

October 3, 2013

Winooski School District  
Office of the Superintendent  
60 Normand Street  
Winooski, Vermont 05404  
(802) 383-6000  
[www.winooski.k12.vt.us](http://www.winooski.k12.vt.us)

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**

- **Introductory Meetings:** I have continued my emphasis on building relationships across the Winooski community by meeting with the following folks and organizations:
  - Abigail Kiablick, Outreach Staff for Senator Sanders
  - Laura Krawitt, Director of Heritage Winooski Mill Museum and Gallery
  - Carol Duley-VT AOE School Improvement Program Coordinator
  - Tom Hark, President & Breck Knauft, VP of Program Development Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC)
  - Chris Bernier, Director of Marketing & Development & Liza Reed, Special Events Manager, Special Olympics/Penguin Plunge
  - Robert Eaton, Store Manager TDBank
  - Bob Bick, Director of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services Partnership for Howard Center
  - Partnership for Change (P4C)-sponsored Community Dinner
  - High School classes: I have met with each grade. I presented the following:
    - Little about me and my family,
    - The WSD Organizational Chart so they understand my role,
    - Some data about income related to level of education to demonstrate the value of education
    - The importance of their leadership in our school and community
    - The importance of leaving high school ready for college and/or work
  - Middle and High School soccer trainings- I have lead soccer practice for all teams except the girls varsity at this point. This has been a great way to meet students and coaches.

- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
  - Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA) All-Member mtg.
    - I attended my first VSA All-member meeting. The following topics were presented and discussed:
      - Act 77 Flexible Pathways, Common Core, Digital Initiatives, and Education Quality Standards update from John Fischer, Deputy Secretary VT Agency of Education
      - Vermont's application to Race to the Top to fund Early Learning work update from Aly Richards, Director of Special Projects-Office of the Governor
      - VSBIT General update by Don Morrill, Multi-Lin Program Manager
      - Health Care Reform update by Laura Soares, President VSBIT, Nicole Mace, VSBA and Chris Leopold, attorney
  - Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)
    - Assurance Forms: A requirement of being a school indentified as not making AYP is that we must notify parents of our status and publicize the availability of Supplemental Educational Services (SES). These Assurance Forms and all of the necessary requirements for all of our schools has been completed.
    - Coaching Request proposals: We have submitted a request for a total of 25 days of School Improvement coaching services across all of our schools. This is the maximum allowed. We should have a response by the end of October.
  - Student rep to school board: I am working with Middle/High School Principal Leon Wheeler to encourage student applicants for these positions. The earliest I will have reps for the board will be the November board meeting.
  - Calendar 2.0 public forum: I attended the first forum on Wednesday, October 3rd at Essex Junction High School. The overwhelming sentiment of the crowd was opposition to the specific proposed calendar. More to come on this topic.
  - Leadership Champlain Panel, Oct 8th: I have been invited to be a panelist and represent the education perspective on the impact of opiate addiction.
  - Link to P4C Newsletter??
  - Mindfulness: I was invited to Stefanie Hamble's 4th grade class to practice mindfulness. It was an impressive display from both students and teacher as they followed a guided meditation and commented afterwards on how these sessions have helped them to be more patient with others and more persistent with their schoolwork. This work is in a pilot stage in the elementary this year. The board will receive a more detailed report later in the year during a *Focus on Learning* session.

- Partnership for Change messages:
  - Dear School Board Members, This past summer, the Partnership for Change Family School Partnership Team, in collaboration with Parents for Change and PACTS/City Gov./School Board members in Winooski contracted with Youth Catalytics to conduct a communications survey of parents with students in the middle and high schools. Our goal was to do an assessment of the current state of family/school communications with the intended outcome of reviewing the data and preparing recommendations for action to both school districts. 200 one to one interviews were conducted with parents that statistically represent the diversity of our school communities. There were also five focus groups conducted, two of which were language specific to Nepali and Somali. Over the past month, Youth Catalytics has been preparing the data from their inquiry and will be presenting their findings at the next Partnership for Change Steering Committee Meeting on Wednesday Oct. 23 from 6:45-7:30pm in the BHS Cafeteria.
  - Nov. 2 - Community Learning Conversation at Winooski from 9:30-1:00pm - Theme: *Imagine a School System Designed for All Learners*

## WSD Goals

### **Goal #1: Increase student learning and growth**

- 1-1 iPad and laptop rollout: Middle school parent meetings were held mid-late September, and freshman parent meetings are currently underway. Drew Blanchard has organized the meetings in collaboration with the grade level teachers, and facilitates each one to ensure that parents have the needed information before giving consent for their child to receive a device. The middle school iPads were rolled out to the students on October 1 and 2 and freshman laptops were rolled out on October 3.
- Vermont Alternate Assessment Portfolio Assessment (VTAAP) 2013 results: Due to the small number of students participating, this specific information is not for public reporting. However, we are pleased to note that overall a good number of students were proficient or above in reading and or math. Most Winooski students participate in the general statewide assessments with no accommodations while a small percentage of students take the general assessment using approved accommodations when necessary. An even smaller number of students (approximately 15) participate in the assessment accountability system using the Vermont alternate assessment. The alternate assessment allows students with significant cognitive disabilities to demonstrate their knowledge and skills on core academic content. Their performance scores are included in school accountability.

- Spring 2013 Science NECAP results for grade 4, 8 & 11.
  - Grade 4 (61 students tested): 20% Proficient, 39% Partially Proficient & 42% Substantially Below Proficient
  - Grade 8 (42 students tested): 12% Proficient, 36% Partially Proficient & 52% Substantially Below Proficient
  - Grade 11 (50 students tested): 8% Proficient, 36% Partially Proficient & 56% Substantially Below Proficient
  - We have started our work with science curriculum consultant Dave White as we move to the Next Generation Science Standards. We will be redesigning our science curriculum around these new standards.

