

January 8, 2015

Winooski School District
Office of the Superintendent
60 Normand Street
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(802) 383-6000
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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:

- Consent Agenda
 - Minutes of Meetings: December 3, 15, 2014 and January 7, 2015
 - Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities: please see backup documents attached for all of these items
 - Approval of Bills
 - Quarterly Financial Management Report
 - Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - Superintendent Report to Board
 - Approval of WHS School Choice Capacities for 2015-16
 - Approval of Announced Tuition for 2015-16

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

- Policy Section I: Ends Monitoring
 - Discussion: College Readiness Interpretation with Harry Frank, VSBA Dir. of Board Development & Policy Governance Network (**see Monitoring Report**)
- Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Action: Approve FY '14 Audit Report (**see Audit**)
- Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
 - Action: Adoption of 2015-2016 Winooski School District Budget (**see budget docs**)
 - Action: Adoption of 2015-2016 Budget Warnings (**see draft warnings**)
 - Discussion: Review Annual Report to Voters (**see 2014-15 report**)
- Policy Title: 4.5 Agenda Planning
 - Plan February meeting with legislators (**bring questions to send to legislators prior to meeting**)

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- Introductory Meetings:
 - Laban Hill, Board Chair-Dollars for Scholars (DFS)

- Ezzeddine Fatnassi, Director-Islamic Society of VT
- Stephen Tavella, Education Programs Coordinator-VT AOE
- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:
 - 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. We will meet on Thursday, January 15th to review applications and select interviewees. As you will see in the linked document there will be public forums for finalists in February and I will recommend a new principal to the board at the April board meeting.
 - School Choice Capacities for 2015-2016:
 - Based on [Act 129](#) (Public School Choice in Grades 9-12 & Other Laws):
 - The WSD administration recommends the board set the number of students who can exercise school choice and attend other VT public high schools at 25.
 - Current-2014-15: 16 students out
 - The WSD administration recommends the board set the number of students we can receive at 15 based on our demographics and student needs.
 - Current-2014-15: 5 students in
 - Announced Tuition for 2015-2016: Announced tuition is an estimate of allowable tuition reported by districts receiving tuition students. Allowable tuition plus 4.49% based on the proposed 2015-16 budget. The WSD administration recommends the board approve the following Announced Tuition amounts for 2015-16:
 - Kindergarten: \$12,463
 - Grades 1-6: \$12,463
 - Grades 7-12: \$16,200
 - Legislative update:
 - [Education Legislative Report-Jan 6, 2015, Issue #1](#)
 - Policy work:
 - We will continue the Policy Review Cycle in February.
 - Partnership for Change (P4C) update: The following statement was developed by the P4C Executive Committee and shared with WMHS and BHS staff in response to Nellie Mae’s deferral of a decision to fund our site for another three years. I am confident that we can provide the assurances need for Nellie Mae to move forward with a positive decision in the spring.
 - With funding from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, the Partnership for Change has supported the Winooski and Burlington School Districts as they move toward a collective vision of student-centered, proficiency based education. Our Fellowship and Partner Teacher programs have laid

the foundation for a new kind of instructional practice, one that is grounded in collaboration among teachers and increased student voice and agency. Other innovative efforts we have supported include the iLab, the Year End Studies program, Neighborhood Learning conversations, and the Family Friendly Report Card, among others.

Recently, we submitted the requested re-application for the Nellie Mae Education Foundation for another three-year cycle of funding. The Foundation has encumbered the funds, but will defer its decision until later this spring, when it can better determine if the new leadership in Burlington – namely, the Superintendent and School Board – will continue to embrace the vision and its full implementation.

The Winooski and Burlington schools have diligently worked with all stakeholders in the community to build understanding and support for student-centered, proficiency-based learning. We will make every effort to respond fully to the Foundation’s concerns in the hopes that we can continue the important journey we have embarked upon together. We thank our faculty, students, parents, and the community at large for your commitment to this work. Please direct any further questions to Winooski Superintendent Sean McMannon – smcmannon@wsdschools.org or Burlington Interim Superintendent Howard Smith – hsmith@bsdvt.org.

- Big congrats to P4C Executive Director Hal Colston who was recently awarded [Vermonters of the Year by the Burlington Free Press](#) for his years of service to the community in the name of social and economic justice!

