

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:

6. Consent Agenda: (5 Minutes)

- a) Minutes of Meetings: February 10, 2016
- b) Policy Title: 2.2 Treatment of Staff
 - Approve Superintendent Monitoring Report
- c) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Approval of Bills
- d) Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
 - Approve Teacher Contracts for 2016/17
- e) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - Superintendent Report
- f) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Board Job Description
 - Adopt Policy #5114a, Student Conduct & Discipline
 - Adopt Policy #6172, Limited English Proficiency Students

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

2. Reorganization of Board:

- a) Oath of Office- Julian Portilla and Jen Corrigan
- b) Election of President*
- c) Election of Secretary
- d) Code of Ethics: Board Members' Code of Conduct- Policy 4.7
- e) Robert's Rules for Small Boards
- f) Committee Assignments
 - Communications
 - Parent Engagement
 - Negotiations

* Elected Board President will facilitate the rest of the meeting

8. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV)

- a) Policy Title 4.1b Governing Style
 - Discussion and Possible Action: Act 46
- b) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - Discussion – Discussion – 1st Reading, Policy #5114c- Weapons

9. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):

- Approve Vendor for Operable Partition Walls

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:

- FY17 Budget: Thanks to the school board and community for the passage of the FY17 school budget! Great work from everyone in the organization to support the board in presenting a budget that moves students toward achieving the Ends. We are very grateful for another supportive and successful budget cycle!
- Board Reorganization: Great to have Jen Corrigan and Julian Portilla continuing on the board! Please review the VSBA Reorganization Toolkit in the backup in preparation for the board reorganization at the beginning of the board meeting.
- 2016-17 School Calendar: Each year regional superintendent groups are charged with developing a school calendar that has at least 175 student days and at least 5 teacher-in-service days. For the full statute click here: [§ 1071. School year and school day](#) In the consent agenda backup you will find the 2016-17 Regional Calendar and the WSD 2016-17 Calendar, which incorporates these requirements as agreed upon by the Champlain Valley Superintendents Association (CVSA). The WSD administration recommends the board approve the WSD 2016-17 Calendar. Your acceptance of the Board Report in the consent agenda will include the approval of the WSD 2016-17 Calendar. A notable change is the elimination of late starts at JFK and making early dismissals K-12 so we can collaborate on a broader continuum.
- Board of School Directors Scholarship (\$500): Karen Greene, WMHS Student Services Assistant organizes scholarships that are awarded during the graduation ceremony each year. She has requested your approval to continue the \$500 Board of School Directors scholarship at the 2015 graduation. By approving the consent agenda you will approve a \$100 contribution for each board member's stipend to be contributed toward this scholarship. You will find her letter of request and criteria for the scholarship in the agenda backup.
- Job Postings for 2016-17
 - Elementary Classroom Teacher (2.0 FTE)
 - Elementary Special Education Teacher (2.0 FTE)
 - Elementary Special Education Teacher/Therapeutic Classroom (1.0 FTE)
 - Speech Language Pathologist (1.0 FTE)
 - High School Special Education Teacher (1.0 FTE)
- Act 46 Update:
 - All superintendents from BSD, CSD, SBSD and WSD met to discuss opportunities for our districts to expand learning opportunities for students and realize operational efficiencies. Following a lengthy and productive discussion the four of us agreed to recommend that WSD and CSD move forward in a formal manner to develop a study committee and pursue these same opportunities with an eye for taking advantage of the tax cuts that come with merger. The group felt that moving forward with four districts would be too unwieldy. BSD and SBSD remain very interested in working with WSD and CSD to find regional ways to expand learning opportunities and realize operational efficiencies so we would recommend that a member from each of these districts participate in the study committee. This is a "discussion/possible action item" on the agenda and there is no action via the consent agenda.
- Legislative Update
 - [2016 Education Legislative Update #5](#)
 - [2016 Education Legislative Update #4](#)
 - [2016 Education Legislative Report #3](#)
 - [2016 Education Legislative Update #2](#)
 - [2016 Education Legislative Update #1](#)

WSD Goals

Goal #1: College & Career Readiness

- Business teacher Courtney Poquette and students Rainbow Chen and Tatum McBride are presenting to the Vermont Financial Literacy Commission on Monday, March 7.
- Courtney Poquette and Marc McQuin are bringing a team of Winooski High School students to compete with 9 other schools in the state's Treasury Cup Challenge on Friday, March 11. Hosted by State Treasurer Beth Pearce, the competition focuses on personal finance, economics, and consumer rights.
- On Thursday, February 11th, the WMHS Science Teachers participated in a science curriculum workday led by Amy Dickson from the Partnership For Change to continue their work aligning the curriculum to both the GXs and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).
- SBAC testing will begin on March 29th with the middle & high school students testing first followed by the JFK students testing in April and May.
- The second *Building Blocks for Literacy* preschool parent workshop is on Wednesday, March 9th in the preschool classroom at JFK. This session will focus parents on using games for building phonemic awareness. The National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) cosponsors a FREE early literacy webinar series with the Stern Center for Language and Learning. This webinar series parallels modules of the online Building Blocks program and highlights activities that are play-based and developmentally appropriate for immediate implementation at home and in childcare settings. [Click here to access the webinars](#)

