

April 2, 2015

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

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

A. **Consent Agenda**

- a. Minutes of Meetings: March 11, 2015
- b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Approval of Bills
 - Quarterly Financial Management Report
- c. Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation & Benefits
 - Approve Support Staff/IA Contracts for 2015-16
 - Approve Contract Recommendations
 1. Jennifer Teal, Middle/High School Reading Specialist 2015-16 (1.0 FTE)
 2. Kari Maughan, Middle/High School Reading Specialist 2015-16 (1.0 FTE)
 3. Elizabeth Wood Hoffman, Elementary ELL 2015-16 (1.0 FTE)
 4. Andrea Thibodeau, Middle/High School Special Educator 2015-16 (1.0 FTE)
- d. Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - Superintendent Report
 - Parents for Change update
- e. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Board Job Description
 - Adopt Policy #4117-Hazing
 - Adopt Policy #8311-Board Member Conflict of Interest

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

- Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
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 - Discussion - 1st Reading, Policy #_____, Public Comments
 - Discussion – 1st Reading, Policy #_____, Graduation Requirements
 - Discussion - 1st Reading, Policy #5110, Attendance
 - Discussion - 1st Reading, Policy #6160, Educational Support System
- Policy Title: 4.2.4 Legislative Update

- [Education Legislative Report- for March 17, 2015, Issue #6](#)
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- Introductory Meetings:

- Pine Island Community Farm, Karen Freudenberger-Manager
- Clothes Quarters Laundromat, Chris & Josie Asanya-owners

- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:

- New School Resource Officer (SRO)

- I would like to thank WSD School Resource Officer (SRO) Dean Fullerton for his dedicated service to our school community for the past two years. Dean will be returning to patrol with the Winooski Police Department effective Wednesday, April 1st. Starting Wednesday, April 2nd Dave Solomon will be joining WSD as our new SRO and will be joined by Ron Jackson to get acclimated to WSD for a few weeks.

I was invited by our City Manager Deac Decarreau and Police Chief Rick Hebert to be a member of the hiring committee for our new SRO. Dave Solomon was specifically selected for his outstanding educational background and performance as a policeman. He has a bachelor's degree in secondary education with a concentration in social studies and worked as a teacher for 3 years at The Centerpoint School. He spent 14 years with the South Burlington Police Department including three years as an SRO. Please welcome Dave to our school community!

Lastly, a thorough overview of the role of the SRO will be done with all WSD staff in August during Pre-Service. The role is based on the work of the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) and simply defined as the **Triad of SRO Responsibility: Educator, Informal Counselor & Law Enforcement**. [Click here for more information.](#)

- House Model Overview

- The WMHS Leadership Team has been working diligently to grow the iLab to scale in the HS learning environment. They have established a start date of August 2016 to enter a fully personalized/ student-centered learning environment in the HS. Below are some of the details to familiarize the board with the progress. A group from the WMHS Leadership Team will present to the board in May or June to provide more details and again in October or November to connect the budgetary implications.
- Structures to support Student-Centered Learning
 - Proficiency-based learning that teaches GXs
 - New, flexible schedule
 - Courses/learning driven by student & teacher passions
 - Investment in time and support for teacher learning and collaboration

- Three Houses
 - A blend of teachers for each house
 - One IA Each
 - All students are in a single house for duration of HS experience
 - Teams of teachers support groups of students
- Modes of Learning
 - Math Lab - to attain the required experience of success in local math assessment (STAR)
 - iLab - self directed GX learning
 - Studio - flexible, project based, unified by a theme
 - Magnet - GX focused, content driven
- Parent for Change Transportation update
 - Please see the written update behind this report.
- [Promise Community Grant.](#)
 - Please see the attached press release behind this report regarding this grant we were recently awarded.
- Spectrum Sleep-Out
 - On March 26, 2015 Spectrum Youth & Family Services held its fourth Annual Spectrum's Sleep Out! Over 100 top business and community leaders joined together to sleep outside overnight in solidarity with homeless and at-risk youth in Vermont. I slept out in support of our Winooski children who struggle with homelessness. I hope to engage a group of students and staff to join me next year.
- Legislative updates:
 - [Education Legislative Report-Jan 6, 2015, Issue #1](#)
 - [Education Legislative Report-Jan 13, 2015, Issue #2](#)
 - [Education Legislative Report-Jan 23, 2015, Issue #3](#)
 - [Education Legislative Report- February 9, 2015, Issue #4](#)
 - [Education Legislative Report- February 20, 2015, Issue #5](#)
 - [Education Legislative Report- for March 17, 2015, Issue #6](#)
- Policy work:
 - [Policy Governance 101 Training](#)
 - March 27, VSBA Conference Room, Montpelier, 11 :00 a.m to 5:00 p.m.
 - Board President Mike Decarreau & new board member Mohamed Abdi attended this training.
 - These policies are up this month for a first reading. 1st readings for:
 - Policy #_____, Public Comments
 - No current WSD policy, please review VSBA model policy.
 - Policy #_____, Graduation Requirements

