



WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

A regular meeting of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee was held on **Wednesday, November 14, 2018**, at 115 Amesbury Line Road, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Alana Gilbert Garry James Ben Fichera (6:34 pm)
Paul Tucker Tony LeSage Dick Early
Lisa O'Connor Brett Murphy Chip O'Connor
Johanna True Jo-Ann Testaverde Dave Irving

Members Absent: Charlie LaBella, Scott Wood

Others Present: Maureen Lynch, Superintendent
Chris Laganas, Principal
Kara Kosmes, Business Manager
Andrew McFarland, Student Representative
Dr. Kelly Fay, Coordinator of Curriculum & Staff Development
Kevin Williams, Director of Technology & Information Systems

Ms. Gilbert called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Ms. Gilbert began the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. Mr. Laganas introduced new personnel for the 2018-2019 school year.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Irving to approve the Minutes of the Regular School Committee meeting for October 17, 2018 as presented.
Approved – 2 Abstained (D. Early, T. LeSage)

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by L. O'Connor to approve the Minutes of Executive Session for October 17, 2018 as presented. Approved – 3 Abstained (D. Early, T. LeSage, D. Irving)

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

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business posted.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Andrew McFarland provided an update on sports and activities of the different clubs. Chess Club is meeting every Thursday. There are currently 15 members. They are all having fun while continuing to learn the game. For Veteran's Day, Student Government organized a school-wide effort to recognize all staff members at Whittier Tech who have served in the armed forces. CAD designed a banner in recognition of all the Whittier Veterans, Culinary organized a small "Coffee and Dessert with our Vets", and the School Newspaper is working on an article for the December edition profiling the veterans from Whittier. The Peer to Peer Club participated in a very successful walk for Domestic Violence Awareness and raised \$400.00. The money raised was donated to a program that aids adolescents who have been affected by domestic violence. Plans are being finalized for the annual canned food drive competition that collects food to be distributed to local food pantries. The Chorus performed at Open House. The students sang three choral pieces and one of the seniors sang a beautiful solo piece. Chorus is rehearsing daily to prepare for the Holiday Concert which will be held on December 13th. The Drama Club is holding auditions for the 2019 musical "Curtains" on Tuesday, November 13th and Monday, November 19th. It is a musical comedy "who-done-it" murder mystery created by Kander & Ebb of Cabaret and Chicago fame. The Multicultural Club designed and assembled their bulletin board to show at Open House. One of the club members designed a new logo for the Club. It depicts their mission to celebrate and acknowledge the diversity in our community. The Club is preparing for their annual Coat Drive, which starts the Monday after Thanksgiving. Peer Leadership entered freshman homerooms again to show all the useful resources available on the student intranet. This included the daily announcements, the lunch schedule, and how to create IT help tickets for any technical issues students may encounter. Peer leaders also helped with tours at Open House and many are helping out with 8th grade tours. The Key Club elected their officers. This past weekend, they helped out at a Kiwanis Fundraising event and will be volunteering at the Salisbury Sea-Festival of Trees, The Christmas Stroll in Haverhill, The VFW Santa Parade, and serving at the Breakfast with Santa put on by the Salisbury Fire Department. GSA is looking for members. All students are welcome to attend. Meetings are held every other Thursday. Boys' soccer had a good season, finishing with a 7-9-2 record. Prior to the Whittier vs. Ipswich game, Ipswich generously hosted Whittier's Senior Night; six seniors were honored that night.

The Boys' and Girls' cross country teams wrapped up their season in the State Vocational meet and the Divisional Meet last week. The boys placed 7th and the girls 5th. Girls' soccer finished up the season with Senior Night vs. Northeast on October 30th. There were 8 seniors honored that evening. Girls' varsity volleyball had their highest winning season since 2014 with a final record of 12-8. They placed 4th in the CAC overall and were seeded 13th in Division 2 of the MIAA State Tournament. The varsity football team has a record of 4-5. The Thanksgiving Football game will be on Wednesday, November 22nd under the lights at Greater Lawrence Technical High School.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of a math instructor LTS, an individual to work in the fall 2018 math MCAS after school program, individuals to work in the fall 2018 grade 12 SAT prep after school program, individuals to work in the evening school, individuals to tutor students after school who are out of school due to medical reasons, and a peer leadership advisor. She also reported on the resignations of an English instructor and school nurse for the purposes of retirement and a maintenance mechanic.

Budget Update

There was no budget update.

MCAS Update

Ms. Lynch reported that 3 juniors took the ELA MCAS Retest on November 8th, 9th and 13th. There are 14 juniors taking the Math MCAS Retest November 14th and 15th. Whittier ran a free MCAS after school program for 14 students for 3 weeks prior to the start of the November Retest.

Superintendent's Update

On Tuesday, October 23, 2018, Ms. Lynch hosted the Superintendent's Advisory Board meeting. At the meeting, Beverly DeSalvo, Vocational/Technical Coordinator gave an update on Whittier's Vocational programs including the new Dental Assisting Program. On Wednesday, October 24, 2018, she attended the Annual Essex County

