

Winooski School District  
Office of the Superintendent  
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[www.wsdschools.org](http://www.wsdschools.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:

**5. Consent Agenda: (5 Minutes)**

- a) Minutes of Meetings: September 10 and 14, 2016
- b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
  - Approval of Bills
- c) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - Superintendent Report
- d) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Board Job Description
  - Adopt Policy #4115, Alcohol & Drug Testing: Transportation Employees
  - Adopt Policy #5145, Protection of Pupil Rights

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

**6. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II): (20 Minutes)**

- a) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
  - Quarterly Financial Management Report: Review/Discussion/Approval
  - Superintendent Monitoring Report 2.3: Review/Discussion/Approval
  - Student Tutoring Request for Proposal: Review/Discussion/Approval

**7. Board-Management Delegation (Policy Section III): (15 Minutes)**

- a) Policy Title: 3.2 Accountability of the Superintendent
  - Board Monitoring Report - Discussion/Approval
- b) Policy Title: 3.4.6 Superintendent Evaluation & Expectations (no backup)
  - Discussion

**8. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV): (90 Minutes)**

- a) Policy Title: 4.1.b Governing Style: Encouragement of a Diversity of Views
  - Introduction of New Student Representative to the School Board
  - Student Report to the Board
- c) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
  - Discussion – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #4127, Volunteers, Work Study Students and Student Teachers
  - Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #6171, Parental Involvement
- c) Policy Title: 4.5 Agenda Planning
  - Approve Annual Board Agenda Plan

## Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:

- **Ready for Kindergarten! Survey:** The complete [2015-2016 Ready for Kindergarten! Survey Report](#) is now available. The report includes that for the 2015-16 school year 82% of all students statewide were identified as kindergarten ready, with 57% being within category 4-“ready and performing independently” group; 25% of students were within category 3- “ready and practicing.” The table below reflects a positive effect of publically funded Pre-K in the Winooski School District (WSD). We are moving in the right direction. Winooski was an early adopter!

	<u>State of Vermont</u> <u>% Ready</u>	<u>Winooski</u> <u>% Ready</u>
All Students	81.79	79.55
Boys	77.42	77.27
Girls	86.58	81.82
Free & Reduced	73.23	76.19
Not Free & Reduced	88.13	82.61
Attended Publically Funded Pre K	85.38	<b>94.74</b>
Did Not Attend Publicly Funded Pre K	77.52	68.00

- **Chittenden County Opioid Alliance update:** The Chittenden County Opioid Alliance (CCOA) is a group made up of state and local government, businesses, non-profit leaders and residents that have agreed to come together and work on reducing the opioid abuse and the burdens it brings to our community, through a Collective Impact model. This alliance is made up of four teams. I am a member of the Long-Term, Community Level Prevention Action team. The biggest impact we see in the school is the addiction by parents/guardians that negatively impacts the basic needs of our students. [The 1-page overview can be found here.](#)
- **City of Winooski Capital project update:** The beginning stages of a possible move of City of Winooski municipal operations, including Administration, Police Department and Library Services to the O'Brien Community Center was presented to the City Council and public at the October 3rd meeting. [Details of the six possible schemas with estimated expenses can be found here.](#)
- **Winooski Early Education Program (WECP):** The STARS application has been approved for 5 STARS, the highest rating, effective 10/16/2016.
- **WSD's Collaboration with the Howard Center on Autism Services:** WSD Director of Special Services and Early Learning Robin Hood has co-authored an article describing this collaborative work. [Read the article here.](#)
- **Changes to Open Meeting Law:** [To stay updated with these important changes please read here.](#)
- **New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC):** I have spoken with NEASC Executive Director George Edwards because many Vermont high schools are choosing to drop their NEASC accreditation. This is happening because many schools and districts feel the NEASC process costs too much, takes staff away from their core work during the self-study and duplicates the new state-level accountability process that will be coming out soon. George, WMHS Principal Leon Wheeler and I have agreed to discuss these concerns in person before December and our NEASC reporting timeline has been mutually delayed until then.
- **Driver Education:** We have been unable to hire a licensed Driver Education instructor for the fall course after our teacher resigned in the summer. We attempted to hire through Schoolspring.com, a

Request for Proposal (RFP) and using the VT-AOE Listserv. We continue to work to find a solution for the spring and will keep the board updated.

