

February 5, 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: I have continued my emphasis on building relationships across the Winooski community and beyond by meeting with the following folks and organizations:
 - David Brown, President of Vermont Heating & Ventilation
 - Mitch Barron, Director of Centerpoint Adolescent Treatment Services
 - Sally Tipton, Owner of Sally's Flowers
 - Sarah Andriano, Director of Admissions at Champlain College
 - Joe Handy, local property and business owner
 - Tracey Tsugawa, Investigator and Trainer for VT Human Right Commission (HRC) and Chair of Harassment, Hazing & Bullying Prevention Advisory Council
 - Manuela Fonseca, VT AOE Early Education Coordinator
 - Charles Johnson, VT AOE Safe Schools Coordinator

- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
 - WSD-BSD Joint Board Retreat: This was a wonderful morning focused on student-centered learning with a portion of time dedicated to the role of school board governance in supporting this work. Highlights were student and teacher presentations, and "students as elders" Kiva process. There will be time for a full reflection during the board meeting. Please see the document entitled "P4CBoardRetreatReflection.doc" to prepare for this discussion.
 - VSA All-Member Meeting: I attended the January 23rd meeting with the following agenda items
 - Address from Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcombe
 - I continue to be impressed with her leadership, deep understanding of learning and articulate delivery of educational messages. She focused on the revised Education Quality Standards (EQS) which will be considered by the State Board of Education soon for adoption. Also, she engaged the group in a conversation about good governance.

- Karen Shea, Child Protection Manager and Jim Forbes, Special Investigations Manager for Department for Children and Families (DCF) regarding DCF protocols for suspected child abuse and neglect
 - This was an excellent presentation which clearly delineated the process from start to finish regarding suspected child abuse and neglect. I have reached out to the Director of the Burlington Office, Mark Carr to introduce myself.
 - Legislative Chairs – Education and Finance Committees
 - Each committee chair shared the current status of their work. The best synopsis is the read the following update: <http://www.vtvsba.org/legis/2014-03.html>
- Winooski Senior Center Budget presentation: I presented the FY 15 budget to about 50 seniors on Tuesday, February 4th.
- Achieving Collective Impact: How You Can Change Community outcomes
 - I participated in this webinar which focused on the concept of “backbone organizations” in a collective impact approach.
- “Fix it With Five” grant/St. Michael’s College: Unfortunately, we did not reach the pool of finalists for this grant.
- Winooski Health & Wellness
 - Our third meeting was Tuesday, January 28th. Experts from Fletcher Allen’s Community Health Improvement team, Julie Cole & Kristin Fontaine and the VT Department of Health, Tracy Dolan, presented to the group on the following documents and data:
 - Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA):
 - [Winooski-Specific data](#)
 - [July 2012 Pediatric Progress Report](#)
 - VT State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)
 - <http://healthvermont.gov/hv2020/ship.aspx>
- Penguin Plunge update: Our Winooski Team has 70 team members and has raised \$8947. I would encourage all board members to register to plunge and/or contribute by checking out this link: <http://www.firstgiving.com/team/247809>. The plunge is this Saturday, February 8th, 11:00 am at the Burlington Waterfront.
- 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>
- Partnership for Change (P4C) updates:
 - WHS and Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) have been awarded an Innovative Programs Proposal for \$15K to run the [Farm to Food Program similar to last year's program](#). Planning has begun and the program will run this spring.
 - I am very excited to share that Sherwood Smith is our new Steering Committee Co-Chair. You can learn more about him here:
<http://www.uvm.edu/~cess/?Page=facbio.php&username=ssmith3>
 - Spring 2014 Neighborhood Learning Conversations focused on Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs)
 - Adam Urbanski Reschedule: March 5-7
 - <http://partnershipvt.org/progress/family-school-communication-study/>

WSD Goals

Goal #1: Increase student learning and growth

- We have received our NECAP scores and are in the process of disaggregating the data. We are also looking at the data to see how we can improve our instruction. This will be the last time we receive NECAP scores as we are moving to the SBAC. While we need to look at the data, we must also begin to focus on what we will be asked to do on the SBAC. We need to begin to prepare our students for this assessment, which I believe, will look very different than the NECAP.
- Our STARS have earned 100,000 stars and had their big school-wide celebration on Friday, Feb. 7th. The students had the opportunity to hear A2VT perform for them. This performance was made possible through the support of the PTO who funded the event.
- Last month we reported about the intentional focus on supporting students to be on time to school. Kate, Leon, Karen, and Emmy have devoted a tremendous amount of time working with students to understand the importance of this expected behavior, identify what's getting in the way of meeting this expectation, and finding strategies that empower the student to consistently be on time. There has been tremendous progress as you can see from the chart below:

	Wk. of 12/16	Wk. of 1/6	Wk. of 1/20	Wk. of 1/27
Total Weekly Tardies (excused and unexcused)	154	102	59	71
Total Weekly Unexcused Tardies	139	87	43	48

Avg. Daily Unexcused Tardies	27.8	17.4	10.75	9.6
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- The test window for the 2014 WIDA ACCESS for English Language Learners will open on Monday February 24, and close on Friday, April 11, 2014. We are required to evaluate all school age ELLs enrolled in K-12 through this assessment.