Goal #2: Healthy, Productive & Successful Lives

- On Tuesday, March 1st we celebrated our culture of wellness with our 3rd Annual Wellness Day. All WSD staff began with a communal breakfast followed by a presentation from me about the importance of wellness for us from both a personal and professional perspective, and the importance of modeling wellness for our students. Also, Mary Jarrett from INVEST EAP, our employee assistance program, presented an overview of their services including some upcoming onsite counseling sessions. After the morning kickoff everyone went to their various activities that included the popular soccer, badminton, powerlifting, running, Zumba, yoga, mindfulness and cribbage. Some popular new activities this year were gardening, kettle bell, coloring, brain games and guitar jam. Everyone was able to participate in up to four 1-hour activities. Marathon Health was offering health screenings that included blood pressure, body mass index (BMI) and body fat % during a delicious lunch provided by The Abbey Group. We finished the day with an activity about gratitude where staff wrote notes of appreciation to colleagues, which will be distributed over the course of the next few months.
- A large diverse group of WSD students and staff, and outside agencies has been collaborating to determine the optimal site for a greenhouse and garden on our campus. Initial research is pointing to the grassy area in the back of the building near the maintenance shop and the new preschool due to its proximity to water and power. The board will continue to receive updates as this project moves forward.
- Betel nut is a stimulant that is a traditional substance used primarily in Asia and causes oral cancers. It is not considered a controlled substance in the US. Some of our Nepali high school boys have been using betel nut, which has significantly decreased their attendance and readiness to learn. Burlington HS is having a similar issue. I consulted with BSD Superintendent Yaw Obeng, local pediatrician Dr. Andrea Green and Albany College of Pharmacy Assistant Dean Dr. Robert Hamilton to construct a letter for grocery store owners that asks them not to sell products with betel nut to students. Nepali community Liaison Tul Niroula and I visited six local grocery stores to discuss the concern distribute a [letter](#) and [health information](#) about the use of betel nut. A translated version of the health information was provided by the VT Dept. of Health to be posted across our communities.

Goal #3: Local & Global Community Engagement

- High school student Pascal Siki has been working on a project to help students get free CCTA rides and improve transportation in the area. Local 22 News reporter Rachel Argon read Pascal's blog about the project and plans to interview him 3/7.
- Friday, February 19 Aftaba Mezetovic organized the second annual *International Luncheon* at the Winooski Senior Center that included cultural foods prepared and served by middle and high school ELL students and staff. Following the delicious and abundant feast, a full house of community members were treated to musical and dance presentations by several of our students. All enjoyed the well-attended event and the students and the seniors are already looking forward to next year.
- On Monday, February 22 Robin Hood attended the Building Bright Futures 6th annual legislative forum. The council spoke with legislators and a senator about 5 important issues: Child Protection, Equal Access to Special Education, Afterschool and Summer Learning, Childcare Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) Subsidy, and the State Budget around Early Learning. Clem Bissonnette, Winooski Legislator, attended. Robin also met with Diana Gonzalez, Winooski's other representative, the following morning for coffee to discuss these important topics. We have strong support from both Clem and Diana and they are well aware of the work WSD is doing around Early Learning.
- On Thursday, March 3rd Robin Hood attended a Building Bright Futures Council meeting to discuss kindergarten transition. Each attendee identified their unique roles in supporting a smooth transition to kindergarten for children and families. We also shared best practices, identify commonalities and differences across districts, and to identify gaps in our system of support and where more investment is needed. This year Principal Sara Raabe will open the JFK summer program to incoming kindergarteners for the full three weeks. This will strengthen the transition opportunities for our children & families.
- Robin Hood will attend the 22nd Annual Early Childhood Day Legislative Day on Wednesday, March 9th at the Vermont State House in Montpelier. Hundreds of early childhood professionals, parents, employers and policymakers to hear [Rhian Allvin](#) from the National Association for the Education of Young Children give the keynote address and the Vermont gubernatorial candidates talk about early childhood.

Finance/Operations

- At the end of February, our fund balance for FY16 is favorably forecasted at \$1,903 or less than .001 % of the voter-approved budget. Look for a detailed FMR in April for the 3rd quarter ending 3/31/16.
- As the year ends, we will begin setting up the accounting system for FY17 and submitting federal grant proposals.
- We have had a summer planning meeting and are preparing for all the activities, maintenance and cleaning of our facility once school is out. A couple of the larger projects on the list will require board approval:
 - Installation of Moveable Walls in the High School which will be presented at the board meeting this month.
 - Upgrade of Refrigeration/Freezer Walk-In in the kitchen. We are currently soliciting bids and will present our results in April. We predict that will be able to fund 75% of this project from the profits from our Food Service Program.