- **Legislative Update**
  - [2016 Education Legislative Update #10](#)

## **WSD Goals**

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

- Bill Feeley from Teachers Development Group will come to work with a new cohort of JFK teachers October 14th and 15th on Math Best Practices. The new cohort consists of 16 teachers with representation from all grade levels, ELL, and Special Education.
- Cate Lamb & Lisa Italiano of the Green Mountain Writing Project worked with WMS teachers on the implementation of Lucy Calkins' Units of Study for Writing. It was the first of a several-day professional development series this school year.
- Brian David Johnson, futurist, presented to all WMS science classes and the WHS robotics class. We are the only school in Chittenden County that he is visiting, thanks to the connections we have with ECHO
- A group of WMHS students attended a dance workshop and performance at the Flynn Theater with Rennie Harris Puremovement.
- The Education Redesign Lab at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, in partnership with the Innovation Lab Network/CCSSO, is studying the implementation of personalized learning and proficiency-based learning in Vermont. WMHS was recommended to this group of researchers by the VT Agency of Education to learn from our students, staff and parents about our journey toward personalized, proficiency-based learning. They will be visiting Friday, October 7th.
- JFK teachers wrapped up the First Six Weeks of School from Responsive Classroom during the week of October 3rd. The goals of The First Six Weeks are to:
  - Create a climate of warmth, inclusion, and safety;
  - Teach classroom routines and behavior expectations;
  - Help students get to know and care for the classroom and school environment;
  - Establish expectations for academic work

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

- The JFK HEART Monitor was filled with hearts. The whole school celebrated together on October 5th with a Bubble Party
- Since 2007, the Vermont Farm to School Grant Program has awarded over a million dollars to more than 100 schools throughout the state to facilitate the integration of local foods in school cafeterias, classrooms and communities, impacting roughly 30 % of all schools in Vermont. Winooski School District has taken full advantage of these programs and was chosen to host the celebration of the impacts of Farm to School programming and to announce new grant funding for Universal Meals in Vermont schools. In our very own garden, surrounded by sunflowers, basil, squash and potatoes, VT Agriculture Secretary Chuck Ross announced more than \$130,000 in funding available to Vermont schools in 2017.
- On September 15th the entire 5th grade participated in a full day team building experience. Northern Lights came to school to work on team building with all the students. They brought their portable rock-climbing wall and facilitated other hands-on experiences for our students. It was pretty amazing to watch.
- One creative activity junior Zach Chagnon does for his wellness is write poetry. Linked here is a feel-good piece he wrote recently: ["Our School."](#)

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

- We all heard that Rainbow Chen was invited to be a speaker on student voice at the Educator's Summit in Little Rock, Arkansas. You may not know that she has joined the ranks of the Clinton School of Public Service Distinguished Speaker Series! [Here is her speech!](#)
- Author Soman Chainani gave a presentation on his book series *The School For Good and Evil* to the entire WMS as well as some JFK and WHS classes.

- The Flying Pig Bookstore in Shelburne is bringing author Ammi-Joan Paquette to JFK on October 31st. Ammi-Joan Paquette will be doing presentations for K-2 and 3-5
- A youth team in collaboration with the staff team who attended the NMEF Conference is working to design high interest, community-enhancing activities for the early dismissal mornings in the high school. Both middle and high school will have special activities during our early dismissal mornings throughout the year with a focus on strengthening staff/student relationships, PLPs and advisory, and college and career readiness.
- Each year preschool parents from the JFK Winooski Early Childhood Program are invited to engage in completing a parent survey. [This is what parents are saying!](#)

### **Finance/Operations**

- At the end of September, our fund balance for FY17 is favorably forecasted at ~\$12K or less than 1% of the voter-approved budget.
- The projected balance of the Reserve Fund is currently \$444,151. This balance includes encumbrances for projects that are still in progress.
- The leadership team has begun the budget building process for FY18.
- The walk in cooler/freezer in the kitchen is operational and making a huge difference in production for our food service program. We have also purchased a new deli cart and warming cabinet to assist with lunch service. These purchases were all made with the surplus from our FY16 food service program.
- The public safety committee has held it's first meeting and has begun to review the new templates to update our procedures.