- Not listed as “Required” by VSBA but required via EQS. Only local procedure to review before re-establishing into local policy.
- Policy #5110, Attendance
 - Please read the WSD current and VSBA model policies for our discussion.
- Policy #6160, Educational Support System
 - Not listed as “Required” by VSBA but as “Recommended”. Please review VSBA model policy.
- Job Postings for 2015-16
 - Elementary Math Coach (1.0 FTE): The current employee in this position has retired effective the end of the 2014-15 school year.
 - Elementary Classroom Teacher (1.0 FTE): The employee in this position resigned effective February 28, 2015.
 - Elementary Therapeutic Classroom Teacher (1.0) This position requires that the candidate be certified in both elementary and special education.
 - Middle School Science/Math Teacher (1.0 FTE): The current employee in this position has resigned effective the end of the 2014-15 school year.
 - High School Guidance Counselor (1.0): The current employee in this position has resigned effective the end of the 2014-15 school year.
 - Middle/High School Health, Family & Consumer Science Teacher (1.0): The current employee in this position has resigned effective the end of the 2014-15 school year.
 - High School Science Teacher (1.0): This vacancy occurred due a retirement in the middle school and a reassignment of a high school teacher.
 - High School Math Teacher (.5): The current employee in this position has resigned effective the end of the 2014-15 school year.

WSD Goals

Goal #1: College & Career Readiness

- The entire district participated in Vermont Writes Day. An elementary and a high school student announced the beginning of the seven-minute write. Everyone responded to one of seven prompts. Students also had the opportunity to share their writing with classmates. This was a great K - 12 initiative.
- The fifth graders at JFK will be taking the SBAC beginning Monday, April 6th. There will be many hands on deck to assist students and teachers with this new assessment. The State has decided this will be a pilot year.
- Early Learning News: We are pleased to announce that the Early Learning Center preschool classroom (new Head Start program) will expand next year. It will provide an afternoon program.
- Early Essential Education (EEE) special educators Maybeline Lopez and Ada Wetmore, along with speech pathologist Catherine Lavigne, attended a Children’s Integrated Services/Early Intervention Retreat that focused on positive transitions to preschool for children with disabilities and their families.

Goal #2: Healthy, Productive & Successful Lives

- Winooski School District has received a second year grant award from the Vermont Community Preschool Collaborative (VCPC) Initiative of the Permanent Fund for Vermont's Children.
- With the support from Jaycie Putlitz, we have formed a committee at JFK with the focus on walking/running during the month of May. This committee is meeting for the first time this week. Our goal is to have all students walk/run daily during recess. We will chart the miles traveled. The goal is for every student to walk about 26 miles, just like the Vermont City Marathon.

Goal #3: Local & Global Community Engagement

- We are proud to announce that Winooski employee Aftaba Mezetovic was recently awarded the NEA Human and Civil Rights Award. Aftaba arrived in Winooski in 1995, resettled from Bosnia through the Refugee Resettlement Program. For 16 years, Aftaba has been a home-school liaison for the Winooski School District. She tirelessly advocates for new arrivals from all over the world. [Read more here.](#)
- The WMHS Spring Concert, held in the PAC Thursday, March 19, was a dynamic expression of the power of music! The title of the concert was apropos: "Sing Into Spring!" While old man winter continues to hold on for all he's worth, the evening of song warmed the hearts of all in attendance. Students and others in attendance spoke about what an inspiring event it was! Thank you Randy Argraves, Cathy Mander-Adams, and all who participated!
- Seventeen high school students along with advisors Melissa Clark and Libby Houghton, and Americorps volunteer Katy Gimma, joined the regional Peace Jam Conference at UCONN, Storrs, CT, March 13-15. Our students were "rock stars" according to the advisors, engaging actively and completely in the many learning experiences, including presenting their community work to other schools and meeting and talking with Nobel Peace Laureate Sherin Ebadi. We will definitely hear more from the students, who came back excited about making a positive difference in our community!
- JFK Fun Fair was held on Friday, March 20th. This was a fun filled evening for both kids and teachers. Teachers ran different stations. The kids love seeing the teachers in this role. The PTO once again did a wonderful job pulling this all together. A big thank you to the staff for their support that evening too.
- Our new Mayor, Seth Leonard, was our featured reader at our Community Reads event held on Friday, March 27th. Many students had the opportunity to participate. It was a great way for Seth to get to know our school.
- The first-ever Winooski Talent Show will be held on Friday, April 10th, from 6:00 - 8:00 in the PAC. It promises to be a great night. I have heard many students talk about the talent they will be showcasing. The parents of the PACTS group put this evening together, the PTO sponsored the evening and a teacher gave of her time. This was true partnering at work.

Finance/Operations

- At the end of April, our fund balance for the FY15 is favorably forecasted at \$132,650 or just over 1.2% of the voter-approved budget.

- The balance of the Reserve Fund is currently \$450,118 which reflects the encumbered expense for the summer High School Unit Vent project.
- As the year comes to a close, the projected fund balance will vary as actual expenses are paid. Over the next eight weeks, the leadership team will continue to review the fund balance.
- The facility staff is looking forward to getting outside and starting spring clean up including getting the fields in shape for the spring sports.
- As usual, summer will be a busy time for the facility staff. Currently, we are working to put together the summer cleaning and prepare for upgrades to several spaces and routine maintenance.
- The public safety committee continues to meet monthly and will organize an off site relocation drill to St. Michael's College in May.