

Winooski School District
Office of the Superintendent
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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:
 - Onion River Chiropractic, Dr. Kelly Rybicki & Dr. Marion Fraser
 - Winooski Family Center, Karen Prosciak & Catherine Simonson
 - UVM Upward Bound Program, Elaine Leavitt

- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
 - Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA)/Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA) Fall Conference
 - Theme for Thursday, October 24-**Achieving** a World-Class Education for Every Child: link for specific workshop descriptions, agendas and handouts-
<http://www.vtvsba.org/conf/2013confhandouts.html>
 - Theme for Friday, October 25-**Funding** a World-Class Education for Every Child: link for specific workshop descriptions, agendas and handouts-
<http://www.vtvsba.org/conf/2013confhandouts.html>

 - Student representatives to school board: WHS senior Dakota Duffey and sophomore Ledania Taylor will be presented at the November meeting.

 - "The Hungry Heart": I went to a viewing of this documentary film by Bess O'Brien on Friday, October 18th at the Community College of Vermont (CCV). The showing was very well-attended and provided "an intimate look at the often hidden world of prescription drug addiction through the world of Vermont Pediatrician Fred Holmes who works with patients struggling with this disease. Dr. Holmes prescribes suboxone to his patients struggling with prescription drug addiction. Much like methadone, suboxone helps many addicts in their recovery process– for some taking suboxone is a crucial stepping stone to long term recovery, for others it is a crutch, for others suboxone is abused and diverted onto the street. Through the film we see Dr. Holmes struggling with these challenges and trying to make sense and keep the faith in the midst of many contradictions. Most importantly however, as the film progresses we begin to see the simple but profound connection that Dr. Holmes creates with each patient The film shines a light on the healing power of conversation and the need for connection that many of these young addicts yearn for but do not have in their lives. In addition, the film interviews a number of older addicts who talk about their recovery process juxtaposed against Fred's patients. The road to recovery is paved with both success stories and strewn with relapses, downfalls and tragic losses. However, through the movie we see the many faces and diverse populations of addiction, and their continued search for a life of recovery."
[\(http://thehungryheartmovie.org/about-the-film/synopsis/\)](http://thehungryheartmovie.org/about-the-film/synopsis/)

- Calendar 2.0: Below is a statement from the Champlain Valley Superintendents Association (CVSA) and a motion made by the Burlington School Board that really summarize the status of Calendar 2.0.
 - *From the Champlain Valley Superintendents Association (CVSA) to our communities:*
We wish to let you know that we as regional superintendents value input from our respective communities. We need community support and know we all want what is best for our children. We value opportunities, questions and concerns and we are listening. What we have heard to date is there is not broad based community readiness for this proposal for 2014-15 and we have decided not to implement this current proposed calendar in 2014-15; however, we have a responsibility to engage our communities in a conversation that looks at time as a variable in student learning. We are sifting through all of the feedback from last week, and will sift through all of the feedback from this week and we want to capture the creative thinking of this community in shaping a 21st century learning environment. We will come back with more answers to the questions and explore the different ideas you have brought to us. We want you to stay involved early on and we will communicate our discussions and opportunities for engagement along the way.
 - *Motion from Burlington School Board:* In response to the public comment surrounding the Calendar 2.0 proposal, the Burlington School Board of Commissioners urges the BSD Superintendent to support a 2014-2015 calendar that closely resembles that of the current school year. In the development of future calendars, we expect the CVSA to carefully articulate the problem facing the schools, how the calendar change will address the problem and what data exists to support this alteration, while seeking input from stakeholders (parents, students, teachers, business-owners, etc.) in the development of these alterations all in advance of proposing substantive changes. The Board further believes that it is our responsibility and that of the district staff to incorporate into our considerations the public concern expressed during the Calendar 2.0 response and forum process. We are committed to engaging with the Burlington community in a continued discussion on how to address the education challenges facing our District.
- Winooski Health & Wellness
 - I convened a group to study the concept of *Collective Impact* and the following health and wellness data and plans.
 - 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
 - http://www.healthvermont.gov/research/yrbs/2011/district_results.aspx
 - VT State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)
 - <http://healthvermont.gov/hv2020/ship.aspx>
 - VT Early Childhood Framework
 - <http://governor.vermont.gov/sites/governor/files/VT%20ECH%20Framework.10-29-13.pdf>
 - What is Collective Impact?
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k2nY6_mpWLZciWEkHmPM6-qM5bpD9BpKqLheCwyMMY7wZd5fKxgpcbrts6EO/edit?usp=sharing
- Winooski Community Forum: Building an Economy in Chittenden County Where Everyone is Secure & Prospers

