

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:** I have continued my emphasis on building relationships across the Winooski community by meeting with the following folks and organizations:
 - Peter Asch, CEO Twincraft Soap
 - Bill Mares, Vermont Council on World Affairs

- **Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment**
 - **School Choice Capacities for 2014-2015:**
 - Based on [Act 129](#) (Public School Choice in Grades 9-12 & Other Laws):
 - The WSD administration recommends the board set the number of students who can exercise school choice and attend other VT public high schools at 25.
 - Current-2013-14: 11 students out
 - The WSD administration recommends the board set the number of students we can receive at 15 based on our demographics and student needs.
 - Current-2013-14: 7 students in
 - **Announced Tuition for 2014-2015:** Announced tuition is an estimate of allowable tuition reported by districts receiving tuition students. Allowable tuition plus 6.27% based on the proposed 2014-15 budget.
 - Kindergarten: \$11,987
 - Grades 1-6: \$11,987
 - Grades 7-12: \$15,582
 - **Act 62 and 132 (An Act Relating to PreKindergarten Education) for 2014-2015:**
 - Currently, we have \$36K budgeted in the 2014-15 operating budget to support PreK students attending qualified partner programs. As we continue to develop a system to identify children ages 1-5 in Winooski our hope would be to increase the number of students attending qualified partner programs which would require future investment in early learning. For more information about the recently awarded *Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge* please click here: <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/six-states-awarded-race-top-early-learning-challenge-rtt-elc-grants-build-statew>
 - **Professional and Staff Development Financial Report:** Both of these updates are included in the agenda packet

- - **“Train the Trainer” workshop on racism:** Following [Tim Wise](#)'s presentation on racism at Champlain College there will be a workshop on January 31st. The Partnership for Change is funding the following teachers and students to attend: Matt Webb, Andrea Wheeland, Chris Magistrale, Jen LaPointe, Ali Omar and Nhung Nguyen

- “Fix it With Five” grant/St. Michael’s College: I have worked with Ed Wilkens, Development Director at the Stern Center for Language and Learning to write a grant to help identify families with pre-K children in Winooski, collect relevant family information, information about engagement with early childhood education and care programs, provide BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY® training for building early literacy foundational skills to parents, grandparents, and early learning providers, and strengthen the relationship and communication between WSD and local early learning providers. We have requested \$10,000. For more information: <http://fixitwithfive.wordpress.com/> We expect to hear about selection of finalists by the end of January.

- Winooski Health & Wellness
 - Our third meeting will be Tuesday, January 28th. We have invited experts from Fletcher Allen’s Community Health Improvement team and the VT Department of Health to present to the group on the following documents and data:
 - Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA):
 - http://www.fletcherallen.org/community_resources/community_assessment/
 - VT State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)
 - <http://healthvermont.gov/hv2020/ship.aspx>
 - Also, our latest 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) results have been published and can be found here:
 - <http://www.healthvermont.gov/research/yrbs/2013/documents/Winooski.pdf>

- Penguin Plunge update: Our Winooski Team has 70 team members and has raised \$3410. I would encourage all board members to register to plunge and/or contribute by checking out this link: <http://www.firstgiving.com/team/247809>.

- 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>
 - **WSD WEEKLY-Mindfulness** <http://flip.it/sBxcj>
 - **WSD WEEKLY:Great Teaching!** <http://flip.it/ZYNBB>

- VSBA Resolution: The following resolution is on the VSBA’s list of topics for the upcoming legislative session. “The VSBA requests the General Assembly to conduct a thorough analysis of the weighted membership for English Language Learners in order to determine whether 1.2 FTE provides sufficient resources to adequately meet the needs of ELL students.”
 - Below are descriptions of school funding proposals in California & Colorado that deal with poverty and ELL
 - http://www.denverpost.com/ci_22616344/sen-mike-johnston-unveils-bill-revamp-school-finance
 - <http://schoolfunding.info/2013/07/california-legislature-approves-reform-funding-legislation/>

- Annual Report review: <http://wdschools.org/domain/5>
 - Please review last year’s Annual Report for our discussion at the board meeting

- Partnership for Change (P4C) updates:
 - WHS and Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) have submitted an Innovative Programs Proposal for \$15K to run the [Farm to Food Program similar to last year's program](#).
 - Report Card inserts: P4C has created a report card insert about the work of the Partnership in supporting the changes happening at our schools. Each one will be tailored to the specific school.
 - [UVM Summit on Education Policy](#), January 13th: click link for info, I will be attending
 - [The BSD & WSD Partnering for Change Logic Model revision](#) is due January 16th: click link for draft
 - P4C is considering a shift from the fellowship model to a coaching model for the upcoming school year. All coaches would be WHS and BHS teachers. More to come later as this develops.
 - <http://partnershipvt.org/progress/family-school-communication-study/>

