructor and a vocational technical coordinator for retirement purposes.

Budget Update

There was no budget update.

MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that preliminary scores have been received but the information is embargoed until September 24th. As soon as the information is made public, she will forward it to school committee members.

Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch reported that on Thursday, August 15, 2019, the Whittier Tech Foundation hosted a golf tournament. It was a wonderful time and the Bradley foursome won the tournament. Ms. Lynch thanked Beverly DeSalvo, Tia Roy, and Elaine Kevgas for pulling the event together. The Foundation earned just under \$10,000 for student scholarships and students in need. On Monday, August 26, 2019, the first day back for staff there was a speaker on working with students who are dealing with trauma as well as a review of expectations, school policies and ALICE drills. On Tuesday, August 27, 2019, all new students were welcomed. Ms. Lynch thanked Jonathan Warne and the Peer Leaders for helping the new students navigate the building and attend all of their classes. In the afternoon, the staff was treated to Loretta Laroche, a motivational speaker that uses humor to relieve stress. Her message was well received. On Tuesday, August 27, 2019, Ms. Lynch attended the re-dedication ceremony at the Cashman School in Amesbury along with Steve Palmer, one of the metal fabrication instructors and Superintendent Fulgoni and Mayor Gray from Amesbury. Whittier Tech students, under the direction of Mr. Palmer, did the letters for the side of the school. This was a wonderful community service project for Whittier. On Thursday, August 29,

2019, she attended the Skills Capital Grant Program Award Ceremony at Worcester Technical High School along with Kelly Fay and Chris Laganas. This award of \$420,000 will allow Whittier to buy equipment and do a small renovation of the HVAC area. On Tuesday, September 3, 2019, Whittier officially opened the new day care facility with the Haverhill YMCA. There are currently 7 children enrolled. Ms. Lynch reported that Whittier received a Safer Schools and Communities Initiative Grant put out by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security for \$60,000 for a new intercom system. Ms. Lynch reported that as of September 11, 2019, there are 1258 students enrolled at Whittier. She stated the year started off with 354 freshmen and now there are 351.

Ms. Lynch provided an update on her goals and the Strategic Plan according to the annual agenda. She stated that her goals overlap into the Strategic Plan. Over the next year, Whittier will open up a new turf field with an 8 lane track; update the equipment and renovate the HVAC area; continue to look at the new MCAS 2.0 and set new goals to improve testing scores; continue to provide and improve Whittier as an environment of accepting all students by providing for their social emotional needs; continue to look at ways to improve the school facility and the budgetary impacts that will happen to an aging building; and continue to look at the Early College Program and AP courses to help students receive college credits before graduation.

By motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Early to accept the update on goals from the Superintendent as presented. Unanimous

By motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. James to accept the proposed Strategic Plan as presented by the Superintendent. Unanimous

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal provided a principal's update. He reported that all teachers/staff returned from summer vacation on August 26, 2019. On August 27, 2019, freshmen and new students were clapped in by the staff and escorted by the 40 plus Peer Leaders into Whittier. That same day, seniors had the second annual "Senior Kick Off" which included a Kona Ice Truck, music and fun games like Frisbee and corn hole. Senior class officers/advisors put this together. All students reported August 28th and had assemblies and reviewed the student/parent handbook code of conduct focused on major infractions, bullying and harassment, vaping and the new cell phone

pilot program. There are over 300 students to date participating in fall sports. That includes football, boys' and girls' soccer, volleyball, golf, cross-country and cheerleading. On Thursday, Mr. Laganas held the club advisor meeting where they discussed the club fair showcase which was held on Monday and Tuesday during school. Whittier offers 24 clubs for students to join. On September 5th, Kevin Bradley, Athletic Director and administration hosted a Sports Information night at 5:30 pm and the same night Kevin Williams, IT Director held a mandatory iPad meeting for parents of new students at 6 pm. Mr. Laganas thanked parents for attending both meetings and both were well attended.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager reported that last spring the School Committee approved a Facilities Use/Rental Policy for community use of Whittier building and grounds. These funds are not considered part of the general fund and revenues from such rental payments and need to be deposited into a separate Facility Rental Account.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to establish a new special revenue fund as outlined in the Business Manager's memorandum dated August 29, 2019. Unanimous

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Ms. Gilbert went over the annual agenda items for October.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met.

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met. They will meet on October 3, 2019 at 3 p.m.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee met September 11, 2019.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met.

The Policy Subcommittee met August 14, 2019.

By motion of Ms. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the minutes of August 14, 2019 as presented. Unanimous

There was discussion about procedures or a policy around school committee members not attending a conference after the District paid for it. Ms. Lynch stated it should be a procedure not a policy. Ms. Gilbert is going to contact MASC in this regard.

MEETING DATES

The Regular School Committee meeting is October 9, 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. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to adjourn at 7:10 P.M.
Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Rand
Recording Secretary