

April 3, 2014

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

- Introductory Meetings:
 - Joe Gamache, local personal injury lawyer

- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:
 - The development of WSD K-12 math, literacy, and physical education curricula is well underway, and these documents are expected to be ready for posting on the website at the end of this school year. The science curriculum work is in the second year of development, and there will a posting of the current work by the end of this school year as well.

 - Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA) All-Member meeting: The following were agenda items at our April 3rd meeting:
 - Follow up with Nate Levenson from District Management Council regarding “Achieving Cost Savings in Vermont Schools”
 - <http://www.dmcouncil.org/about-us>
 - Accountability and Teacher Evaluation Updates – Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcombe
 - New Food Service Requirements – John Barone and Steve Marinelli, Milton School District, Anore Horton, Child Nutrition Advocacy Manager-Hunger Free VT
 - More stringent nutrition requirements are coming!
 - Community Eligibility Provision is offered by the USDA to support schools in providing free school meals to **all** students. To be eligible at least 40% of enrolled students must be certified to receive free school meals. We are exploring this option and will need to notify the AOE by June 30th if we will be pursuing this support.
 - Initiatives of the VSA School Energy Management Program – Norm Etkind, Program Director
 - <http://www.vtvs.org/school-energy-management-program.php>
 - Legislative update on H.883 and H.889 (see below for details and summaries)

- Board of School Directors Award
 - Karen Greene, Student Services Assistant organizes scholarships that are awarded during the graduation ceremony each year has requested your approval to continue the \$500 Board of School Directors scholarship at the 2014 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.

- Legislative update
 - School Governance H.883 Summary
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzAa_9synLEXN2h5LVVfenU5UV1DYIBpeFIDOHdIUE4zam9R/edit?usp=sharing
 - I attended a VSA Governance Meeting in Montpelier on Friday, March 7th. Board President Mike Decarreau attended a VSBA Governance Meeting on Tuesday, March 11th. Mike and I will bring information from these meetings to the board meeting for discussion.
 - Articles about governance reorganization:
 - This one is from Bob Stevens, former teacher, principal and executive director for the Vermont Principals' Association. Bob is now working as a consultant doing, among other services, searches for superintendents and principals:
 - <http://vtdigger.org/2014/03/31/bob-stevens-school-governance-reorganization-pros-cons/>
 - This one is from Norm Etkind, Director for VSA's School Energy Management Program. Norm writes about the advantages of a systems' approach for responsibly taking care of school buildings and grounds, and the prospects for better achieving those advantages under the systems' approach envisioned in H.883.
 - <http://vtdigger.org/2014/03/31/norm-etkind-improving-school-energy-management/>
 - Property Taxes H.889 Summary:
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzAa_9synLEXNGlaaXZLdUJrVV9RaFg5dWZfUWhWWWZtS1Mw/edit?usp=sharing

- Policy work
 - Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)-Student Surveys: This policy is up this month for a first reading. Please read the WSD current and VSBA model policies for our discussion.
 - Parent Involvement: This policy is up this month for a first reading. Please read the WSD current, VSBA model and Draft policies for our discussion.

- Policy Governance Seminar: I attended this training last week and have attached the agenda and supporting documents to this agenda packet for your perusal. Overall, it was a useful bridging of theory and practice. Specifically, I have some ideas about how we can measure ENDS that I will share at a future meeting.
- Job Postings for 2014-15:
 - The following jobs have been posted and first round interviews will begin this month.
 - Special Educator (1.0 FTE, EEE):
 - Special Educator (1.0 FTE, Grades 4 & 5):
 - Special Educator (1.0 FTE, Grades K-5, Behavior Specialist)
 - Special Educator (1.0 FTE, Middle School):
 - Math (.5 FTE, Middle School):
 - Director of ELL & Curriculum (Full-Time, Full-Year, PreK-12):
 - The following jobs will be posted in the upcoming weeks:
 - Data Manager (Full-Time, Full-Year, PreK-12):
 - Webmaster/Help Desk (Full-Time, Full-Year, PreK-12):
 - Technology Technician: (Part-Time, Full-Year, PreK-12)
 - Wellness Coordinator: (Full-Time, School-Year, PreK-12):
- Superintendent Monitoring Report: I would ask that the board review my *Policy 2.7: Compensation & Benefits* Monitoring Report in the agenda packet and be prepared to discuss and offer feedback at the meeting.
- Opiate Addiction Working Group: I participated by providing the educational perspective in the planning meeting for the Governor's Forum on Opiate Addiction last month. This was led by Carolyn Wesley, Director of Constituent Services for the Governor and included over 20 people from various fields. The forum is scheduled for June 19th.
- Vermont Business Roundtable (VBR): Jeanne Collins, BSD Superintendent and I presented to VBR's Education Task Force. VBR's Education Task Force, is looking at how the employment community can support meaningful education reform in Vermont. We shared the presentation that we made at the WSD-BSD Joint Board Retreat in January.
- Winooski Health & Wellness
 - We met on Tuesday, March 18th. We developed an action plan to work on identified "low-hanging fruit" of coordinating food services and use of bike helmets.
- WSD Weekly issues

