

Winooski School District
 Office of the Superintendent
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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:

- A. Consent Agenda
 - a. Minutes of Meetings: November 11, 2015 and December 2, 2015
 - b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - 1. Approval of Bills
 - c. Policy Title: 2.5 Emergency Superintendent Succession
 - 1. Approve Superintendent Monitoring Report
 - d. Policy Title: 2.7: Compensation & Benefits
 - 1. Approve Contract Recommendation: Long-Term Sub, Gr. 4-Lacey Potter
 - e. Policy Title 2.8: Communication and Support to the Board
 - 1. Superintendent Report

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

- Governance Processes (Policy Section IV)
 - Review Board Monitoring Report-Policy Title 4.1: Governing Style

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:

- WMS Update
 - We have seen a significant rise in student behavior across WMS. Referrals for negative behavior doubled in our middle school from September to October. Here is what the WSD Leadership Team is doing to address this spike in negative student behavior:
 - 1. WMS Faculty Meeting to:
 - a. Acknowledge that teachers are struggling to fulfill their primary responsibility of instruction & assessment due to student behaviors
 - b. Share data showing the rise in negative student behaviors and specifically identifying the areas of “Insubordination & Refusal” and “Disrupting the Learning Environment” as the majority of behaviors teachers are addressing
 - c. Reviewed WMS definitions of Minor and Major behaviors:

<u>Minor</u>	<u>Major</u>
<u>verbal conflict</u> <u>defiance</u> <u>nonthreatening phys behavior, hands-on</u>	<u>bullying/harassment</u> <u>tobacco</u> <u>drug/alcohol</u>

<u>swearing at things, issues, or situations</u> <u>technology misuse</u> <u>property misuse</u> <u>disengagement/work refusal</u> <u>tardy to class</u>	<u>weapons</u> <u>deliberate physical aggression</u> <u>abusive language</u> <u>disruptive defiance</u> <u>disruptive disrespect</u> <u>property destruction</u> <u>inappropriate use of tech</u> <u>inappropriate display of affection</u> <u>theft, forgery, cheating</u> <u>cutting class</u>
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1. Temporarily hired a veteran administrator, Mrs. Connie Metz to support the WMS administration in responding to rise in student behaviors. We now have three administrators available to respond at all times. The plan is for Mrs. Metz to remain until December 23rd at which time we will evaluate our future needs.
 2. Supt. McMannon met with each middle school teacher team and Arts Rotation teachers to find out what they need to create better learning environments in their classes.
 3. Supt. McMannon, Principal Wheeler and Asst. Principal Grodin met with all students from Middle School teams Nexus and Journey and 9th grade Advisories to label the rise in behaviors, set expectations that students disrupting the learning environment will be dealt with swiftly because they are getting in the way of others learning and solicit their leadership in improving the climate.
 4. Principal Wheeler and Asst. Principal Grodin will be meeting with individual Advisories in small groups in the upcoming weeks to talk about how we can become a school where engaged learning and positive relationships are valued by all.
 5. WSD has advertised for additional behavioral support positions in the form of a WMHS Behavioral Coach and a JFK Behavior Interventionist. We intend to have these new positions filled and working by mid-January.
 6. Any **major** behavior will result in the student being sent home for the remainder of the school day and possibly multiple days of suspension depending on the severity of the behavior. Teachers, administrators and support staff will do their very best to redirect students when **minor** behaviors arise. If a student cannot get back on track after 3 or more redirections from a staff member the student will be sent home for the rest of the day. An administrator or Student Services Assistant will notify a parent/guardian when a student needs to go home or is being suspended. In addition, there may be a re-entry meeting the same or next day to process the behavior and make a plan to return the student to the WMS community.
 7. I have asked all WMS parents for their support as we move forward to improve the WMS learning environment via email or voice message.
- *Most Likely to Succeed* movie: The Winooski School District, the Partnership for Change, and Vermont International Film Festival hosted a FREE, public screening and discussion of *Most Likely to Succeed* on Thursday, November 12, 2015, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm in our PAC. Over 60 people showed up for the film and discussion.
 - Movie Overview: For most of the last century, entry-level jobs were plentiful, and college was an affordable path to a fulfilling career. That world no longer exists. The feature-length documentary *Most Likely to Succeed* examines the history of education, revealing the growing shortcomings of our school model in today's innovative world. Directed by acclaimed documentarian Greg Whiteley, the film has been named "among the best edu-documentaries ever produced" by Education Week, and called a "smart and engaging look at education in the 21st

century” by The Hollywood Reporter. Film Threat stated that “this film should be a required course for all parents and educators.” Most Likely To Succeed is an official selection of many of the nation’s top film festivals, including the prestigious 2015 Sundance Film Festival and Tribeca Film Festival. Movie trailer: www.mltsfilm.org