**Goal #2: Increase student engagement through best instructional practices**

● Last week all K-5 teachers spent a half-day with Dave White, our science consultant. Dave framed the work with an Essential Question: *How do we engage students in the practice of science and engineering in order to make meaning of the natural and human-made world?*

The desired results were:

- Revisit and examine the Winooski Teaching and Learning Principles for Science and Engineering and the work we did together last spring
- Examine the components of a Science Instructional Routine
- Outline a Sequence of Instruction that will be the focus of a Lesson Study later in the year
- Our literacy and math coaches continue to be in classrooms and meeting with grade level teams. The work they are doing with the staff is making a difference in our instruction. Their work is focused and we are implementing new instructional practices slowly so that all teachers feel successful.
- We will be having our first Green Mountain Star planning meeting on Monday, Oct. 7th. There are 11 teachers on this action planning team. We will work together to implement the plan that was developed last year.
- Math Best Practices studios: The middle/high school math teachers gathered for the first of four Best Practices in Math studio days on September 19. Teachers completed the 5-day classroom training this summer and made a personal action plan for embedding best practices into their math instruction. The studio days are designed to reinforce best practices as we observe them in use and reflect together on how to continually improve math instruction and learning.

**Goal #3: Increase parent/community engagement**

- Thirteen parents of New American students attended the first Parents as Educational Partners (PEP) class on September 19. On September 26th parents were lead on a tour of the facilities by Robin Hood. Afterward, they participated in a School Scavenger Hunt of the district in small groups accompanied by their ELL instructors. They were brought to

several key locations in such as the cafeteria, the main office and their children's classrooms. In each room they had a short discussion about what their children do in this room.

- **Pantry-To-Go/VT Foodbank:** Barb Pitfido did a wonderful job coordinating this event. Many Winooski families took home beautiful shares of healthy food supplied by the VT Foodbank.
- **1-1 iPad and laptop parent mtgs:** For both the middle and high school devices, there are multiple parent meeting options that include at least one weekday evening and one weekend. We are working to make the meetings and information accessible to our diverse population, which is a work in progress.
- **Business students worked as Media Planners** to get the Train Show Flyers into local businesses. It was great to see the plan you created go into action and even better to see all the people that are willing to support you and our school! The list is quite impressive and you should be able to see the work on the doors and windows of local businesses for the next couple of months. We should be on our way to increasing Train Show attendance by 40% to reach your goal of 700 adults through the door and increasing money for scholarships. Nice teamwork!
- **The JFK PACTS group met on Thursday, September 26th.** Parents had a chance to socialize and continue to build relationships with one another. Sean talked with the group about the PreK-12 vision. The group then spent the remaining time brainstorming projects they wanted to focus on during the 2013-2014 school year.

**Goal #4: Collaboration and communication**

- **Snake Mtn. Middle School trip:** Supported by funding from the Bay and Paul Foundation, each middle school team, on consecutive and beautiful Fridays, took a trip south to Addison County to hike Snake Mountain. This was a positive experience for all, and aligned well with the larger initiative of Spartans in Motion (SIM), which was introduced at the September school board meeting.
- **Following is an update on the number of English Language Learners in the district.** Please note the percentage at the high school has increased. This is not due to an increase in ELLs at the high school, but to a decrease in the overall number of students.

**English Language Learners  
September 24, 2013**

<b>School/</b>	<b>Total Number of Students</b>	<b>Number that are English Language Learners</b>	<b>Percentage who are English Language Learners</b>
JFK Elementary	345	109	31%
Middle School	157	40	25%

High School	228	99	43%
District	730	248	34%

- On September 30, 2013 Robin Hood attended training on the new Vermont Special Education Rules, Part C and Part B. The purpose of the training was to clarify key information about the rule revisions so that districts can put the rules into practice.
- JFK students have been invited to attend a UVM women's soccer game on Sunday, October 6th. We will be taking a bus over to the game. We will have a meet and greet with the players following the game.

**Finance**

- The Quarter 1 Financial Management Review (FMR) is included in the agenda packet. Rebecca Goulet, WSD Finance manager and I have created the following new documents that you will receive quarterly in addition to a less detailed monthly report:
  - FMR Memo
  - Operating Budget Expenditure Report
  - Revenue Report
  - Grants & Miscellaneous Report
  - Reserve Account Report
- Title I Fiscal Monitoring visit: On September 11, 2013, the leadership team hosted the Title 1 Federal Monitoring Team, along several staff member from the Agency of Education. The purpose of the visit was to gather information from the field to critique the work at the State level. The day was spent answering questions in depth around the use of our Title 1 Funds, as well as our relationship with the staff at the State Level. The Federal team also visited the Burlington School District, Woodside Juvenile Center, before spending a day in Montpelier. The initial feedback we received was positive. We expect that the AOE will share the final finding report with us in the future.

**Action Items**

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

- Consent Agenda
  - Minutes of Meeting, September 11, 2013
  - Personnel
    - Nicole Crocco- .5 FTE Middle School Math teacher
      - This position is being proposed due to the overwhelming response from students to our new iLab. We would like to make Nancy Keller full-time in the iLab to accommodate the high number of

student proposals. This is a cost-neutral endeavor as we have not filled a budgeted Instructional Assistant position. Thanks for your consideration.

- Professional Staff Development and Instructional Assistant Development Annual Plans
- Monitoring Report: Emergency Superintendent Succession (Policy 2.5)
  - The only modifications from last months report are technical in nature:
    - page 1, second paragraph, in bold, changed “administrative” to “Leadership”
    - page 1, last paragraph, changed “Union” to “Winooski Education Association”.