- **WSD WEEKLY-Wellness** <http://flip.it/drY3P>
 - **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>
 - **WSD WEEKLY-Mindfulness** <http://flip.it/sBxcj>
 - **WSD WEEKLY:Great Teaching!** <http://flip.it/ZYNBB>
- Partnership for Change (P4C) updates:
- **Lead Community Partner (LCP) Update:** LCP parent group is gathering "college/career planning" data from WMHS and BHS to create a comprehensive "map" of what is currently available for students. LCP will be meeting with Navicate, VSAC, and Upward Bound for the same purpose.
 - **Neighborhood Learning Conversations (NLC)-** The NLCs focus will be on Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs) in Winooski and Burlington. A second strand of NLCs will focus on Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements in Winooski. The bulk of the NLCs will occur in April and May. Interested hosts are encouraged to contact Jessica Nordhaus at jsnordhaus@gmail.com
 - **EDC Survey:** The Education Development Center surveys for students will be administered at WMHS and BHS before the April break beginning April 14th and closing May 2nd. The teacher survey will be administered the first week of May due by mid-May. Language was added to the survey to add descriptors of P4C work when P4C is referenced in the survey. The purpose of the survey is to assess student perception of changes in learning practices and the change in teacher practice (i.e. gap analysis).
 - **Teacher Innovator Program:** In order to best support the needs of teachers to change their teaching practice, P4C funding that previously supported fellowships will be used in the 2014-15 school year to fund this program of embedded Teacher Innovators that will support teachers in implementing personalized and proficiency-based teaching and learning practices in their classrooms. The goal is to create a systemic shift in the way teachers are supported to learn, collaborate, implement, and share the practices that help them meet the needs of all their students. More importantly, the Teacher Innovator Program will increase interactive support for teachers from our current fellows model. Applications at WMHS and BHS are being reviewed.
 - Upcoming P4C Events
 - NMEF Task Force Meeting April 8-9 in Portsmouth, NH
 - EDC Student and Teacher Survey (Mid-April to Mid-May)
 - School Innovation Seminar students to visit NMEF site Casco Bay High School in Portland, ME in May to see similar innovation efforts
 - P4C I-Team Meeting - May 1, 2014

WSD Goals

Goal #1: Increase student learning and growth

- Saturday, March 22, three of our high school students competed in the Vermont Jr. Iron Chef competition at the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds. The Three Spartaneers (Allysa Winegar, Shyanna Sweeney, and Jason Troung) prepared their famous Stuffed Spartan Tomatoes with kale chips on the side. Jacie Knapp, 5th grade teacher at JFK, has been working with them since late November/early December as they perfected their recipe. They had a fun time cooking together and walked away with the Crowd Pleaser Award which is given to the chefs who create the dish that is the favorite with the judges. On Tuesday, April 8, our honored chefs have been invited to prepare their recipe for the legislators at the State House! Congratulations Alyssa, Shyanna, and Jason!
- Our middle high school music students celebrated their learning and growth this year with the “Swing Into Spring” concert on March 20. There are 15 middle school students and 3 high school students in the respective choral programs; 10 middle school and 3 high school students in our orchestra; 14 middle school and 14 high school students in our band. It was an inspiring and affirming celebration, amid a persistent winter, that things will change...things are changing...and spring is coming.
- Initial planning has started for JFK Summer School. This year summer school will be three weeks, June 23-July 11. Our entering Kindergarten students will attend an orientation week during this session. Our focus for grades 1-5 will be on Project-Based Learning (PBL).

