

Winooski School District
Office of the Superintendent
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The mission of the Winooski School District is to awaken in its diverse student body, a thirst for knowledge, a passion for learning, and a desire to become responsible members of the world community. We offer a safe, supportive, educational environment. Our team of professionals recognizes individual strengths and needs and fosters academic excellence and personal growth. Working together in partnership with families, and the community, we strive to instill shared core values –respect, responsibility, empathy–and a commitment to help every student reach his or her potential.

Superintendent’s Board Report

- ***Community Dinner:*** I want to thank everyone who attended the August 14th Community Dinner at the O’Brien Community Center. The unofficial count was nearly a hundred Winooski residents in attendance. Everyone enjoyed a delicious Tiny Thai dinner and the conversations about learning were thoughtful and useful. Thanks to Sue McCormack, Mike Decarreau and Tori Cleiland for their excellence in planning the event. Our interpreters did an excellent job of translating technical educational language and sharing the important thoughts of our diverse community. A special thanks to Ray Coffey, Sandy Metivier, Bryan Thompson and Matt Gonzalez for their help in making the event such a success. It was truly a community event!
- ***Introductory Meetings:*** I have continued my emphasis on building relationships across the Winooski community by meeting with the following folks:
 - Kate Nugent-Winooski Coalition for Safe & Peaceful Communities
 - Martha Maksym-United Way Executive Director and Chair of Partnership for Change Steering Committee
 - Ray Coffey-Winooski Community Services Director
 - Katherine “Deac” Decarreau-Winooski City Manager
 - Steve McQueen-Winooski Police Chief
 - Dave Bergeron-Winooski Fire Chief
 - Morgan Kelner & Cathy Resmer-Dollars for Scholars
 - Hal Colston & Lindsay Cox-Director and Project Manager, Partnership for Change
 - Kathi Apgar-Director, FAHC Early Childhood Program
 - George Cross-Winooski community member & former superintendent
 - Dr. Robert Hamilton- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Albany College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences (ACPHS)
 - Sr. Pat & Elizabeth Hallock-Steckel-Fletcher Allen Community Outreach
 - Tina Muncy
 - Dean Fuller-School Resource Officer
- ***Calendar 2.0 Update***
 - Partner Summit: On July 23, 2013, Champlain Valley Superintendents Association and Vermont Afterschool, Inc sponsored a “Partner Summit,” where a variety of out-of-school organizations and school systems met to discuss opportunities within Calendar 2.0. There were 64 participants total, representing 13 statewide and cross-region partners, 7 superintendents, 18 afterschool programs and 6 libraries. This Partner Summit was the first time school systems and out-of-school

organizations ever met to discuss our communities' most valuable asset - children - and more specifically, how to create opportunities to enhance their learning experiences, both in and out of school. The meeting agenda focused on: setting the context for the proposed Calendar 2.0, brainstorming opportunities, creating themes, and discussing next steps. By the end, the entire group came up with nine themes that needed further exploration: Equity, Intersessions, Funding, Logistics, Communication, Childcare, Transportation, Teacher Contracts, and Learning.

Four dates in October, 2013 have been established for community forums across Chittenden County regarding the proposed Vermont Champlain Valley regional "School Calendar 2.0" for the 2014-2015 school year. Based on the [Vermont Superintendent's Association \(VSA\) Education Quality Framework](#) and the [VT World-Class Education Agenda](#), the School Calendar 2.0 is a new way of looking at what a school calendar could look like. This calendar preserves the current 175 student days while building in blocks of times, or intersessions, that could be used for multiple purposes for multiple stakeholders. The dates for these regional forums are: October 2nd, 3rd, 9th & 10th. Specific locations and times are being finalized and will be announced soon. For more information on the proposed regional calendar, visit: schoolcalendar2.blogspot.com.

