

May 7, 2015

Winooski School District  
Office of the Superintendent  
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(802) 383-6000  
[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:

#### **Consent Agenda**

- a). Minutes of Meetings: April 8, 2015
- b). Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
  - Approval of Bills
- c). Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
  - Accept Superintendent Monitoring Report 2.4
- d). Policy Title: 2.6 Asset Protection
  - Approve Purchase of Grounds Equipment
- e). Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation & Benefits
  - Approve Contract Recommendations
    - Kristen Brown, Elementary Behavioral Coach, 2015/16 (1.0 FTE)
    - Caroline Bell, Elementary Classroom Teacher, 2015/16 (1.0 FTE)
    - Michelle Michalski, Elementary Behavioral Coach, 2015/16 (1.0 FTE)
    - David McNally, High School Science Teacher, 2015/16 (1.0 FTE)
    - Middle School Math/Science Teacher, 2015/16 (1.0 FTE)
    - Anthony Settel, High School Guidance Counselor, 2015/16 (1.0 FTE)
- f). Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - Superintendent Report
- g). Policy Title: 4.2.2 Board Job Description
  - Policy #8312, Public Comments
  - Policy #5124, Graduation Requirements
  - Policy #5110, Attendance
  - Policy #6160, Educational Support System

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

- Policy Title: 3.1 Unity of Control
  - Discuss and Accept first Board Monitoring Report
- Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies

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    - Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #5146, Child Nutrition & Wellness
    - Discussion – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #6151, Course Offerings and Class Size
  - Policy Title: 4.2.4 Legislative Update
    - [Education Legislative Report for April 30, 2015, Issue #9](#)
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- Introductory Meetings:
  - Mary Burns, President & CEO, Greater Burlington YMCA
- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:
  - Leadership, Gardening, & Food Security
    - There is a lot of work going on right now related to these concepts:
      - The City of Winooski received a \$1000 grant from the New England Grassroots Education Fund and began rebuilding some gardening areas on our campus.
      - Winooski School District has jointly submitted a grant with [Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. \(VYCC\)](#) to the Fletcher Allen Community Benefit Fund for \$80K. We should find out the status after May 12th. Much of this requested money would go to paid or credit-bearing work crews of WHS students. VYCC is a great partner who skillfully fosters leadership and collaborative skills through conservation projects.
      - Winooski School District, VYCC and the City are working together to develop an 1/8 of an acre plot at the [Pine Island Community Farm](#) this spring.
      - Also, we will be reaching out to other potential partners:
        - [Common Roots](#) who supports the Farm to School concept, and aims to teach students, teachers, and parents about the value of fresh, local foods.
        - [Vermont Community Gardening Network](#) who encourages, supports, and sustains a dynamic statewide network of community and school gardens
  - Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC):
    - We have devoted a tremendous amount of resource to administering the SBACs in March, April and May. Kirsten Kollgaard has provided outstanding leadership throughout a very challenging process riddled with technological challenges. Teachers and students have been very flexible as we acclimate to this new assessment.
    - Here is the link to the SBAC practice test that you can try to get a sense of how our students are being assessed. You go to <http://vt.portal.airast.org/training-tests/> click on "Take the Practice & Training Tests" and then click "Sign In" to sign in as a guest user. Once in they can choose their grade level and based on that they can choose the test they'd like to take. I recommend the Math Training Test or the ELA

Training Test because they are shorter and meant to familiarize students with the tools needed to take the test.

- House Model Overview: this is the same information as last month as a refresher for the presentation from the WMHS Leadership Team during the elongated “Focus on Learning” this month.
  - The WMHS Leadership Team has been working diligently to grow the iLab to scale in the HS learning environment. They have established a start date of August 2016 to enter a fully personalized/ student-centered learning environment in the HS. Below are some of the details to familiarize the board with the progress. A group from the WMHS Leadership Team will present to the board in May or June to provide more details and again in October or November to connect the budgetary implications.
  - Structures to support Student-Centered Learning
    - Proficiency-based learning that teaches GXs
    - New, flexible schedule
    - Courses/learning driven by student & teacher passions
    - Investment in time and support for teacher learning and collaboration
  - Three Houses
    - A blend of teachers for each house
    - One IA Each
    - All students are in a single house for duration of HS experience
    - Teams of teachers support groups of students
  - Modes of Learning
    - Math Lab - to attain the required experience of success in local math assessment (STAR)
    - iLab - self directed GX learning
    - Studio - flexible, project based, unified by a theme
    - Magnet - GX focused, content driven
- Legislative updates:
  - [Education Legislative Report-Jan 6, 2015, Issue #1](#)
  - [Education Legislative Report-Jan 13, 2015, Issue #2](#)
  - [Education Legislative Report-Jan 23, 2015, Issue #3](#)
  - [Education Legislative Report- February 9, 2015, Issue #4](#)
  - [Education Legislative Report- February 20, 2015, Issue #5](#)
  - [Education Legislative Report- for March 17, 2015, Issue #6](#)
  - [Education Legislative Report for April 3, 2015, Issue #7](#)
  - [Education Legislative Report for April 20, 2015, Issue #8](#)
  - [Education Legislative Report for April 30, 2015, Issue #9](#)
- Policy work:
  - These policies are up this month for a first reading. 1st readings for:

- Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #5146, Child Nutrition & Wellness
  - Please review the cover letter from WSD Wellness Coordinator Jaycie Puttlitz, the current and VSBA model policies for the discussion.
- Discussion – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #6151, Course Offerings and Class Size
  - Please review the current and VSBA model policies for the discussion.
- Job Postings for 2015-16: We have 3 licensed positions open. All have completed first round interviews and finalists will be interviewed next week.
  - Elementary Therapeutic Classroom Teacher (1.0)
  - Middle/High School Health, Family & Consumer Science Teacher (1.0):
  - High School Math Teacher (.5):

## **WSD Goals**

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

- All third, fourth and fifth graders have completed the SBAC. We are now just completing make-ups. The shift to technology appeared to be easiest for grade five. All kids took the assessment seriously. Parents and the school will receive results at some point in time this summer.
- The middle and high school students have completed the SBAC exam. The test was challenging, but students worked hard to complete it and seemed to like that it was on the computer.
- Students with disabilities taking the alternative assessment, Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM), are also wrapping up their assessments. This is also technologically based and has been a wonderful opportunity for our students taking this assessment.
- The elementary teacher science curriculum representatives met with the middle/high school science team to share the science curriculum work all schools have been working on this year. This meeting helped shape our vision to fully align our science curriculum K-12.
- Six middle school students from the 6th grade, trained and supported by middle school guidance counselor Cheryl Brosnan, have been visiting the 5th grade classrooms to talk about life in the middle school, the shifting expectations with increased responsibility and choice, and supporting a positive feel about the transition to the middle school.
- April 16, the middle school students attended a STEM Career Day at St. Michael's College. Some of the highlights included a chemical magic show by Professor David Heroux and a comedy show centering on leadership, financial literacy, and personal aspirations/ambitions by local comedian Colin Ryan. VSAC's Heidi McLoughlin worked with Ms. Brosnan to plan and lead the event.
- Senior Amanda Natress, a student at the Burlington Technical Center Medical and Sports Sciences, exhibited her research project at the Vermont State Science and Math Fair at Norwich University on Saturday, March 28. Amanda's research project, "The Effects of Canine Assisted Therapy (CAT) on Teens in a Stressful Situation," was awarded the Vermont Principals' Association Silver Medal for project excellence and a \$250 award for the top senior project.

- Tune in to Local 22/44 TV early Friday morning, May 15 (starting between 5:00 and 5:30am). The Winooski Middle High School will be the featured “Cool School,” with students from both the middle and high school sharing in 5-10 minute interview segments the great things they’re doing and learning!

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

- JFK is walking during the month of May. Each day at recess students have the opportunity to walk the track. We are recording the number of laps walked at the end of each week. The first week was so positive for kids and teachers. Everyone wanted to see how far they could go!
- On Thursday, May 7th, there was a tour of the new Early Learning Center. This is a requirement of the Vermont Community Preschool Collaborative (VCPC) grant received by Winooski School District. Information was shared about early learning in Winooski, Act 166, and our collaborative relationship with Head Start. The visit ended with a visit in the preschool, where visitors had the opportunity to interact and work with some of our youngest learners! We look forward to expanding to two sessions in the Early Learning Center next year!
- Three members of the Winooski ELL Team attended an institute on working with SLIFE students (Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education) which focuses on developing curriculum, lesson plans and a school community that will better support these students as they adapt to the US public school system.
- The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) farm continues to be an exemplary partner with our middle high school. For the 5th season high school students are being transported to the farm to work, learn, in some cases earn science credit, and build community in various ways! This spring nine students are actively participating!

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

- Members of Peace Jam, along with leaders Libby Houghton and Melissa Clark have participated in several community conversations during the past month. including Opiate Conversations and a meeting with the City Council.
- The final PACTS meeting of the 2014-2015 school year was held on May 7, 2015.
- The Talent Show was a huge success! It was so well attended. The PAC was full! All those brave souls who got up to perform did an outstanding job. It was such a fun night! A big thank you to the PACTS group, Lisa Goetz and the PTO for sponsoring the event.
- Kindergarten screening and registration is being held on May 8th and May 11th. This information helps us with placement for next year.
- The 2015 Spring Into the Arts week will be held the week of May 18th with events going on at the school and the O’Brien Community Center all week. The SITA committee has been working hard to build on our previous years’ successes.
- The district wide Parent Teacher conferences took place on April 9th and 10th and were well attended. Parents were able to meet with their student’s teachers to learn about their progress and what is going in their classrooms.
- Several of our middle and high school students have taken on a leadership role in fundraising for the victims of the earthquake in Nepal. They have been doing outreach to the school and local communities, holding meetings, bake sales and running information tables at school, the O’Brien Community Center, CCV and at the recent Waking

Windows music festival among other places. For more information on their and the community's efforts visit <http://vermontfornepal.org/>.

### **Finance/Operations**

- At the end of April, our fund balance for the FY15 is favorably forecasted at \$112,000 or just about 1% of the voter-approved budget.
- The balance of the Reserve Fund is currently \$450,118. which reflects the encumbered expense for the summer High School Unit Vent project.
- As the year comes to a close, the projected fund balance will vary as actual expenses are paid. Over the next eight weeks, the leadership team will continue to review the fund balance.
- As usual, summer will be a busy time for the facility staff. Currently, we are working to put together the summer cleaning and prepare for upgrades to several spaces and routine maintenance.
- The public safety committee continues to meet monthly and will organize an off site relocation drill to St. Michael's College scheduled for May 15th.