Goal #2: Increase student engagement through best instructional practices

- Dave White, science consultant, continues to work with grade level teams. All teams have followed a “lesson study” format. Teachers have been excited about the work!
- Linda Marshall, literacy consultant, was here for a week in mid-March. She worked in every classroom. She observed, modeled and coached-in. Linda also spent time looking at our “Accountable Talk Read Aloud” strategy and provided us with next steps. She also began the discussion around independent reading time. This is the next area we will be focusing on in literacy.
- Clare Early, math consultant, was here on April 3rd and 7th. Clare spent Friday planning with our studio teacher. She also conducted data snaps. On Monday, we debrief as a large group using the information from the data snaps. We also observe our studio teacher and debrief this lesson.
- Christina Lauterbach was awarded a grant through the Partnership for Change to bring Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* to her students through the work of professional actors Lindsey Pontius and Bob Hart. In a series of five workshops, students will explore our Graduate Expectation (GX) of Persistence by using their bodies, voices, and imagination to lift Shakespeare’s poetry off the page. Their work will culminate in a showing of scenes from *Romeo and Juliet* to our eighth graders.
- Additionally the PTO provided \$3000 to bring an artist-in-residence to our middle/high school. The Middlebury Actor’s Workshop will be coming during Spring Into the Arts to perform *Straight-Up, Shakespeare* and deliver a master class for the high school. Lindsay

Pontius and our teachers will collaboratively design interactive workshops for middle schoolers.

Goal #3: Increase parent/community engagement

- On the morning of Tuesday, March 25, the middle/high school hosted a “Learning Walk” for a group of 20 Nepali and Bhutanese adults. Family-School Partnership Coordinator Anera Foco planned and organized the event which included a walking tour with introductions to office personnel and staff members, classroom visits in both middle and high classrooms, and conversation about our school system.
- Thursday, March 27, current 5th grade students and their parents/guardians were invited to a late afternoon presentation and conversation about the transition into the middle grades. A group of about 20 joined Cheryl Brosnan, Danielle Jatlow, Tul Niroula, Kate Grodin, and Leon Wheeler to learn about the transition process, team structure, support systems, daily schedule, and more. This initial orientation has been followed by an invitation for parents/guardians to meet the teachers for coffee on April 1 and 2 at 8am.
- Our next PACTS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 17 at 6:00 p.m.
- Parent conferences are being held next Thursday, April 10th and Friday, April 11th. Teachers are scheduling conferences so each parent has a time to meet with them. Both of these days are early release days and bag lunches will be provided to any student that would like one.

Goal #4: Collaboration and communication

- The entire student body at JFK attended a concert on Monday, March 31st at the Elley-Long Performance Hall. The Central Vermont Chamber Music Players performed for the students. The children were an amazing audience! STARS behavior was evident the entire hour. This concert was sponsored by the Vermont Youth Orchestra (VYO).
- Another school-wide assembly was presented by “Puppets in Education” for JFK and middle school students. The topics discussed were bullying and acceptance. Thanks to Shearer Chevrolet for sponsoring this event.

Finance/Operations

- As of March 31, 2014 our estimated fund balance for FY14 is \$140,385. Please note that this number will continue to change throughout the spring as facilities projects begin and special education student needs change.
- The Reserve Account has as project balance of \$650,110. There are a few summer projects that we are still exploring and will present a proposal for capital improvements in May/June.
- Our FY13 audit is complete and our fund balance is \$115,736. The electronic report was submitted on March 28, 2014 to the AOE. We are still waiting for the final journal entries and the printed report. It will be forwarded as soon as it is received.
- A Request for Proposal (RFP) will go out in April to secure auditing services for FY15.

Action Items

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

- Consent Agenda
 - Minutes of Meetings: March 12, 2014
 - Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Approval of Bills
 - Policy 2.7: Compensation and Benefits
 - Approve Support Staff/IA Contracts for 2014/15 SY
 - Approve Contract Recommendation-Lucas Dunn, French Teacher
 - Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - Superintendent Report
 - Policy Title: 4.1
 - Board of School Directors Award