



WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

A regular meeting of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee was held on **Wednesday, September 12, 2018**, at 115 Amesbury Line Road, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Members Present: Alana Gilbert Garry James Chip O'Connor
Paul Tucker Richard Early Scott Wood
Dave Irving Brett Murphy Tony LeSage
Johanna True Jo-Ann Testaverde

Members Absent: Ben Fichera, Charlie LaBella, Lisa O'Connor

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

Ms. Gilbert called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M. 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 8, 2018 as presented. Approved – 1 Abstained (T. LeSage)

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

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Gilbert provided the results of the Superintendent's evaluation. She tabulated the results from ten members. The results for each Standard were as follows: Standard I 2 Exemplary and 8 Proficient; Standard II 3 Exemplary and 7 Proficient; Standard III 4 Exemplary and 6 Proficient; and Standard IV 7 Exemplary and 3 Proficient. She also provided general comments from members.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

There was no Student Representative Report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Action

The Superintendent, Maureen Lynch reported on the hiring of a dental assisting instructor, two (2) cosmetology instructors, two (2) vocational aides, a health assisting/LPN program administrator, a Spanish instructor, a math instructor LTS, a special education instructor, an electrical instructor, a science tutor PT, an interim plant facilities manager, a maintenance mechanic, two (2) route bus drivers, a community services and post-secondary/early college programs advisor, director of evening school and fall coaches. She also reported on the resignations of a cafeteria worker, maintenance mechanic, confidential secretary to the Superintendent and plant facilities manager.

Budget Update

There was no budget update.

MCAS Update

There was no MCAS update.

Superintendent's Update

On Thursday, August 9, 2018, Ms. Lynch attended the MAVA Board of Directors' Planning Retreat. Jeff Riley the new Commissioner for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education spoke. She stated he seems committed to improving teaching and learning and less on school accountability. On Wednesday, August 15, 2018, MSBA came to Whittier for a Senior Study. There was a committee that walked through the building along with Ms. Lynch and Kara Kosmes. Ms. Lynch stated they should be hearing whether Whittier will be put in the pipeline sometime in the fall. On Thursday, August 16, 2018, Whittier Tech's Foundation 2nd Annual Golf Tournament was held at the Bradford Country Club. At that event, they were able to raise \$19,000 for Whittier students. Ms. Lynch thanked the sponsors of the event. All teachers

reported to school on August 27, 2018. William Ribas spoke to the faculty about Social Emotional Learning and Robert Reardon from High Tech High School spoke in the afternoon about inspiring students to want to learn. Freshman and new students started on Tuesday, August 28, 2018 and all students reported on August 29, 2018. On Tuesday, September 4, 2018, Ms. Lynch attended the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Executive Series luncheon at the Lanam Club with Dave Cunningham, Whittier's Evening School Director. The guest speaker was Secretary of Education James Peyser.

Ms. Lynch provided an update on her goals according to the annual agenda.

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

Ms. Lynch provided a copy of the Strategic Plan as required on the annual agenda. She stated that the highlighted areas are the additions and/or changes to previous objectives.

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

Ms. Lynch reported that the wrestling team has submitted an out of state field trip request to attend a wrestling tournament in Pelham, New Hampshire on January 12, 2019.

By motion of Mr. Irving, seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the out of state field trip for the wrestling team to attend a tournament in Pelham, NH on January 12, 2019 as presented. Unanimous

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Chris Laganas, the Principal provided a principal's update. He reported on the opening of school. He stated that all staff reported on August 27th and freshman and new students on August 28th. They were clapped into Whittier by the staff and escorted by the Peer Leaders. Also, on August 28th, the seniors had the first ever "Senior Kick Off" from 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm which included donated flatbread pizza, music and games such as Frisbee and corn hole. The Senior Class Officers put the event together. On August 29th, all students reported. The Assistant Principals and Principal

met with all students and reviewed the student/parent handbook code of conduct with a focus on harassment and bullying. All other presentations included specific grade level. There are 307 students to date participating in fall sports. That includes football, boys' and girls' soccer, volleyball, golf, cross-country and cheerleading. The IT Department held mandatory iPad meetings for parents of new students on September 4, 5, and 6. On September 4th, the Athletic Director and administration hosted a Sports Information night at 5:30 pm. On Tuesday, September 11th, Mr. Laganas met with the club advisors to discuss the club fair showcase, which was held on September 12th and 13th. The "Above the Influence Program" continues to help teens stand up to negative pressures and influences. The program advisor, Roxann Grover will continue to explore activities in an effort to raise awareness and promote a positive atmosphere. Ms. Gilbert stated there are wonderful things done at Whittier to make the students feel special and included. She commended the administration and staff.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Kara Kosmes, the Business Manager provided the bid results for the Allied Health Center for informational purposes. Last year, Whittier received a Mass Capital Skills Grant to support a new Dental Assisting program. An area on the third floor that was formerly used as a tutoring lab is being renovated to create an Allied Health Center, a space that will now house the Medical Assisting, Health Assisting and Dental Assisting programs. A bid for the construction work needed to renovate this area was originally advertised in June. Since no bid responses were received at that time, the project was rebid in August. Three (3) responses were received and were opened and evaluated on August 21st. The contract was awarded to Charters Brothers whose bid in the amount of \$642,259 was the lowest.

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 September 19, 2018 at 3:30 pm.

The Plant Operations Subcommittee met September 12, 2018. Mr. Tucker introduced Robert Hardy, the interim Plant Facilities Manager. The Committee welcomed him.

The Salary & Negotiations Subcommittee met September 12, 2018.

The Policy Subcommittee met September 12, 2018. They reviewed policies and will bring forth policies in October for a first reading.

MEETING DATES

The Regular School Committee meeting is October 17, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business posted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session posted.

By motion of Mr. James, seconded by Mr. Irving to adjourn at 7:02 P.M.
Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Rand
Recording Secretary