WSD Goals

Goal #1: College & Career Readiness

- Saint Michael’s College students from the Peace & Justice Freshman Year Seminar invited their ELL student buddies to visit Saint Michael’s College for an end of the semester celebration. Around 40 of our elementary ELL students received one-on-one support from their SMC buddies during reading or math this semester. They ended the program with an exciting visit to Saint Michael’s and many of them expressed interest in attending Saint Michael’s someday.
- This week marked the beginning of a 7-week after school professional development class for teachers on the WIDA ELL standards. Twelve WSD teachers are learning about how to apply the WIDA ELL standards in their classrooms to appropriately differentiate for students with different language proficiencies.
- Beginning January 20, the middle/high school staff will celebrate one student each morning that has been recognized by their teacher as demonstrating excellence in one GX area. The student’s identification as the GX Champ along with supporting information will be posted in the school, announced, added to the web site, and tweeted. The leadership team chose this as a “keystone habit” that we believe will have a significant positive impact on our school culture.
- Will Andrews was recognized as January’s Inspiring Educator of the Month. His recognition is based on his work to establish working relationships between the school and businesses in the Winooski/Burlington communities and connect students with

community mentorships. Will also represented our school on a panel of educators at the Education Summit in November.

- Students participating in the Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment are now participating in Phase 3. This is an opportunity to assess children with significant cognitive impairments on grade level skills aligned with the common core.
- Winooski School District is in a good position to move forward with Act 166. At present, over 90 Winooski children are participating in prekindergarten. We are in the process of applying for recognition as a prequalified prekindergarten program, a requirement for participation in Act 166.
- Dave White (our science consultant) has been working with two classroom teachers, Nan Johnson and Jacie Knapp. The three of them will present next Wednesday at the staff meeting. We will have teachers work in grade level clusters and finish our plan regarding the Next Generation Science Standards. The final step will be to tie the NGSS with our Project Based Learning!
- There is a chorus, beginning band and beginning orchestra concert coming up. The concert will be held on January 29th at 6:30 p.m. It promises to be an enjoyable evening!

Goal #2: Healthy, Productive & Successful Lives

- On January 21st there will be a presentation for special educators, guidance counselors and social workers titled: VT-Futures discussion at DCF on "No Decision About Me Without Me". This discussion is specifically designed to help school districts understand from a foster child's perspective what it is like having to transfer schools often and have multiple people making decision about them with little input from the students themselves.
- We are finalizing our plan for our big 100,000 STARS celebration. It will be held on February 13th. It should be an exciting event, however, at this time nothing more can be revealed! We must wait until we get closer!!
- Fardoos Mohamed, a Winooski alumni attending Castleton State College, received the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship, a prestigious national study abroad scholarship, which allowed her to recently study in the United Arab Emirates. Her experience there helped her prepare for a future in international relations.

Goal #3: Local & Global Community Engagement

- The Winooski Penguin Plunge Team is gearing up for the February 7th event at the Burlington Waterfront. We have over [50 plungers and 86 supporters have raised over \\$6829](#) already and lead the "Cool Schools" category! Also, WHMS Special Educator Tim Rich has raised nearly \$2700 and leads all individual fundraisers. Tim also runs our new Unified Sports program.
- Parents as Educational Partners (PEP) is starting a second class next week on Thursday nights. This class is a continuation of last year's "mom's" group and will focus on building participants' English literacy skills.
- Our Winter Performance was a great success! We would like to thank the readers that evening: Sean McMannon, Katherine (Deac) Decarreau, Michael O'Brien, Ray Coffey, Ethan Hausman, and Jessica Summer. I would also like to thank all of the teachers for their continued hard work and dedication. They are the ones that make this night happen!

- We held our January Learning Walk on Tuesday, January 6th. There were fifteen parents in attendance. We visited several classrooms and each parent had the opportunity to see their child hard at work. The parents are very appreciative of the school.
- WSD hosted the Leadership Champlain group on December 9th for their “Education and Cultural Competency” themed retreat day. Several of our high school ELL students and two of our liaisons shared their stories of adapting to life and school in the US with the group. Members of Leadership Champlain were impressed with our students and how well spoken they were.
- Our next PACTS meeting is Thursday, January 15th at 5:30 p.m.

Finance/Operations:

- The 2nd Quarter FMR is included in the board packet. At the end of December the district is estimated to have a positive fund balance around \$100,000, just under 1% of the voter-approved budget.
- The balance of the reserve fund is currently, \$574,248.
- The district is currently working with a consultant to prepare an RFP for the final phase of the unit vents for the high school.
- The FY14 audit is complete and will be presented at the January board meeting. The process went smoothly and we have begun planning for the FY15 audit.
- Over the next few weeks, the Abbey Group will be offering an ethnic bar several days a week featuring recipes from different cultures.
- The meal counts for both breakfast and lunch continue to increase. Bag suppers will begin to be offered to students taking advantage of the Supplemental Educational Services (SES) tutoring, CCLC programs and THRIVE.