



## WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

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A regular meeting of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee was held on **Wednesday, September 13, 2023** at 115 Amesbury Line Rd., Haverhill, MA.

Members Present: Johanna True      Lisa O'Connor      Ron Fitzgerald  
                         Brett Murphy      Sandi Coppinger      Garry James  
                         Dave Irving      Richard Early      Kurt Slevoski  
                         Mike Rossi

Members Remote: None

Members Absent: Chip O'Connor, Joe Haberland, Greg Noyes, Scott Wood

Others Present: Maureen Lynch, Superintendent  
                         Chris Laganas, Principal/Asst. Superintendent  
                         Katrina Jensen, Associate Principal  
                         Kara Kosmes, Business Manager

Mr. James called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Mr. James took attendance. All members listed as present were in attendance at Whittier Tech High School. Mr. James began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. James asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment. Mr. Laganas, Principal/Asst. Superintendent introduced new staff members to the Committee. The Committee welcomed them to Whittier.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for August 8, 2023 as presented.  
Approved - 1 Abstained (M. Rossi)

By motion of Ms. True, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the Treasurer's Report for August 2023 as presented. Approved - 1 Abstained (M. Rossi)

## OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business posted.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Dawensky Gustave provided an update on sports and activities of the different clubs. Student Government is meeting in the middle of September and will be working on planning the second Homecoming dance, Spirit Week, and the Pep Rally. Chess Club will be starting up soon. They are excited to get going, as there were many talented players last year who are returning. Poetry Club will be meeting week 2 on Thursdays in Room 3010. Multicultural Club will meet on the 14th and the 28th of September. They will be making plans for Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from September 15 - October 15. Robotics Club will start meeting on the 12th. They are also starting an informal Jazz-Blues music club on the 16th. Interact Club will be volunteering on Saturday, Sept 23rd at the River Ruckus in downtown Haverhill. Meetings will start the last week of September in the salon. Ski Club is looking forward to an exciting winter! Key Club's first meeting will be on Monday, September 18th after school in the library. They will be welcoming new members and starting their planning for the year. Football is off to a great start, with numbers reaching over 100 players. Varsity and JV have had two great scrimmages, and the freshmen will have a game coming up soon. The Varsity team won its first game last Saturday against Roxbury. Girls Volleyball had over 65 students try out for the team! Practices have been going well. They were able to add JVB/Freshman games to their schedule. The team has a full schedule and is eager to start. Cross Country has a good, strong crew out this year and some great captains to lead these teams. Both the girls' team and the boys' team have their top runners returning this year. They are looking forward to another successful season. The opener was on Wednesday, September 13th at Shawsheen. Girls' Varsity Soccer team worked hard in the off-season and are looking forward to the season! Boys' Soccer has 42 players, including seven returning starters. They are excited for this year and are hoping to achieve big things.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of an electrical instructor LTS, four (4) route bus drivers, individuals to work in the evening school program for 2023-2024, and individuals to work in the NAMC (Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Consortium) evening school program for welding 2023-2024. She also reported on the resignations of an electrical instructor and two route bus drivers.

### Budget Update

There was no budget update.

### MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that there is no MCAS update. There will be an MCAS update at the October School Committee Meeting.

### School Building Update

Ms. Lynch reported that there have been many meetings over the last month. The Schematic Design phase of the project will be completed by the end of the month. At that time, they will have projected numbers and how the passing of the project will impact taxpayers. Ms. Lynch stated it is important to point out that they have to do something. They have been told by Inspectional Services that before they can do any other renovation in the school that they need a sprinkler system installed. Also, the WasteWater Treatment Plant is at the end of its useful life. This will likely have Whittier hit the 20% renovation mark that would then trigger the building code upgrade for ADA compliance which would be financially substantial. They will be doing considerable outreach over the next few months to inform the 11 communities about the building project vote on January 23rd from 11 a.m. -7 p.m. in all of the communities.

### Superintendent's Update

Ms. Lynch provided an update. On Wednesday, August 9, 2023, they had a meeting with City and Town clerks from all of the cities and towns in the District. Ms. Lynch thanked Whittier's Treasurer Kevin Mahoney for his help presenting the information to the clerks. Ms. Lynch also thanked Richard Manley from Locke and Lord, Kara Kosmes and all of those that attended. They decided that the ballot election for the building project will be on January 23, 2024 from 11a.m. -7 p.m. On Monday, August 14, 2023, Whittier Tech held a golf tournament at the Black Swan Country Club in Georgetown.

Ms. Lynch thanked everyone that made the tournament possible and successful, especially Kara Kosmes, Tia Gerber, Bev DeSalvo, Rich Porcelli, and Ms. Kevgas. On Tuesday, August 15th, August 22nd, August 29th, September 5th and September 12th, Ms. Lynch attended Whittier's building project PR coordination online meetings. They are working on a new website and planning their calendar to visit all of Whittier's 11 communities. On Wednesday, August 16th, August 23rd, August 30th, September 6th and September 13th, she attended Whittier's weekly executive project meetings. There will be a building update at the October school committee meeting. On Tuesday, August 22, 2023, she attended the school building committee online meeting. On Monday, August 28, 2023, teachers returned. It was an exciting day. The administrative team broke out with teachers and did carousels in the following areas: Business Office Information & Technology Updates, Licensure & Professional Development, Special Education, Civil Rights, 504, Title IX, Student Records, Hazing & Bullying, Advisory Information & Updates, E-Hall Pass, Opening of School Information -Discipline, and Student Support Team - Syllabus Information & Updates. On Tuesday, August 29, 2023, freshmen and new students returned. Staff clapped in the freshmen and new students as they entered the school. On Wednesday, August 30, 2023, all students reported for the first day of school. On Monday, September 11, 2023, Ms. Lynch attended the Whittier Tech building project virtual meeting Part I in the morning and later in the afternoon Part II. This was an all day meeting with the vocational coordinators. They reviewed the layouts of each vocational area and were able to provide feedback and make changes. On Tuesday, September 12, 2023, she attended a school building committee meeting. At this meeting, the committee was able to see the projected costs of the project. Schematic design will be completed at the end of the month and they will report back to the school committee at the October meeting. The team will be doing considerable outreach over the next few months informing the community about the project. Information regarding that outreach will be available on Whittier's website beginning next week. Also, Whittier will be inducting their first group into the Whittier Tech Athletic Hall of Fame/50th Anniversary event on October 13th at the Haverhill Country Club. Tickets can be purchased online for \$85. This will be a special time for Whittier Tech and a great time to celebrate Whittier Tech and the future inductees.