- Organizational Chart 2013-14: Please see the actual chart in the supporting materials.
- "The World Within Winooski" & "The Opiate Effect": Leon Wheeler, Robin Hood, Mary O'Rourke and I attended two local film opportunities this past month:
 - "The World Within Winooski", is a local film produced by Philip Fass for the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program (VRRP). I attended a preview of this documentary at the Winooski Welcome Center & Gallery hosted by Jodi Harrington. The film will "depict our town's past and present as a multicultural destination of hope and opportunity. This historic role extends from Native Americans through the French Canadian and Irish millworkers, and on to recent arrivals who left distant ancestral homelands to seek a better life." (<http://www.legacyvideoportraits.com/winooski.html>). I hope you will consider seeing this film when released to gain a powerful and historical perspective on our beautifully diverse city.
 - "The Opiate Effect". You can view the film in its entirety online here: <http://www.grpny.com/opiateeffect> It is a compelling story of the tragic heroin overdose death of UVM student Will Gates in 2009. Following the movie there was a panel discussion with local leaders who are directly dealing with all the problems associated with opiate addiction. Clearly, this has an impact on some of our families and I am hoping to get involved in a broad and systemic approach to tackling this growing problem.
- Consolidation Study Committee: This committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, September 9th at 5:30pm in the Winooski Central Office.

Goal #1: Increase student learning and growth

- A group of 12 high school students had internships throughout the summer, working 17 hours/week and training together for 2 hours/week. The O'Brien Center and Navicate partnered to make this possible, and the initial reports are tremendous. It's exciting to hear about the learning that's happening year round with our students.
- The 2013 English Language Learner Newcomer Summer School for elementary students was a great success with 15 students attending. The math content area was fractions; this content is targeted at each grade level with the common core. 100% of the students demonstrated gains from

their pre to post assessment. In addition, the week focused on building background knowledge through field trips throughout the community, which is critical for Newcomers.

- The 2013 ELL Summer Transitions Session for middle/high school students proved to be the most successful, active and challenging in our three-year history, with 22 students completing the course. Both Math and Language Arts instruction introduced students to key concepts, which they could then work on during afternoon homework time. Many students chose to work in small groups, which accentuated the benefits of student-based instruction. The high school students were motivated to learn and get good grades. The average grade for students was 80.4 (with seven students above the average). The granting of a humanities credit for successful completion (and a certificate for middle school students) created a sense of academic rigor. Students were highly motivated and recognized the importance of their daily work and the grades they received. Students went on numerous field trips as an extension of the work they did in class. In addition students had multiple guests visitors in class, with a visit from General Michael Dubie!
- We received our accountability report from the state which lets us know our Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status.
 - Our elementary is in Year 3 Corrective Action. We are in Year 2 of School Improvement for Reading and Year 3 Corrective action for math. We did not meet the requirements for all students, free/reduced lunch students, white students, and ELL students in both reading and math. We met AYP for the Academic Indicator and Participation.
 - Our middle school is in Year 3 Corrective Action. We are in Year 1 Corrective Action for Reading and Year 3 Corrective Action for Math. We met AYP for the Academic Indicator and Participation.
 - The high school is in year 5 of Corrective Action. We are in Year 2 Corrective Action for Reading, Year 5 Corrective Action for Math, Year 4 Corrective Action for Academic Indicator and we did not meet Graduation Rate requirements for all students, free/reduced students, white students. We met AYP Participation requirements. The high school received a letter from Secretary of Education Armando Vilaseca acknowledging our Reading improvement of greater than 10% and as a result we met Safe Harbor. (see attached letter)

Goal #2: Increase student engagement through best instructional practices

- The elementary classroom teachers, special educators and ELL teachers all participated in a week long course “Best Practices in Mathematics Instruction.” This course will help shape our work in mathematics this year. Some of these practices will also be used in literacy as they are best practices!
- Next week, we will have an entire staff training in mindfulness. Six teachers will pilot these practices this school year. There is a strong connection to social thinking. Mindfulness will give our students (and adults) additional strategies to use when in the moment!
- Jan Willey and Mary O’Rourke met with David White (our science consultant). They started to map out our professional development for the K-5 teachers. They also discussed the K-12 work that was started last year and the work that needs to be done this year.
- The middle and high school math teachers who were unable to attend Best Practices in Mathematics Instruction at the beginning of the summer will join the elementary training during in-service. During the year there will be four studio days when the math teachers will work together to improve their integration of best practices through observation and reflection.
- The middle school teachers are working closely with the *Tarrant Institute for Innovative Education* as they roll out the integration of 1:1 iPads with our students. The planning process

began last spring and continued into the summer with 20 teachers working and planning together for a week in June.