Goal #2: Increase student engagement through best instructional practices

- We had our studio math days this week with Clare Earley. Clare, Glenn Willette and Mary O'Rourke spent the first ½ day collecting data. They visited the participating teachers' classrooms (5 teachers) and looked for math best practices. Clare then worked with Stefanie Hamble, our studio teacher on the lesson she would teach the next day. On day two, we observed in Stefanie's room and spent the afternoon debriefing. These two days were very powerful professional development days. They help determine the next steps as we move forward with best practices in mathematics. Glenn's role as a math coach helps all teachers with these best practices and not just the 5 teachers that are participating.
- We were fortunate to have Soryu visit us last week. Soryu is the voice the children hear during the mindfulness activity each day. Soryu met with the entire elementary school for 30 minutes. Students were impressive as they shared their experiences with mindfulness in front of the whole elementary. After the school assembly, he visited with several classrooms. This was an exciting day for the students. They believe he is a star because they see him on the smartboard, just like tv to them!
- Middle and high school students designing learning through the iLab shared their projects with staff and students on January 23. This was the first opportunity this year for personalized, proficiency-based work to be shared school-wide, and it was an exciting, positive event. Later in May the seniors will share their Senior Projects with the school community, highlighting one of our great traditions.
- The Young Writers Project (YWP) is beginning an exciting workshop to enrich the writing experience for a group of our middle school students this month. Two of our middle school teachers are also partnering with this organization and using their online resources in the humanities classrooms. Students are highly engaged and proud of their work.
- Seven high school students, members of the OVX club (Our Voices Exposed) were invited to speak before the Vermont Legislature on January 21 about the dangers of secondhand smoke in vehicles. Our students spoke articulately before the legislators as they were considering bill #878. Channel 5 News had a great video clip of our students in action. Our students and advisor Cheryl Brosnan represented our school community very well!
- Fifteen educators have signed up to take an 8-week class held after school with ELL teacher Kirsten Kollaard this semester. During this class the WIDA's "Can Do" philosophy will be shared with teachers and how to

use this strength-based approach to best support ELLs. Kirsten will draw connections between the Common Core Standards and the WIDA standards.

- Dr. Karen Fondacaro, from Connecting Cultures at UVM, will return to Winooski on March 28th to continue work with ELL teachers, guidance counselors, liaisons, and social workers. The focus of the day will be to provide additional information on being trauma informed, as well as “hands on” strategies that can be used just 10 minutes a day with students. This includes skills which help children to regulate their emotions, build peer relationships, and learn problem solving strategies which help students gain confidence in themselves and better able to solve problems. This aligns with the work we are doing district-wide, and is supported by the Refugee Children’s School Impact Grant.

Goal #3: Increase parent/community engagement

- We had a very good PACTS meeting in January. We had about seven Nepali parents join us for the meeting. Our sub-committee discussed ways to be more inclusive and foster friendships outside of school. We will work on this at our next meeting. The goal being to have simple words translated that would allow parents to send quick invites to other parents that are in the language of the recipient. Also, we continue to research the possible purchase of translation equipment.

Goal #4: Collaboration and communication

- As part of our Green Mountain Star plan, teachers are expected to send out weekly newsletters to parents. At our meeting on Monday, Feb. 3rd, each team shared examples of the newsletters they are sharing with families. Some grade levels send out a grade level newsletter, while other grade levels send them out individually and one teacher uses a blog. The goal is to have most of this done electronically for all of those that have access to computers and send paper copies to the families that do not have access to a computer. We are also looking at ways to get the information to our ELL families.
- Following is an update on the number of ELL students in our district as of 2/5/14:

School	Total Students	# Who are ELLS	Percentage who are ELLs
JFK Elementary	350	116	33 %
JFK Middle	155	51	33 %
Winooski High	214	96	45 %
Winooski School District	719	263	37 %

Finance

- As of January 31, 2014 our estimated fund balance for FY14 is \$ 66,453.
- The Reserve Account has a balance of \$ 664,513. An RFP will be going out to finish the last phase of the unit vent project.
- Our FY13 audit is complete and our fund balance is \$ 115,736.00. Article VI will ask the taxpayers to apply \$100,000 of the Fund Balance to the FY 15 budget and the balance would go into the reserve account. The audit report is being written and will be available for the March meeting.

Action Items

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

- Consent Agenda
 - Minutes of Meetings: December 16, 18, 2013, January 8, 2014
 - Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Approval of Bills
 - Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - Superintendent Report
- Policy Title: 4.0 Global Governance Commitment
 - Approve and submit Winooski Boundary Study