- I served as a panelist with Jerry Tarrant, MyWebGrocer COO and co-founder and Joe Burkhard, owner and founder of Winooski Insurance. This forum was sponsored by *Campaign for Vermont* who “advocates for common sense, non-partisan solutions that promote economic opportunity and improves the quality of life for current and future generations of Vermonters.”
(<http://campaignforvermont.org/index.php>) The discussion focused on preparing students for a rapidly changing world and how business, education and government can work together to support this important work. My comments were focused on dedicating more resource to early learning, partnering with local businesses and non-profits to provide relevant, real-world experiences for high school students and addressing social challenges through cross-sector cooperation, i.e. collective impact.
- Leadership Champlain Human Services Day
 - I served as a panelist with Michael Schirling, Burlington Police Chief, Bob Bick, Director of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services for Howard Center, Tristram Coffin, US Attorney for VT, and Mary Alice McKenzie, Director of Boys & Girls Club-Burlington. Discussion focused on bringing the community together to understand the current and critical issue of substance abuse, specifically heroin that is affecting our network of human services and the need to approach this community-wide issue through collective impact strategies.
- Community Health Improvement
 - I met with members of Fletcher Allen’s Community Health improvement Team and heard about their programs and services which can be found here: <http://fletcherallen.org/?CHI> I will be sharing these resources with our staff and parents.
- Penguin Plunge update: Our Winooski Team has 14 team members and has raised \$2395. I would encourage all board members to register to plunge and/or contribute by checking out this link: <http://www.firstgiving.com/team/247809>. Our school assembly will be Friday, November 15th to kickoff the event and engage students and staff in this meaningful endeavor.
- WSD Weekly issues
 - **WSD WEEKLY-ELL** <http://flip.it/N8ack>
 - **WSD WEEKLY-PROJECT-BASED LEARNING** <http://flip.it/yDKMa>
 - **WSD WEEKLY-Student Centered Learning** <http://flip.it/Dmtlp>
- Partnership for Change update: Director Hal Colston will provide the board with and update at this November meeting. Two items I would like to highlight are:
 - Nov. 2 - Community Learning Conversation at Winooski from 9:30-1:00pm - Theme: *Imagine a School System Designed for All Learners*
 - News article: <http://www.wcax.com/story/23861391/focusing-on-the-future-of-education#.UnZdMb5HJWY.twitter>
 - Nellie Mae Education Foundation (NMEF) Conference Nov. 5-8: Middle/High School Principal Leon Wheeler, board member Tori Cleiland, teachers Steve Crowley and Will Andrews and I attended this conference. It was a great opportunity to meet educators from across the four NMEF grantee sites and share experiences from the student-centered work thus far. The full program can be viewed here:

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CmcN29S1umeo3Sj7yXAZgQnbGUIrJsMN-A-ljgs0-u9iHZjE3cE88z0HA0RE/edit?usp=sharing>

WSD Goals

Goal #1: Increase student learning and growth

- Reading Plus (Grades 6-12)
 - Over the past several days, I have had two spontaneous opportunities to hear from two students who have been working in the Reading Plus program. I had seen recent data on these students and knew they were moving through the program very successfully, and it caused me to wonder how they were feeling about so much early success. One ELL student indicated that he found Reading Plus to be both fun and motivating. I asked him whether he could share any other thoughts about his recent reading success, and his reply was, “My classes all seem easier now.”
 - The next day, I happened to see the parent of another successful Reading Plus student and I asked if her daughter had shared the good news, and she said that she hadn’t. I let her know that her daughter was experiencing a great deal of success in the program, and I suggested that she ask her about it. After a few seconds, she became quite excited and said that her daughter had never read a book for pleasure before, and that really bothered her. Reading had always been a struggle so it wasn’t something she did unless absolutely necessary. On a recent afternoon, she came home and saw her daughter lying on the couch reading, and couldn’t believe her eyes! Her daughter indicated that the book was one she had selected to read for a class, and she couldn’t wait to get home to see what happened. She told her mother she would like the other books in that series, and off they went to Barnes & Noble. The books were out of stock, so the mother ordered them online and said she was thrilled to be buying books at her daughter’s request.
 - I plan to collect many more of these student stories as the year progresses and will ask teachers to do the same, because I am quite certain that Reading Plus will unlock doors for many, many students in the middle and high schools. Donna Issenberg, Reading Specialist, has been working very closely with Jennifer Huber, Reading Plus representative, to ensure that the middle school teachers have the training and the resources they need to implement the program successfully. I truly appreciate this partnership.
- We have had two Green Mountain Star (GMS) planning meetings for JFK. At our last meeting, we looked at our first math assessment. We used a protocol from our Professional Learning Communities (PLC) training. This protocol helped us stay very focused on what the data might be telling us. We will continue our discussion at the next meeting. We will also be looking at literacy data at the next meeting. The data is helping us think about our next steps for Tier 1 and 2 instruction.
- We have had two school community celebrations to date at JFK. We are celebrating each time our students earn 20,000 stars for demonstrating expected behaviors. Our celebrations will be small until we hit 100,000 and then we will have a bigger celebration. Students are helping to plan the smaller celebrations.
- We are pleased to announce that Dr. Mary Wilson, CCC, SLP, from Laureate Learning Systems in Winooski, has donated the complete *Sterling Edition* of Laureate software programs to the Winooski School District; this is over \$50,000 worth of software that our district will have access to for free. All the *Sterling Edition* language intervention programs have an *Optimized Intervention* expert system that automatically delivers the curriculum, collects data, and has built-in reports. This means that our students on IEPs or those who are ELL can use the software independently in

