

December 4, 2014

Winooski School District
Office of the Superintendent
60 Normand Street
Winooski, Vermont 05404
(802) 383-6000
www.wsdschools.org

All students will graduate from the Winooski School District (WSD) college and career ready at a cost supported by a majority of the Winooski community. WSD students will lead healthy, productive and successful lives and engage with their local and global community.

Superintendent's Board Report

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

- Consent Agenda
 - Minutes of Meetings: November 12, 2014
 - Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities: please see backup documents attached for all of these items
 - Action: Approval of Bills
 - Accept District Treasurer's Report for 2013/14
 - Approve Resolution for Checking Account for Student Store
 - Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
 - Approve Contract Recommendation – E. Ide, Long-Term Sub, Grade 4
 - Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - Accept 2.8 Superintendent Monitoring Report
 - Superintendent Report to Board

Discussion & Action Items: Please read the attached backup materials to be prepared for the following board discussions and actions:

- Policy Title: 4.5 Agenda Planning
 - Discussion: Board Goals

-
- Introductory Meetings:
 - Susan Stasny, Director of Human Resources, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC)
 - Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:
 - [Message about SBAC from Secretary Holcombe](#)
 - [JFK Elementary Principal Search posting & process:](#) The Principal Interview Team has met twice to review confidentiality requirements and “Interview Do’s & Don’ts”, and develop questions for the actual interviews. The linked document shows the posting, process and interview team for the search to replace our beloved Mary O’Rourke. As you will see there will be public forums for finalists

in February and I will recommend a new principal to the board at the April board meeting.

- Legislative update:
 - [Act 166 PreK Transition Letter from Secretaries Holcombe & Chen](#)
 - [Education Tax Rate Recommendation Letter from Commissioner Peterson](#)
 - Green Mountain Imperative Summit: The Vermont Business Roundtable and partners such as VT Superintendents Association (VSA) hosted this summit to deepen understanding of the challenges facing Vermont's public education system. WSD teacher Will Andrews presented on the topic of student engagement and Secretary Holcombe used the iLab as an example of innovation in her remarks. Other related items:
 - VSA Executive Director Jeff Francis said "The Summit reflected the tremendous energy among statewide policy makers and related parties-of-interest for changes to the education delivery system in Vermont. It remains to be seen what changes will be pursued, but proposals will inevitably extend into both the funding system and the delivery system."
 - <http://vtdigger.org/2014/11/18/education-changes-choice-inaction/>
 - <http://vtdigger.org/2014/11/17/education-summit-seeks-common-ground/>
 - [Times Argus/Rutland Herald Editorial](#)
- Colchester collaboration possibilities
 - Last month the Colchester School District (CSD) decided to explore the consolidation of their two K-2 schools, Union Memorial and Porters Point, into a new Pre-K – 1 Early Education Center on the main campus where CHS, CMS and MBS currently reside. I contacted Superintendent Larry Waters to find out more about this work. Following my conversation with Supt. Waters I discussed the possibility of exploring some collaboration with CSD with Board President Mike Decarreau. At this point Supt. Waters and I will be requesting funds from the AOE to undergo a collaborative study to explore potential ways to expand student-learning opportunities and realize financial efficiencies. As this moves forward I will keep the board fully informed so the Winooski community can be informed and engaged at the proper time.
- Policy work: Below is a communication from VSBA Assistant Director and Legal Counsel Nicole Mace. The board's policies on Tobacco, Employee Harassment & Access to Electronics have everything they need. The board does not have a C2: Board Meetings, Agenda Preparation & Distribution policy but it is not required. Some of the elements of this policy are contained in the board's Governance Processes (Section IV) policies. I don't think there is any need to bring any of these recently adopted policies back to the board prior to the normal review cycle.
 - VSBA Policy Update from Nicole Mace (11/21/14): School Board Members and Superintendents, The Vermont Education Policy Service, a partnership of the VSBA and VSBIT, is pleased to announce the release of

four updated policies for boards to consider as they conduct their policy work in the coming months. The updated policies are:

- [C2: Board Meetings, Agenda Preparation & Distribution](#) - we made changes to this policy in order to ensure it is in compliance with the recent updates to Vermont's Open Meeting Law under Act 143 of 2014
 - [E8: Tobacco Prohibition](#) - we updated this policy to respond to the changes made in Act 135 of 2014. Districts are no longer required to have a policy on tobacco prohibition, but state law has been amended to prohibit the use of tobacco substitutes on school grounds and school-sponsored activities by both students and staff.
 - [D12: Employee Harassment](#) - we updated this policy in order to ensure compliance with federal law by including a new category of prohibited harassment - harassment based on genetic information.
 - [G11: Responsible Computer, Network and Internet Use](#) - we worked with the Agency of Education and information technology directors from around the state to substantially revise our "Acceptable Use" policy in order to be more reflective of current law and practice. A special thanks to the Orange North Supervisory Union for providing us with their new policy, which served as great starting point for our work.
 - We have also been busy working with the Agency of Education on a new Hazing, Harassment and Bullying policy that integrates all three policies into a single policy and set of model procedures. We are in the process of finalizing that policy and expect the Agency to release it to the field by the end of the year.
- Partnership for Change (P4C) updates:
- We continue to wait on the outcome of our re-application.

