

Winooski School District  
Office of the Superintendent  
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[www.wdschools.org](http://www.wdschools.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:

#### A. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes of Meetings: September 16, 2015
- b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
  - i. Approval of Bills
  - ii. Quarterly Financial Management Report
  - iii. Treasurer's Report - FY '15
- c. Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - i. Accept 2.1 Superintendent Monitoring Report
  - ii. Superintendent Report
  - iii. Adopt Welcoming Week Proclamation
- d. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Board Job Description
  - i. Adopt Policy #6144(a), Animal Dissection

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

- Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - Act 46 Report by VSBA Executive Director Nicole Mace
  - [Act 46 Resources](#): I would suggest reading at least the Overview, Fact Sheet & Timeline below prior to our meeting
    - [Overview of Governance Changes in Act 46](#)
    - [Act 46 Fact Sheet](#)
    - [Act 46 Timeline](#)
    - [All 64 pages of Act 46](#)
- Board-Management Delegation (Policy Section III)
  - Policy Title: 3.4-Monitoring Superintendent Performance
    - Action: Approve Superintendent Evaluation Summary
- Governance Processes (Policy Section IV)
  - Policy Title: 4.1.b Governing Style: Encouragement of a Diversity of Views
    - Review Board Monitoring Report Policy Title 4.1-Governing Style

- Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies:
    - Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #3545, Transportation
    - Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #4116b, Prevention of Bullying of Students
    - Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #4126a, Prevention of Harassment of Students
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- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:

- Transportation Update:

- Student Transportation: The committee will meet on Friday, October 16th. I have worked with City Manager Deac Decarreau and CCTA Planning Manager David Armstrong to review our recently updated [Student Locator Maps](#) by Safe Routes, and develop ideas of how multiple agencies can partner to begin meeting some student transportation needs.
- Bus passes are now being sold at City Hall and in the main lobby at WSD
- Info about how to use CCTA to get to school has been included in the District Newsletter
- Winooski Transportation Plan: I attended a focus group facilitated by Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) to provide input from the school perspective on the long-term city transportation plan.

- VSBA Board Member Profile: Please see the board member profile in the VSBA Fall Newsletter on our very own Mike Decarreau in the board agenda packet at the end of the Supt. Board Report.

- Penguin Plunge: The plunge is scheduled for Saturday, February 6th, 2016 at the Burlington Waterfront. Remember this supports Special Olympics VT and a portion of the money comes back to WSD to support our growing Unified Sports programming! We would love to have board members join our school team and support the cause with a donation. [Click here to donate online](#) or drop a check in the district office. We raised **\$10,000** in 2014 and **\$13,746** in 2015! Our kickoff assembly for Grades 5-12 students and staff will be Friday, November 13th. Thanks to WMS Special Educator and Unified Sports coach Tim Rich for spearheading this worthy cause!

- VT Education Health initiative (VEHI) Wellness Program Reporting: WSD is a member of the VEHI health pool and receives valuable data on key drivers of VEHI health claims. We will continue to track this data as an indicator of organizational health and employee wellness. Some of the highlights from last year's Healthy Life Survey as reported by 31 WSD staff members in Sept/Oct 2014 are:

- Stress Scores

- 91% report being "Somewhat" or "Very Satisfied" with their job
- 94% report being "Somewhat" or "Very Cheerful"
- 55% report Sleep Problems
- 52% report Neck/Shoulder tension

- Well-Scale

- 77% view their overall health as good to excellent

- 52% get 30 minutes of moderate physical activity 5-7 days per week
  - 84% report having confidence in their primary health care provider
  - 90% report their immediate supervisor supports employee's efforts to adopt healthier lifestyle practices
  - 81% report their supervisor models a healthy lifestyle
  - 71% said they would like to lose weight
  - WSD has a high prevalence of claims related to depressive disorders and respiratory diseases
  - VEHI Wellness Grant: WSD will be applying for an award up to \$10K for employee wellness after we get at least 40% of our staff to complete the 2015 Healthy Life Survey
- Partnership for Change/ Nellie Mae Education Foundation (NMEF) Update
- Board rep Julian Portilla, WMHS Principal Leon Wheeler and I attended the first Steering Committee meeting of the 2015-16 school year and the focus was redefining the purpose of this group. The Executive Committee will be taking the work from this evening and drafting a proposal to bring back to the broader Steering Committee.
  - *Most Likely to Succeed* movie: Please join the Winooski School District, the Partnership for Change, and Vermont International Film Festival for a FREE, public screening and discussion of *Most Likely to Succeed* on Thursday, November 12, 2015, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Winooski PAC. There is a flyer in this packet behind this report.
    - **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](http://www.mltsfilm.org)
- Legislative updates:
- I attended the full-day informational session on Act 46 on September 22 specifically for superintendents. VSBA Executive Director Nicole Mace will present to the board at the October meeting on the elements of Act 46. It would be helpful for board members to begin reviewing the linked resources prior to the October board meeting:
    - [Act 46 Resources](#)
    - [Article: Vermont ACLU Threatens to Sue Over School Spending Cap](#)
  - [Legislative Summary for 2015 Legislative Session](#): This is the overall summary of all education-related bills passed in the 2015 legislative session
- Policy work:
- These policies are up this month for a first reading:

- Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #3545, Transportation
- Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #4116b, Prevention of Bullying of Students
- Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #4126a, Prevention of Harassment of Students

## **WSD Goals**

### **Goal #1: College & Career Readiness**

- James McCobb, the head of Title III and the ELL Program Coordinator from the Vermont Agency of Education (VT-AOE), did a two day ELL monitoring visit in September during which he observed our K-12 ELL program and met with teachers, administrators and students to improve his understanding of WSD's ELL program and ensure that we are in compliance with Title III law.
- On October 1st and 2nd, a team of teachers and administrators representing WMHS attended the SLIFE Institute (Students with Limited, Interrupted or no Formal Education) to learn about how to better support the needs of ELL students who come into WMHS with limited education and need additional supports to be successful in US public schools. The institute took place in South Burlington and involved teachers and administrators from all over Vermont who learned strategies and developed lesson and work plans to better support these students.
- Bill Feeley, a Mathematics Professional Development Specialist from Teachers Development Group, spent two days with JFK teachers on October 5th and 6th; and with the middle/high school math teachers October 7th and 8th. This is our third year participating in this professional development with the same cohort of teachers. Bill was incredibly impressed with the growth he has seen in the teachers with their mathematical practice. We are working together to continue this professional development entitled "Math Best Practices" with a new cohort starting next year.
- JFK Principal Sara Raabe will be in New York City October 13th - 18th participating in a week of intensive professional development at Teachers College. This professional development is focused on [School Wide Implementation of Reading Units of Study for administrators](#).
- The Winooski Early Childhood Program (WECP) and the Winooski Early Learning Center had their first collaborative meeting on September 25. Winooski school and Head Start staff came together to learn more about the Early Essential Education (EEE) identification process, the first six weeks of school, identifying needs and making adaptations for students' success. This is the first of nine collaborative meetings we will have this year.
- We are pleased to announce that the Winooski Early Childhood Program (WECP) has earned 5 STARS! Along with this, comes a \$1550.00 bonus! [STARS](#) is Vermont's quality recognition system for child care, preschool, and afterschool programs. Programs that participate in STARS are stepping ahead — going above and beyond state regulations to provide professional services that meet the needs of children and families.
- Two of our teachers in the Head Start Program have been selected to participate in Practice-Based Coaching (PBC). Champlain Valley Head Start (CVHS) has developed a pilot group this year to participate along with acquiring two coaches. From the Winooski Early Learning Center, Liz Lamphere and Michelle Allen will be working as a team in the "expert" model, and Carrie Macedonia from JFK WECP is participating in the "peer" model with a Head Start teacher at Malletts Bay School. A coach, provided through CVHS will be supporting both the peer and expert teams.
- 48 middle/high school students have been nominated for GX Champ during these first weeks of school: 32 high school; 16 middle school. Nominations have been in the following GXs: Effective Written & Oral Communication = 20; Critical Thinking & Problem-Solving = 19; Physical, Social and Emotional Well-Being = 9.

## **Goal #2: Healthy, Productive & Successful Lives**

- Wednesday October 7th was International Walk To School Day. For the JFK staff meeting, professionals walked with students from the Rite Aid to school. The Winooski Police Department provided support, and some WMHS students provided fantastic band music to walk to!
- The VT Foodbank has begun their Pantry-To-Go visits and will continue to provide fresh vegetables to students and families two times per month.
- As we transition to a partnership with Burlington High School to broaden our football offering to WHS student-athletes the WHS Football program was celebrated on September 25th. There was an excellent showing of alumni who were recognized at halftime of an unbelievable game that ended 80-74 with our young men showing great determination and falling just short in an incredible display of offense!

## **Goal #3: Local & Global Community Engagement**

- The Saint Michael's College students from the Peace & Justice Freshman Year Seminar began visiting their ELL student buddies at JFK in September. All of our first grade ELL students get a buddy from Saint Michael's who gives them one-on-one support during math. Both the JFK and the SMC students really enjoy working with their buddies.
- An anonymous individual donated \$1,000 to JFK through The Flying Pig Bookstore, a locally owned bookstore in Shelburne. Laura Abbene will be working with co-owner Josie Leavitt to purchase books for our library.
- The second principal coffee at JFK was October 8th. Families are beginning to stop by to check in, ask questions, or bring concerns to our attention.
- As in years past, the Lumberjacks hockey team is mentoring our 3rd grade students. The whole team came to JFK a few weeks ago to meet the students. The players shared their own goals for the future, and helped our 3rd graders articulate goals they have for themselves. Each Thursday, some members of the Lumberjacks come to connect with students during math instruction.

## **Finance/Operations**

- At the end of September, our fund balance for FY16 is favorably forecasted at \$59K or less than .5% of the voter-approved budget. This will continue to vary as year-end expenses are reconciled in
- The balance of the Reserve Fund is currently \$559,312 with a final payment of \$6,206 to be made on WHS Unit Vent project.
- Our auditors have completed their fieldwork and are currently working a draft of the FY15 audit. The forecasted fund balance is \$210,000, of which \$100,000 is earmarked to be applied in FY16.
- The Service Plan for FY17 Special Education Expenses has been completed and the WSD Leadership Team has begun work on the FY17 budget.