

June 4, 2015

Winooski School District  
Office of the Superintendent  
60 Normand Street  
Winooski, Vermont 05404  
(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:

A. **Consent Agenda**

- a. Minutes of Meetings: May 13, 2015
- b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
  1. Approval of Bills
  2. Approve IDEA-B Flow-Thru
  3. Approve IDEA-B Preschool
- c. Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation & Benefits
  1. Approve Contract Recommendations
    - i. Vicki Wolinsky, Middle/High School, Health Teacher (1.0 FTE), 2015/16 SY
    - ii. Sierra Thibodeau, High School Math Teacher (.5 FTE), 2015/16 SY
    - iii. Lindi Hixon, Elementary Special Education Teacher (1.0 FTE), 2015/16 SY
- d. Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  1. Superintendent Report
- e. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Board Job Description
  - a. Policy #6151, Course Offerings and Class Size
  - b. Approve Recommendation of Food Service Contract

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

- ENDS Monitoring (Policy Section I)
  - Plan Global Engagement Forum (no backup enclosed or needed)
- Policy Title: 4.1.b Governing Style: Encouragement of a Diversity of Views
  - Presentation/Discussion Robert's Rules (backup enclosed)
- Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
  - Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #5146, Child Nutrition & Wellness (backup enclosed)
- Policy Title: 4.2.4 Legislative Update
  - H.361 Discussion (backup is linked in Supt. Report below)

- Policy Title: 4.5 Agenda Planning
    - Review Draft of Annual Agenda Plan for 2015/16 (backup enclosed)
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- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:

- Gardening & Food Security

- There is a lot of work going on right now related to these concepts:
  - [Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. \(VYCC\)](#) and Winooski School District have been awarded \$68K from the Fletcher Allen Community Benefit Fund. Much of this requested money would go to paid or credit-bearing work crews of WHS students. Also, VYCC will be working with [Green Mountain Farm Direct](#) to provide some of the harvested crops to our food service provider, The Abbey Group which can be served in our cafeteria.
  - Winooski School District, VYCC and the City are working together to develop two 1/8 of an acre plots at the [Pine Island Community Farm](#) this spring.

- Student Transportation Update

- Parents & Youth for Change held a public action on Wednesday, June 3rd at the O'Brien Community Center. Parent and youth leaders shared their learning about the issue of school transportation through the reading of a [research report](#), and personal stories. This was followed by inviting special guests City Manager Katherine Decarreau, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) Transportation Program Manager Eleni Churchill, and CCTA General Manager Karen Walton and WSD Superintendent Sean McMannon to the podium to "*commit to working together with us and supporting an action team over the next 6 months to find solutions to help students get to school safe, on time and ready to learn.*" All special guests said they would support the process and clearly stated that they cannot lead or commit resources to student transportation at this time. In addition, all special guests noted that this is a complex issue that would have been solved already if it was simple but are optimistic about supporting the community in developing creative, innovative and cost-efficient potential solutions.

- Partnership for Change/ Nellie Mae Education Foundation (NMEF) Update

- This past spring, the Nellie Mae Education Foundation encumbered the funds to support continued funding for The Partnership for Change, but deferred its decision until after key leadership positions in Burlington were filled. In mid-April, the Foundation allowed us to resubmit our re-application materials for consideration and in May told us that their staff would recommend one year of additional funding to their board, with the opportunity of two additional years after that. On June 18, the Nellie Mae Board will vote to make our next year of funding official. At that point, we will need to complete a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

between Nellie Mae and the Winooski and Burlington School Districts. Nellie Mae is requesting that the school board chair sign the MOU on behalf of the school board. We are asking that through your approval of the consent agenda and the superintendent's report you are allowing the board president to sign off on the MOU.