Ms. Lynch provided her goals for the 2023-2024 school year for acceptance by the School Committee.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Ms. Coppinger to accept the Superintendent's goals for the 2023-2024 school year. Unanimous

Ms. Lynch reported that the Strategic Plan was provided to members in their packets. She provided an update on the Strategic Plan and highlighted the changes for the upcoming school year. She requested a vote on the Strategic Plan.

By motion of Mr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Irving to accept the proposed Strategic Plan update for 2023-2024 as presented by the Superintendent. Unanimous

#### PRINCIPAL/ASST. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal/Asst. Superintendent, provided an update. On August 22nd, Whittier hosted a well-attended freshman and new student parent orientation from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. The entire cafeteria was full of parents and guardians. Topics discussed included School Safety, Student Discipline/Expectations, Student Services, Internet Use, Parent Portal, Parent involvement, Sports and Athletics, Extracurricular Clubs, Booster Club information, new freshman orientation days and tours of the building. The opening of school was a success. On Monday, August 28th, the staff gathered in the cafeteria to hear Superintendent Lynch's opening day address and a warm welcome was extended to new hires. After lunch, staff participated in Carousel Breakout Sessions which included (Business Office Information, Technology Updates, Licensure & Professional Development, Special Education Civil Rights, 504, Title IX, Student Records, Hazing & Bullying, Advisory Information, E-Hall Pass, Opening Day of School Information, Discipline/AP Office Info, and the Student Support Team). On Tuesday, August 29th freshman and new students were acclimated to Whittier and navigated through their daily schedules. This year they had the "Freshman Halftime Show" earlier. They had three days designated for the Freshman Class for orientation 8/30, 8/31 and 9/5 which consisted of team building activities in the gymnasium (Jenga, Deserted Island, musical chairs, tug-of-war, free throw basketball and people bingo). There were also presentations on (Artificial Intelligence -"AI", Advisory, Wildcat Speaker Series, DEI and Athletics/Clubs). Mr. Laganas thanked Amanda Crosby and Paul Moskevitz and all the staff and student leaders for putting this together. On Wednesday, August 30th all students reported. The Assistant Principals and Mr. Laganas met with all students and reviewed the Whittier Tech Student Parent Handbook/Code of Conduct with a focus on Harassment and Bullying, and the cell phone policy. Additionally, the Guidance Dept Head, Co-op Coordinator, Athletic Director, MCAS Coordinator/Associate Principal and class advisors all made grade-level

specific presentations. There are 328 students participating in fall sports. This includes football, boys and girls soccer, volleyball, golf, cross-country and cheerleading. There will be a Club Fair during the week of September 18th - 22nd. Mr. Laganas and Assistant Principal, Ms. Fleming met with all the club advisors to discuss the Club fair showcase week, which will be held in the main lobby during lunch. Whittier has over 20 extra-curricular clubs. Whittier continues its commitment to the safety of students and staff through the ongoing monitoring of school safety procedures and protocols. They are in the process of setting up safety training exercises with teachers/office staff and students. The agenda includes A.L.I.C.E. scenarios, protocols, and practical training.

#### BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

There was no Business Manager report posted.

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. James went over the annual agenda items for October.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met.

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee met August 8, 2023.

By motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of August 8, 2023 as presented. Approved - 1 Abstained (L. O'Connor)

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met.

The Policy Subcommittee met August 8, 2023.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Ms. L. O'Connor to approve the minutes of August 8, 2023 as presented. Unanimous

Mr. Irving stated that the updated Admission Policy was provided to members for review and approval.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Ms. Coppinger to approve the updates to the Admission Policy as presented. Approved - 1 Abstained (M. Rossi)

Mr. Early thanked the Superintendent and staff for attending all the meetings regarding the new building.

#### MEETING DATES

The Regular School Committee meeting is October 11, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

#### NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business posted. Mr. James asked Ms. True if she would be the alternate delegate at the MASC/MASS conference in November.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald to nominate Johanna True as the alternate delegate at the MASC/MASS conference. Unanimous

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session posted.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Murphy to adjourn at 7:13 P.M.  
Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lisa Rand*  
Recording Secretary

#### *The following list of documents and/or exhibits were used:*

School Committee minutes 8-8-23  
Treasurer's Report August 2023  
List of Hires & Resignations  
Superintendent Goals 2023-2024  
Strategic Plan 2023-2024  
Plant Operations Subcommittee minutes 8-8-23  
Policy Subcommittee minutes 8-8-23  
Admissions Policy