Superintendents' meeting at the DA's Office in Salem. At the meeting, they discussed changes in SRO responsibilities in schools as well as the uptick in vaping. On Thursday, October 25, 2018, she attended the MAVA Officers' meeting, the Board of Directors' meeting and the General Membership meeting in Marlborough. Commissioner Jeff Riley spoke at the general membership meeting. On Friday, October 26, 2018, she attended the North Shore Superintendent Roundtable. At the meeting, they discussed how to best work with students that are dealing with trauma. On Tuesday, October 30, 2018, she met with Glenn Burns, Principal of Haverhill High School and Victoria Kelley, Career & Technical Ed Coordinator of Haverhill High School. She thanked Scott Wood for attending that meeting. On Sunday, November 4, 2018, Whittier held its annual open house. On Wednesday, November 7 – Saturday, November 10, 2018, Ms. Lynch attended the MASC/MASS conference in Hyannis along with 7 of Whittier's school board members. On Tuesday, November 13, 2018, she attended the Merrimack Valley Superintendents' Association meeting. Attorney Mike Long gave an update on new school law issues. On Tuesday, November 13, 2018, she attended the YMCA Educator of the Year. She announced that Roxann Grover was the Educator of the Year and yesterday was her 40th anniversary at Whittier Tech. Ms. Lynch provided a roof update. She also reported that the Allied Health Center should be complete in December and the Committee will take a tour of it at the December meeting.

Dr. Kelly Fay, Coordinator of Curriculum & Staff Development provided an academic update through a PowerPoint presentation. She provided the curricular changes in English, math, science, history and electives. In English, new early college courses in World Literature 1 & 2 were added. This is open to juniors and seniors. In math, Algebra II/Geometry was added to the math sequence. They are in the process of preparing students for the AP Calculus AB exam and conducting a course audit to get the Calculus course approved by the College Board. They began the new science sequence and all grade 9 students are taking biology. In June 2018, the new history frameworks were released and members of the Department have been attending information sessions. A grant has been written to update the curriculum in history. A new criminal justice elective and additional Spanish course has been added. Dr. Fay provided an update on professional development. She stated the focus is on social emotional learning. All staff members read the book "Social Emotional Learning in the Classroom" and all administrators were trained over the summer by the author, Dr. William Ribas. Dr. Fay stated that all department heads took part in the train-the-trainer

professional development session. She reported that on the first day of school there were two keynote speakers, the author Dr. Ribas and Rob Riordan from High Tech High. All half day sessions have been focused on how to integrate social emotional learning into daily practice.

Mr. Kevin Williams, Director of Technology and Information Systems provided a Technology update through a PowerPoint Presentation. He stated they have been preparing for the MCAS 2.0. It is a computer based test so they have been running trials so they can provide teacher training on how to manage the test. He also reported they are exploring options to use some Pearson software to deliver in-house assessments so students gain more proficiency using the tools for this important test. Mr. Williams stated they have also been working with maintenance to finish the first phase of the access control systems. He also provided an update on the new website. This year they fully implemented the new on-line admissions. An additional benefit of using this on-line system is that they are able to reach out to students accepted to Whittier to see if they are interested in fall sports, clubs and activities. Mr. Williams also stated that they replaced core of network, expanded the network and Wi-Fi to the press box, continue to upgrade staff devices and classroom technology and completed the rollout of the new POS system in the cafeteria. Mr. Williams showed a new ad they created for Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal provided a principal's update. Open House was held November 4th from 1-4 pm and was well attended. There were many interactive activities, and staff presentations. Also, the shop areas had interactive demonstrations, which included interactive student demonstrations. The middle school tours began last week. Tours will be completed before the winter holiday break. Ipswich came for a tour this past Tuesday, Haverhill – Consentino toured yesterday and Amesbury is coming on November 20th. The first quarter is over and report cards were issued on November 9th. Parent's night will be held Thursday, November 15th from 6 – 8 pm. Parents will be able to have brief meetings with their child's academic teachers and visit their child's vocational teacher. Also, from 5 – 6 pm during that evening, there will be a grade 9 information session about choosing a technical program. The "Above the Influence" program continues its quest to educate students about the negative influences of alcohol and drugs. During parent's night, a display will be set up "Weeding Through the Myths" a presentation about vaping. This presentation will be going on in the Health

Room from 5 pm until close. Roxann Grover, the Coordinator will be there until 8 pm answering any questions. The Booster Club continues their ongoing efforts to raise funds for student athletes. Students will be going to Skills USA Fall Leadership Conference November 18th – November 20, 2018 in Marlborough. Last night, Roxann Grover was awarded YMCA Teacher of the Year. She has worked at Whittier Tech for 40 years.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager provided an FY19 budget line item transfer request to balance the salary account appropriations so that they align to the contractual changes that the School Committee approved after the FY19 budget was finalized.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Murphy to authorize the line item transfers in the amount of \$234,755.00 as outlined in the Business Manager's memorandum of November 1, 2018. Unanimous

Ms. Kosmes provided an FY20 Budget Calendar with the proposed calendar dates to meet with the Executive Subcommittee in the design of the budget for review and approval.

By motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Irving to accept the proposed FY20 budget calendar as presented. Unanimous

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Ms. Gilbert reported that there were no annual agenda items for December

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to suspend the rules to set a new date for the annual organization meeting from April 1, 2019 to April 8, 2019. Unanimous

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Subcommittee has not met.

The Instructional Subcommittee has not met.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee has not met.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee has not met.

The Policy Subcommittee has not met. Mr. Irving reported that there are policies in the packet for a second reading and final approval.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Dr. Testaverde to accept the following policies for a second reading and final approval as presented: JFABE, JFABF, JICH, GBEBD, ILD, BEDA, BBBA/BBBB. Unanimous

MEETING DATES

The Regular School Committee meeting is December 12, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Members that attended the MASC/MASS Joint Conference in Hyannis provided an update to the full Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session posted.

By motion of Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. LeSage to adjourn at 7:47 P.M.
Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Rand
Recording Secretary