- You are cordially invited to join us for our P4C End-of-Year Celebration Dinner on Wednesday June 17 from 5:30-7:30pm at the Winooski School Cafe. Expect an evite soon.
- Legislative updates:
  - [Legislative Summary for 2015 Legislative Session](#): This is the overall summary of all education-related bills passed in the 2015 legislative session
  - Here are three resource documents related to H.361:
    - [This a two-page summary of the bill](#): I would recommend reading this abbreviated version for the board discussion.
    - This is a link to the bill as it was approved by both the house and senate. [This is the bill in its entirety.](#)
    - [This is a 13-page section-by-section summary of the bill](#):
  - Past Legislative Reports from 2015 Session
    - [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:
  - This policy is up this month for a first reading. 1st reading for:
    - Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #5146, Child Nutrition & Wellness
- Job Postings for 2015-16: All licensed positions will have been filled when the final three positions in the consent agenda are approved by the board.
- Local Involvement
  - United Way 2015 Campaign
    - WSD Superintendent Sean McMannon supports the United Way by leading the Schools Unit for the annual campaign. Overall, \$3.85M was raised and \$29K by the Schools Unit. WSD raised \$2105. United Way supports Winooski and greater Chittenden County through their targeted approach to improve education, health and income. You can view the details of their contributions

to improving our communities in the [United Way 2014 Community Impact Report](#).

- [YMCA-Greater Burlington](#)
  - WSD Superintendent Sean McMannon was nominated and approved for a three-year board seat with the YMCA. The Greater Burlington YMCA's mission is to build a strong community by involving youth, adults, and families, in programs and activities that develop spirit, mind, and body.

## **WSD Goals**

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

- The kindergarten and second grade classes have been working hard on their Project-Based Learning (PBL) projects this spring. Kindergarten has been learning all about gardening, and planting some raised beds behind their classrooms to learn more about the lifecycle of plants. Second grade has been learning about pollination and recently hosted a local beekeeper who taught them about how important bees are to agriculture.
- On May 12th WHS hosted a transition night for 8th grade parents getting ready to transition their children into the high school. The evening included presentations on the high school's move towards proficiency based learning, personalized learning plans, the guidance supports at the high school and the socio-emotional change in the parent-child relationship at that age.
- WSD is hosting a new middle school summer program for English Language Learners (ELLs) this summer. The program is offered on the Winooski campus through the [Shader Croft School](#) and involves intensive literacy and oral skills instruction through a personalized learning approach. Students will get to work on their oral and literacy skills while developing leadership skills by planning their own interest-based field trips into the community.
- In May, the 4th, 8th and 11th graders took the Science NECAP assessments to show their knowledge of science content and inquiry skills.
- JFK will be offering four full weeks of summer school programming this year for students entering 1st through 6th grades focusing on sustaining their math and literacy skills during the summer. The first two weeks of summer school will also include a program for entering kindergarteners that will show them what kindergarten is like and prepare them to begin school in the fall.
- The JFK ELL department will also be offering an additional week of summer school for elementary students who have come to the US within the last year. This week focuses on developing their academic language while helping to familiarize them with local community and geography of Vermont through visits to Lake Champlain and Sugarbush Resort among other places.
- All assessments have been completed at JFK in literacy and math. Progress at the student, class, grade and school level will be reviewed over the summer. This will help set future direction.
- Friday, May 22, the seniors shared their presentations and speeches. The quality of their work was tremendous, demonstrating a high level of proficiency in Effective Oral and Written Communication!
- We learned on June 3rd that Winooski High School students earned First and Second place in the annual statewide Business Plan competition! Hunter Robare earned First

Place for his plan about “Supreme Kicks,” and Taylor Langlais earned 2nd place for “Fly So High!” What an amazing honor for our students, our school community, and teacher Courtney Poquette!

- In the final week of the school year, all students in grades 6-12 are preparing to celebrate their learning during “Expo Week”! All students will demonstrate their Effective Oral & Written Communication (EOWC) and Critical Thinking & Problem Solving (CTPS) skills by sharing a speech and a visual presentation from work during the school year. Engagement in the work has been very high, with students proudly talking about their presentations, and staff commenting about the positive energy and focus evident in their classes. Our Expo Week celebration of GX learning is currently underway June 9-11!
- 8th grader Abbie Hayford read the 225,902 words in Reading Plus’ “SeeReader” this year, which is tops in our school! In recognition, she received tickets to a future Lake Monsters game and has the honor of throwing out the ceremonial first pitch! Her hard work and dedication to grow led to astounding growth in her reading skills. This young student has an exemplary work ethic, and her future is bright!
- On May 26 we hosted a family informational night for rising sixth graders to answer questions about their upcoming transition to middle school.

