

September 9, 2016

Winooski School District
Office of the Superintendent
60 Normand Street
Winooski, Vermont 05404
(802) 383-6000
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:

5. **School Board/City Council Meeting:** (30 Minutes)
 - Discussion/Approve City-School MOU

6. **Consent Agenda:** (5 Minutes)
 - a) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Approval of Bills
 - b) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - Superintendent Report

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

7. **Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):** (90 Minutes)
 - a) Policy Title: 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership
 - Communications Training with Imaj
 - b) Policy Title: 4.1.b Governing Style: Encouragement of a Diversity of Views
 - Student Report to the Board
 - c) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - Discussion – 1st Reading, Policy #4115, Alcohol and Drug Testing: Transportation Employees
 - Discussion - 1st Reading, Policy #5145, Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment-Student Surveys
 - d) Policy Title: 4.8 Governance Investment
 - Determine Board Governance Budget

8. **Global Executive Restraint (Policy Section II):** (20 Minutes)
 - a) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Superintendent Monitoring Report - Review and Discussion
 - b) Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
 - Budget FY18 Parameters

9. **Board-Management Delegation (Policy Section III):**
 - a) Policy Title: 3.2 Accountability of the Superintendent
 - Board Monitoring Report - Review and Discussion

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:

- Policy work:
 - I have completed the annual review of required policies as listed on the VT VSBA website and the board is in compliance.
 - These policies are up this month for a first reading:
 - Discussion – 1st Reading, Policy #4115, Alcohol and Drug Testing: Transportation Employees
 - Discussion - 1st Reading, Policy #5145, Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment-Student Surveys

- City of Winooski Volunteer Recognition Event: The WSD Leadership Team was recognized at this event for delivering *Meals-On-Wheels* during the 2014-16 summers.

- WSD Leadership Retreat: Our team met July 6th and 7th for our annual retreat to reflect on the successes and areas of need from the past year. Much of the time was spent reviewing data in the areas of Attendance, Behavior, Reading and Math.

- Summer Student Activities:
 - Nordic Soccer Camp: Over 30 middle schoolers and 25 elementary-aged students worked with Nordic Soccer Club (NSC) coaches on their soccer skills.
 - Spartan Hoop Camp: Over 120 students in grades 2-10 attended three, weeklong sessions this summer!
 - Middle School Summer Camp: Over 30 middle schoolers attended the joint Winooski & Burlington School District summer camp that ran for five weeks. WMS students have done everything from graphic novel creation to swimming lessons to Pre-Algebra.
 - VYCC/WMHS Garden Project: WHS students have been working with our partner, VT Youth Conservation Corps to spruce up our existing gardens and construct a new garden behind the school.
 - JFK Summer Program: Over 130 K-5 students worked on literacy, math and other important skills to combat summer learning loss.
 - Shader Croft Summer Program: 33 WMHS students worked on their literacy and oral communication skills, learned to swim, and enjoyed various community experiences during this 5 week program.
 - THRIVE: Over 30 families took advantage of this full-day 8:00am-5:30pm program.
 - JFK Newcomer ELL Program: This program welcomed and acclimated our elementary-aged students who have just arrived in VT.
 - WMS & WHS Basketball Open Gym: This weekly option for our WMHS students was a great way to stay in shape and enjoy time with friends.
 - Little League Baseball: Our baseball fields were busy with regular season games and tournaments over the course of the summer with many of our Winooski youth participating.