- Board chair Mike Decarreau and I met with House Education Committee chair David Sharpe to give our feedback on the Allowable Growth provision of Act 46 prior to the public testimony on Wednesday, November 18th. [The public testimony and supporting documents can be found by clicking here.](#)
- [Act 46 Resources:](#)
 - [Overview of Governance Changes in Act 46](#)
 - [Act 46 Fact Sheet](#)
 - [Act 46 Timeline](#)
 - [All 64 pages of Act 46](#)

WSD Goals

Goal #1: College & Career Readiness

- Business teacher Courtney Poquette has been selected to represent Vermont teachers on the [Vermont Financial Literacy Task Force](#). The Vermont Financial Literacy Commission was created by the State Legislature in 2015. The 11-member commission was established to measurably improve the financial literacy and financial capability of Vermont's citizens. This is a great honor for Courtney and for our district.
- WMHS Principal Leon Wheeler was invited to facilitate a panel discussion at the Gender and Equity Conference sponsored by the Governor’s Institute of Vermont at Middlebury College on November 12th. One of the presenters in the beginning of the event, without prompt, said to the audience, “If you want to see a school doing amazing things, look at Winooski.” It was an unexpected affirmation, and one more indicator that the work that’s underway is being recognized as truly transformative.
- The Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment window is open and will end on December 18, 2015. The winter assessment window will operate from January 5th through February 20th, 2016, and the spring summative window will operate from March 20th to May 15th, 2016. This is an alternative assessment for children with intellectual disabilities.
- The preschool teachers and staff participated in a month-long training around interventions for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. They learned about structured teaching, using joint attention routines, reinforcement pairing, and social stories. The focus on autism will continue later this month with additional training on strategies for working with children with autism. Training is provided through Thomas Moore, a Howard Center Autism Specialist, along with our own in-house experts Lisa Dold, Intensive Needs Special Educator; Ada Wetmore, EEE Special Educator; and Catherine Lavigne, Speech & Language Pathologist.
- The 5th grades went to see *The Lightning Thief* at The Flynn Theater. The play is based on a great series of books by Rick Riordan. The Lightning Thief is the first book in the series that follows the adventure of a 12-year old boy, named Percy Jackson as he discovers he is the son of the Poseidon.

Goal #2: Healthy, Productive & Successful Lives

- On Monday, December 7th, 19 students on the Middle/High School Unified Sports bowling team will participate in the school bowling tournament in Barre. Students will wear their new t-shirts and are ready to go! Bowling is a lifelong sport that will lead our students to enjoy healthy and successful lives.
- On Monday, December 7th, Robin Hood and Maybeline Lopez will attend a daylong celebration with our collaborative Head Start partners to honor 50 years of Head Start. They will take part in two important trainings: 1. Being Part of the Change: Children Impacted by Trauma and Building the Skills they Need for Future Success, and 2. The Pyramid Model for Supporting Social and Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children.

- Before vacation, our kindergarten teachers went to a weeklong conference on play-based learning. The conference was wonderful, and our teachers learned an amazing amount about the development of play in a school setting. They came back enthusiastic and ready to engage our young students in meaningful learning through play.

Goal #3: Local & Global Community Engagement

- Parent Teacher conferences happened before Thanksgiving. As always, there was a huge turn out. It is always wonderful to get to talk to families about the students and the wonderful progress they are making.
- The JFK Leadership team has begun meeting every other week. To begin our work, we asked the staff what they want JFK to be like in 5 years. We did not put any constraints on them, and asked for open feedback. With the input from staff, the leadership committee developed three big ideas to guide our work:
 - A proactive building that is calm and nurturing and values wellness of staff and students.
 - Create meaningful connections with community partners and parents. In addition, involve students in meaningful community-based learning.
 - Resources to support student's academic and social/emotional learning.

We are now flushing out each big idea and creating action steps over a five-year span.

- Winooski Upward Bound students Edmund Do, Alex Do, AJ Priebe-Carter, Key Nguyen and Ledania Taylor participated in the Johnson State Greening Summit last year and earned a \$250 participation award which was presented last week by UVM Upward Bound Director Elaine Leavitt.

Finance/Operations

- At the end of November, our fund balance for FY16 is favorably forecasted at \$46K or less than .5% of the voter-approved budget. This will continue to vary as year-end expenses are reconciled.
- Please join me in welcoming Michael "Mick" Muscat as the new Facility Supervisor. Mick began on Monday November 30th and brings a wealth of experience to the district. Mick has experience in plant design, project management, energy management and facility maintenance. He is originally from Australia where he worked for the Gillette Corporation, before relocating to Iowa City, to work for Oral B Laboratories. In 2001, Mick moved to Vermont to work at Specialty Filaments and then began working for Keurig Green Mountain in 2006. Over the next few weeks, Mick will be spending time getting to know our facility and staff. Please take a minute to introduce yourself and welcome him to our community.