Goal #3: Increase parent/community engagement

- We will hold our “Welcome Back to School!” BBQ on Wednesday, August 21st. This is a great way for parents to meet one another/ socialize and then meet their child’s teacher. Giving students having the opportunity to meet their teacher and see their classroom prior to the first day of school is a good way to set a welcoming and safe tone for the school year and alleviate some of that first day anxiety.

Goal #4: Collaboration and communication

- Attended “The Opiate Effect” film and panel presentation (Sean, Leon, Mary, Robin)
- Attended “The World Within Winooski” (Sean, Leon, Mary, Robin)
- Attended the community forum (Leadership Team)
- Robin Hood, Director of Support Services is collaborating with Chittenden County Special Education Administrators (CCSEA), along with Children’s Integrated Services (CIS) and Early Intervention (EI) to develop a regional agreement around intervention services and evaluations. Once the agreement is in place, the agencies will use it to guide their interactions on behalf of the Part C Early Intervention Services system, including Child Find and transitions.
- Robin Hood, Director of Support Services and Kate Grodin, Middle/High School Assistant Principal worked with the Oldham Innovative Research Group to refine the indicators for the Partnership for Change and better align them with the work in both Winooski and Burlington. The goal is to set solid indicators that will both define and demonstrate success throughout the next five years in the following areas: Student Learning, Teaching and Instruction, School Systems, and Community Indicators. Each indicator will define short-term outcomes as well as measurement tools, and baseline data and frequency of data collection. All of these support the focus of the Nellie Mae Grant, which are: teaching and learning environments, family and school partnerships, youth engagement and leadership, community based learning, and personalized and proficiency based learning.
- On August 15th, Joseph Clark, special educator and certified EMT, trained members of the new Winooski School District Medical Emergency Response Team in both first aid and CPR. 6 teachers and one administrator were trained using the HeartSaver First Aid Program.

Finance

- The final entries have been made to adjust the FY12 checking account balance. In September, we will move the FY12 Fund Balance to the reserve account.
- Bill Yacavoni will perform our FY13 audit. We will plan to put a Request for Proposal (RFP) out in early Jan for the FY14 audit.
- The estimate of about \$100,000 (about 1 %) is still on target for the FY13 Fund Balance. The special education reimbursement rate will be published mid-August and will be a factor in this number.

Facilities

- iPad Theft Update: As has been publicized, Charles Ring has been charged with the theft of all fifty iPads and is awaiting the next steps in the legal process. Our insurance claim has been processed and we have ordered all the materials necessary (iPads, covers, etc.) to fully replace our stolen property. While our hope is to have everything ready on the first student day there is a lot of work to be done and it may take a bit longer.
- Summer projects update
 - Hot Water tank in the kitchen has been installed
 - The playgrounds have all received new mulch
 - The Library has been painted
 - New signs installed in the main lobby
- The parking lot is ready for the opening of school. The lines have been freshly painted, including the addition of angled parking and directional arrows.
- Recently met with the Maintenance and Custodial staff as a whole group. Over the next months we will work to become a PreK-12 team to better serve the needs of the district.

Action Items

The Winooski administration recommends that the board approve all of the following action items:

- Personnel
 - Resignation
 - Schuyler Allen: Middle School Math Teacher
 - New Hires
 - Shanon Chalmers: Elementary Special Educator (1-Year Only)
 - Lois Fuller: Early Childhood Special Educator
 - Callie Reinker: Middle School Math Teacher
 - Jessica Tuttle: Family & Consumer Science (Long-Term Substitute)