WSD Goals

Goal #1: Increase student learning and growth

- JFK will be administering the AIMSweb assessment in math this month. We will be using these results to make instructional decisions for students who are struggling. This assessment helps determine students who need additional intervention. We will also be doing our mid-year assessments in reading. We will be using both our Fountas and Pinnell benchmark and basal reading end-of-unit assessments. Again, this information assists with intervention determinations.
- Tuesday, December 17 the high school held the first Aspirations Day. The keynote speaker, Jeff Yalden, kicked off the day with a message that was both engaging and inspirational for students and staff alike. Students then cycled through a variety of panels and workshops based on personal interest. One of the panels, primarily for seniors, was made up of Winooski graduates who spoke of their college and career experiences. The overwhelming feedback from students was that the day was great, informative, and helped them see their dreams coming to life. Thank to WHS guidance counselor Emmy Charron for leading this endeavor.
- Students being on time to school has been a persistent challenge at the middle and high school. For the first months of this school year an average of 26 high school students per day have been tardy to school, equaling 12% of the student body. Beginning January 6, the office team will be holding meetings with every tardy student, having each one write a plan that identifies what's getting in the way of their being on time and what they will do differently to meet the expectation. When their plan is realistic and mutually agreeable, it will be signed and they can continue to class. We will track and review the data regularly to ensure that the number of students on time and prepared to learn increases significantly over the coming months.

Goal #2: Increase student engagement through best instructional practices

- The Green Mountain Star Action Planning Team monthly meeting is being held on Monday, January 6th. We will be focusing on parent communication and the development of a pilot program in math at grade 5. Next month, we will be looking at walk-through data.

- On December 16 and 17, six staff members attended a Design Thinking workshop at the Winooski Mills. Teachers were inspired to design a pilot for flexible scheduling with students through the iLab immediately. This is an exciting new effort.

Goal #3: Increase parent/community engagement

- Our Winter Performance was very well attended. Our theme this year was “Growing Stars of the Future” with the focus on the WHS graduate expectations. A big “thank you” to the teachers, staff and children for their hard work to make the night special for all.
- During the late fall community door-to-door work the following six issues rose to the surface that call for our attention: After school programs; Communication with parents; Student empowerment and well-being; Academics; Rules and Procedures; Family specific issues. We now have important information that Anera Foco and Leon Wheeler will sort through. Also, two specific appreciations should be noted: for the size of the school (“My son is known.” “...allowed to learn in her own way.” “...empowered to have voice heard.”), and the Welcome Back BBQ (“Loved it.” “Great to see school opened up to everyone.” “It was very welcoming.” “Hope to have more experiences like this.”) One other common theme from parents was that the lockdown in November was handled very well and gave them a sense of comfort and confidence.

Goal #4: Collaboration and communication

- ELL Student update: Last year at this time there were 221 ELL students in the district. This year we have 259 ELL students, an increase of 38 students over last year.
- ELL Bridging Program: The P4C is facilitating a group researching predictors of college readiness for our ELL students. WSD, BSD, CCV and United Way all have representatives participating in this group. The ACCUPLACER, TOEFL, SAT and ACT all are varying predictors of college readiness for our ELL students. There is reasonably strong alignment of content/skills between the Common Core and the WIDA ACCESS test, as well as between Common Core and the SAT & ACT. At this point in time, the Common Core appears to be the best iteration of what all students need for college. According to [alignment studies](#), Common Core and the WIDA/ACCESS standards for ELL aren’t very far apart—Writing (particularly range of writing tasks) appears to be the area of greatest difference between the two. The planning group will continue to draw upon the rapidly increasing body of work on the linguistic demands of Common Core, particularly what the various Common Core Standards mean for ELL students as we explore developing a high school to college bridging program for ELL students.

Finance

- The Quarter 2 Financial Management Review (FMR): The following reports are included in the agenda packet.
 - FMR Memo
 - Operating Budget Expenditure Report
 - Revenue Report
 - Grants & Miscellaneous Report
 - Reserve Account Report
- Bill Yacavoni is completing field work to prepare our FY 14 Audit Report.

Action Items

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

- Consent Agenda

- Minutes of Meetings: December 4, 9, 2013
- Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Approval of Bills
- Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - Superintendent Report
 - Announced Tuition for 2014-2015
 - School Choice Capacities for 2014-2015
- Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Resolution to apply for P Card
- Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
 - Adoption of 2014-2015 Winooski School District Budget
 - Adoption of 2014-2015 Budget Warnings