WSD Goals

Goal #1: College & Career Readiness

- Members of the WSD leadership team and the WMHS reading specialist attended a data review session at Reading Plus to review the assessment data from the Reading Plus Insight test that was given to all middle and high school students. The data review led to a thoughtful discussion about next steps for implementing reading interventions at the middle and high school.
- JFK had their second math studio day in November. The connections made that day with all areas of the curriculum were outstanding. After our observation in the classroom, the teacher talked about her role in the classroom. She saw the shift from giver of information to a facilitator. This is a very big step for her and hopefully will impact the other teachers in the group. As we move into Project-Based Learning (PBL), the role of the teacher changes. We believe that math best practices may be the ticket in getting us there. We also focused on the growth mindset that day. We watched a quick video that could be shared with students. This video connected growth mindset, social thinking and mindfulness!

- Middle/high school math teachers second Math Best Practices studio day was November 18, and focused on increasing student sense-making and justification, and decreasing teacher talk.
- The iLab students had their first Share-It-Night of the school year on November 11. Students shared their learning during the first quarter to parents, community partners, peers and staff members. Kinzand Gurung was recognized by the staff with the Golden Globe Award!

Goal #2: Healthy, Productive & Successful Lives

- Winooski High School Student Hom Pradhan opened a gallery exhibit of his paintings at the Essex High School's library where he attends the Essex Tech Graphic Design program. The opening reception took place on November 12th and was well attended by Winooski faculty, staff, students and families. Much of Hom's art is based on his experience growing up in a Bhutanese refugee camp in Nepal and it is very powerful. His work is on display through December 19th.
- We earned another STAR celebration at JFK. On Friday, December 5th, we will be having a pajama day. The grade level that has the most students and adults wearing pajamas will be surprised when they enter the building on Monday to see a big banner congratulating them on winning!

Goal #3: Local & Global Community Engagement

- The Winooski Penguin Plunge Team kicked off on November 21st with an enthusiastic assembly for all Grades 5-12 students and staff. We have over [45 plungers and have raised over \\$3000](#) already!
- WSD hired a new half-time Arabic speaking liaison, Abeer Alzubaidy, to help support our Arabic speaking students and families. Abeer started in time to be a part of the parent teacher conferences and has been able to meet and work with most of our Arabic speaking families already.
- WSD hosted our second learning walk of the school year for parents on Tuesday, December 2nd. Our learning walks offer parents the opportunity to visit with the principals and get a tour of the district, often seeing their children in action in their classrooms. We plan to continue the learning walks monthly through the school year, including focused talks on the transitions to middle school, high school and post-high school.
- Our Parents as Educational Partners (PEP) teachers presented on the Winooski PEP program at the Northern New England Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (NNETESOL) conference at the School for International Training in Brattleboro on November 8th. Their presentation was well received by ELL teachers around New England with several districts interested in replicating the program.
- The JFK winter performance this year is entitled "On Top of the World." The focus is on the graduate expectation persistence. All songs focus on students persevering through challenges. Each grade level will sing a song that emphasizes determination. Our performance will be Thursday, December 18th and beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- The WMHS Winter Concert is being held Thursday, December 11th at 7pm in the PAC.
- Parent Conferences were held on November 24th. The conferences were well attended.

- Following two months of hard work and preparation, the 22 middle and high school student cast and crew of “Aladdin” present the play. Under the guidance of director Lisa Goetz, the students presented the play four times during a two-day span to students, along with a community presentation on Friday, November 7.

Finance/Operations:

- As of November 30, 2014, 92% of the FY 15 budget has been expensed/encumbered. Forecasting additional expenses, as well as adjustments to the revenues, the estimated fund balance for FY 15, would be \$94,092.
- The estimated balance of the reserve fund is currently, \$574,243. All open expenses have been paid for summer projects.
- The facility staff has completed the renumbering of doors and windows throughout the district. In addition, new evacuation maps have been placed throughout the building. On November 13, 2014 we held our first Secure the Building, Clear Hall Drill. The drill was a success and the district wide paging system worked perfectly.
- Fothergill, Segale and Valley have completed the fieldwork for the FY14 audit and a draft report is under review. The FY 14 balance is \$ 167,972. A presentation of the audit will be made at the January board meeting.