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

- During the month of May, students walked the track during recess. Students tracked the number of mile/laps they walked. On Monday, June 8th, we will celebrate miles/laps walked when we gather as a school community.
- On Monday, June 8th, we will have our school-wide celebration in recognition of reaching our goal (200,000 stars). Our outdoor celebration starts with The Big Blue Trunk, who organizes games. We will also have face painting, tattooing, and snack stations and in the afternoon some of our fifth grade students will run various games for our younger students. It promises to be a fun day!
- On Thursday, June 11th, the entire school district will gather for a wellness event. We will begin in the gym with a mindfulness activity, recognition of staff retiring or leaving, and move the celebration outside to eat popsicles and play.
- On May 21st the Winooski Middle High School Unified Sports Team participated in the [Vermont Special Olympics Bocce Event](#). We fielded two 4-person teams and they won two gold medals! Unified Sports pair’s students with intellectual disabilities with nondisabled peers.
- Shennelle Bailey, a Winooski Middle School eighth-grader, wants stores to reconsider the products they're placing at eye-level. "If it's not cigarillos and it's not cigarettes it's going to be something else to attract teens, and there's going to be something else they want us to get hooked to, something else they want this generation to replace because the other generation is dying and to me it's unfair -- that's just taking away from us," Bailey said. [Please click here for the article published by Channel 5](#)

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

- Local TV station Channel 22 featured WSD on their “Cool Schools” segment on Friday, May 15th. Our students were incredibly articulate in describing some of their favorite aspects of WSD: Senior Project, Peace Jam, mentoring, Business classes and cultural diversity. [Please click here to view all the videos!](#)

- The 3rd year of Spring Into the Arts (SITA) was a great success! The week of May 17th the Winooski Schools teamed up with the city to offer several arts-related events including the kick off performance at the O'Brien Center, the JFK and WMHS concerts and the Empty Bowls Dinner. Students artwork was displayed at venues all around the city and in the school.
- We held our Open House for incoming Kindergarten students on Wednesday, June 3rd. The structure of the evening consisted of a story, a scavenger hunt (which was a tour of the building), revealing their teacher and ended with dinner in their new classroom.
- The fifth grade barbecue was held on June 4th. This is our goodbye to our fifth grade students as they get ready to transition to the middle school. We begin with dinner, followed by certificates for each student and conclude with video presentations.
- Junior Hom Pradhan was highlighted in a TV interview in WCAX on the 30, Tuesday, June 2nd. [Click here to view the video.](#)
- Sophomore and school board student representative Rainbow Chen has been selected in a highly competitive evaluation/interview process to be the student representative on the Vermont State Board of Education for 2015-2017! This is a tremendous opportunity for Rainbow, and source of pride and honor for each one in our community! [Here is Governor Shumlin's Press Release!](#)
- The Peace Jam group continues their work to improve our Winooski community! Most recently they planted flowers around Chick's Market to add to the beauty to our spring and summer!

### **Finance/Operations**

- At the end of May, our fund balance for FY15 is favorably forecasted at \$106,311 or ~1% of the voter-approved budget. This will continue to vary, as year-end expenses are reconciled and final invoices come in.
- The balance of the Reserve Fund is currently \$450,129. which reflects the encumbered expense for the summer High School Unit Vent project that will begin on June 16, 2015.
- Over the weekend of May 30th we experienced some power outages due to a malfunctioning transformer on Bellevue Street that created smoke in the IT part of the building. This created issues with overall power, the phone system and Internet connectivity. By Wednesday we were 100% restored and running with no issues. Three doors required repairs, two HVAC motors and a technology switch needed replacing. Finance Manager Rebecca Goulet and Maintenance Director Kevin O'Neil will be meeting with a Green Mountain Power (GMP) representative to better understand what happened. An insurance claim has been submitted.
- Our summer food service program will run from June 15 to July 31, 2015 (no service on 7/3) at WSD. Breakfast will be served from 7:45 am to 8:15 am and Lunch from 11:45 am to 12:45 pm. The site is open for any child/student 18 years old or younger at no cost. The Abbey Group will provide the service.
- In addition to the Unit Vent project this summer, the gym lobby bathrooms will receive a facelift, the back entrance to JFK will be repaired, the back doors to the kitchen will be replaced, several rooms will be painted and receive new fixtures, the sensory room will be relocated as will several other classrooms.