- Therapeutic Jiu-Jitsu: Centerpoint staff offered this opportunity for middle school students this summer as a continuation of the program during the school year.
- VT Foodbank: WSD worked to add two summer food drop-offs, Friday, July 1, and Friday, August 5
- Summer Food Service Program: Breakfast and Lunch was served each day from June 13 to August 5 at WSD.
- Summer Staff Work & Training
 - Responsive Classroom Teacher Training: The *Responsive Classroom* approach to teaching emphasizes academic, social, and emotional growth in a strong school community. It believes that *how* children learn is as important as *what* they learn, and that academic success is inextricably tied to building social-emotional competencies. Independent research has found that the *Responsive Classroom* approach is associated with higher academic achievement in math and reading, improved school climate, and higher-quality instruction. All JFK teachers have been trained in this method this summer.
 - Developmental Designs Teacher Training: *Developmental Designs* believes student success relies on a blend of good relationships, social skills, and engagement with learning. *Developmental Designs* practices build skills and engagement in three key areas of school life: social-emotional, relationship and community and academic. All WMS teachers have been trained in this method this summer.
 - JFK Bathroom renovations: These much-needed improvements are complete.
 - JFK Classroom movement: Classrooms have been moved so there is a flow from the kindergarten rooms which will stay in the same spaces, up to 5th grade classes which will be at the end of the main hallway leading to the baseball fields. This will allow teachers and students in the same grade easier access to each other for things like literacy and math groupings.
 - WHS Moveable walls: Two moveable walls at WHS have been installed to allow the flexibility for larger spaces.
 - New Walk-In Cooler: This project has been successfully completed.
 - New Electronic Sign: Thanks to the school board and our PTO an electronic sign has been installed. The PTO has granted WSD a very generous \$10K toward this important project. The new sign can be remotely programmed to display multiple messages and images to improve overall communication
- New Teacher Orientation: On August 10th our very first New Teacher Orientation was held. This full-day included mindfulness, team-building activities, building tour, meeting key people, Winooski Trivia game, overviews of our ELL and Special Education programming and supports and time to work with their respective supervisor. A great day with a talented and committed group of new teachers!

- Early Learning Challenge Grant Advisory Council: [The Early Learning Challenge grant](#) is a major federal grant that promotes school readiness for children with high needs in Vermont. On Monday July 25 I was on a panel to discuss the successes and challenges in implementing Act 166-PreK including our partnership with Head Start.
- WSD Pre-Service: Below are some highlights from our opening.
 - [*Opening Presentation](#)
 - [Data Review Packet](#): Teachers spent a second year in K-12 groupings analyzing data and providing input on potential action items.
 - [Communications](#): This doc outlines our comprehensive system of improving communication utilizing the various modes we have available.
 - [Welcome Back to School BBQ](#): Another successful kickoff event with nearly 1000 meals served!
- Leadership Champlain: This program is a nine-month Community Leadership Program that is in its 28th year and has graduated over 900 professionals. Rebecca Goulet, WSD Finance Manager and Matt Gonzalez, WSD Webmaster applied, were accepted and are attending the Opening Retreat this week. The program starts with the retreat, followed by monthly seminar days focused on the following topics:
 - October - Human Services
 - November - Government & Politics
 - December - Education
 - January - Criminal Justice
 - February - Energy
 - March - Business and the Economy
 - April - Health Care
 - May - Civic Engagement & Community Service
 - June - Project Presentations & Graduation
- Student Transportation Update: There had been a tentative plan to fund a transportation pilot this school year limited to the coldest months of December through February specifically targeted at our densest area of students, which is near Malletts Bay Avenue. The pilot was to be funded by the Winooski Housing Authority and WSD. Our share was dependent upon our actual versus budgeted amounts for staff, which ended up being too tight to afford supporting this pilot. In addition, the Winooski Housing Authority board voted against funding the pilot. I will continue to work with our Transportation Committee to plan how we move forward.

WSD Goals

Goal #1: College & Career Readiness

- Jennifer LaPointe, JFK Literacy Coach, attended a three-day training in Massachusetts at the Wilson Language Training Center. This Foundations training will allow Jennifer to facilitate professional learning with our K-2 teachers to implement Foundations in each classroom this year. <http://www.wilsonlanguage.com/programs/foundations/>
- Over the summer ELL students across the district participated in summer programs to enhance their English language skills. These programs included JFK Newcomer Summer School, two ELL Shader Croft programs at the middle and high school and a high school

summer reading program for ELLs. In addition, our ELL students participated in other programs such as JFK Summer School, the 21C summer programs and math tutoring at the high school.