labs or the library (or with an assistant in the case of more involved students). Increased services can mean that our students on IEPs may reach their goals more quickly. Our ELL students will benefit from having access to independent practice especially on syntax where they experience the most difficulty. The software provides practice in early vocabulary, expressive language, syntax, auditory discrimination, functional language, and more. Again, many thanks to Dr. Wilson and her generosity to our school community!

Goal #2: Increase student engagement through best instructional practices

- Math Best Practices studios:
 - The first two studio days were held at JFK on October 24th and 25th. These two days provided all of us time to continue our work from the summer. Our work consisted of data snaps (10 minute observations) in classrooms, reviewing the data snaps and setting some direction for the following day. On the second day, the data snaps were shared with the studio residents/teacher (there are 8 residents and 1 studio teacher). We then went to the studio teacher's classroom and the trainer taught the lesson. The remainder of the day was spent debriefing. Teacher found this day engaging and exciting!
- Dave White, our science consultant, spent two half days, Nov. 6th and 7th with the first grade team. The teachers spent the first half-day planning a lesson using a *Science Instructional Sequence Routine*. On the 7th, they watched one person deliver the lesson and then they got together to debrief. The 1st grade team was really excited about the time spent with Dave. He will be working with each grade level throughout the year.

Goal #3: Increase parent/community engagement

- The Parents as Educational Partners (PEP) class continues to go extremely well. New parents continue to join the group. The ELL teachers report that they are on target with the PEP curriculum. Parents have been learning about the tardy and attendance policy and how to contact the school if their child will be tardy or sick. They are also practicing using English to call the school with different scenarios around attendance. In the next two weeks of class parents will be preparing for the upcoming parent conferences. They will learn about what to expect at a parent-teacher conference, how to review their child's schedule and how to ask questions about their child's work, grades, etc.
- Business students worked as Media Planners to get the Train Show Flyers into local businesses. It was great to see the plan they created go into action and even better to see all the people that are willing to support our school! The list is quite impressive and the work will be 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 our goal of 700 adults through the door and increasing money for scholarships. Nice teamwork!
- PACTS: Parents had a chance to socialize and continue to build relationships with one another. I 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. The following subcommittees have been enlisted to work on specific projects: Community Reads, Communication, Media, and Transitions. Also, agendas and meeting minutes can be found on our website: <http://www.winooski.k12.vt.us/Page/1535>
- Parent Conferences will be held on Monday, November 25th. Notices will be going out to parents. Teachers will be reaching out to make sure they set up times to meet with each parent in their class. Report cards will go home during these conferences.

Goal #4: Collaboration and communication

- We are continuing to partner with the YMCA as they offer the Rise and Shine Program. The Y receives a grant each year and they have reached out to us for three years. A YMCA employee works with about 20 students from 7:30 to 8:00 two mornings a week. The program is activity-based and helps get kids moving prior to the beginning of the day.
- Our foster grandparents received one of the Hometown Hero Awards. They will be recognized at the Echo Center on Thursday, November 14th. Also, WPTZ will be at school on Friday, November 15th to do a short news story about the services our foster grandparents provide to Winooski children.
- On October 22nd a conversation was held at United Way in regards to multiple pathways to graduation for Burlington and Winooski ELL students. This dialogue was well attended by representatives from both Winooski and Burlington school district, as well as multiple community partners: Community College of Vermont, Vermont Adult Learning, VT Agency of Education, United Way, Partnership for Change, Middlebury College, Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program, Navicate, and VSAC. We are committed to work collaboratively toward the development of a pilot bridging program, which will focus on study skills, personalization and college readiness.

Finance

- The budget season is in full swing. I will present an overview of the FY15 Baseline Budget and Budget Assumptions at the November 18 meeting.
- There was little change in the Financial Management Report (FMR) ending October 31, 2013. At this time our projected Fund Balance is \$ 79,109.00 or 1%. There has been no additional activity in the Reserve Account, and the projected balance is \$691,688

Action Items

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

- Consent Agenda
 - Minutes of Meetings: October 9, 2013
 - Policy Title: 2.8.4 Communication and Support to the Board: Visible internal changes
 - Personnel Hire
 - Lucas Dunn, Middle/High School French (1 year only)
 - Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - New York City Student Trip Request
 - Superintendent Report
 - Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Approval of Bills