- The middle and high school started a new tradition for the opening day with a Smart Start. Wednesday, August 31st was a welcoming day for incoming 6th and 9th grade students. It was a special morning of introductions to our community, programs, and work together, while having fun and building positive relationships. All indications from that day and through the opening days of school have been that it was a positive experience and supportive of our new middle and high school students.
- During the coming year, the mornings of our early dismissal days will be designed specifically to strengthen engagement and personalization through a variety of special events. In conjunction with the Nellie Mae Education Foundation (NMEF) and technical assistance from the Education Development Center (EDC), a team including Melissa Mintzer, Drew Blanchard, Lucas Dunn, Matt Webb, Lindsey Cox and Leon Wheeler will make this the focus of their work beginning at the NMEF Cross Site Conference in late September.
- Early Learning Update: This year we have twenty-three Act 166 preschool partner programs! These programs provide 120 preschool slots for Winooski children. The JFK preschool (Winooski Early Childhood Program/EEE Collaborative) has a total of 20 Head Start Slots, 10 in the AM and 10 in the PM. Both classes are filled. The other slots are filled with children who receive Early Childhood Special Education services. The Early Learning Center has filled all slots (17 in the AM class and 17 in the PM class). The Winooski Family Center and Winooski School District will be announcing some exciting changes soon as we transition toward expanding to a full-day program.
- Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) is the alternative assessment for students who would have significant difficulty accessing the SBAC assessment (significant cognitive disability, requires extensive direct individualized instruction and substantial support to achieve measureable gains in the grade and age appropriate curriculum). This time of year is our checkpoint for intake and uploading students into the testing system. The fall window for testing will open in October. We continue to prepare for this important assessment.

Goal #2: Healthy, Productive & Successful Lives

- PBiS roll out is well underway at JFK. We had a school wide roll-out on Friday September 2nd, including a quick dance party! Staff members are handing out HEARTS and classes are filling their jars.
- JFK classrooms have started composting. Jaycie Puttlitz, Wellness Coordinator and Mick Muscat, Facilities Supervisor came to the staff meeting on September 7th to roll out the program with teachers.
- In the middle school, Developmental Designs (DD), the middle school extension of Responsive Classroom, is being implemented this year. Middle school teachers along with several high school attended the June training in DD. Teacher will build a cohesive approach to coach adolescents to greater independence and engagement in learning by using the common practices outlined in DD.
- Four middle/high teachers joined Jaycie Puttlitz for mindfulness training and planning during the summer. Amy Sherrer, Gina Krol, Becky Savage, and Vicki Wolinsky did the

training and developed plans for integrating mindful practices into their classrooms this year.

- We are excited to move into our third year of Unified Sports. Tim Rich, middle school special educator will once again lead the students as program director and coach. Bowling will be starting the first week of October. This program connects students with disabilities with normally developing peers.

Goal #3: Local & Global Community Engagement

- At the family BBQ, we put out tables of books for students and their families to take home. At JFK, the only homework each night is reading. We encouraged families to take books to support this. Our home school coordinator will continue to work on getting the remaining books into families homes.
- The week of September 19th is the Scholastic Book Fair at JFK. Families are always welcome to come in with their student(s) to purchase books to read at home.
- JFK is welcoming a group of future educators from St. Mikes and a group from UVM this fall to work with our talented teachers.
- Nine WHS students attended the Youth Leadership Institute in August, seven officially representing the school and two more representing Diversity Rocks. Joined by WMHS French teacher Lucas Dunn, the team developed a plan for strengthening student voice. During our annual Convocation on August 25th, YLI member Rainbow Chen opened the middle/high meeting with a speech about her learning experiences at WMHS, and several additional YLI students joined a panel discussion with the middle/high staff. Many staff commented with appreciation about the conversation and the challenge to include and listen to all students.
- In August WSD organized our second New American family field trip. Several of our New American families took a trip on the ferry across Lake Champlain and had a picnic lunch. This trip helped teachers and liaisons develop stronger relationships with some of our newer families.

Finance/Operations

- At the end of August, our fund balance for FY17 is favorably forecasted at ~\$300K or less than 2% of the voter-approved budget.
- The balance of the Reserve Fund is currently \$414,612.