

February 3, 2015

Winooski School District  
Office of the Superintendent  
60 Normand Street  
Winooski, Vermont 05404  
(802) 383-6000  
[www.wdschools.org](http://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:

#### **A. Consent Agenda**

- a. Minutes of Meetings: January 14, 2015
- b. Policy Title 1.0 ENDS
  - Approve College Readiness Interpretation
- c. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
  - Approval of Bills
- d. Policy Title: 2.6 Asset Protection
  - Approve Child Care Parking Lot Use Agreement for 2015-16
- e. Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - Approve WSD 2015-2016 School Year Calendar
  - Approve Release of Contract – Patricia Keough, Elementary Teacher (effective 2/28/15)
  - Superintendent Report

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

- Policy Title: 2.6 Asset Protection
  - Discussion: Superintendent Monitoring Report

- Discussion - [Policy Title: 3.3 Delegation to the Superintendent](#)
  - Discussion - [Policy Title: 3.4.6 Monitoring Superintendent Performance](#)
  - Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
    - Discussion – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #4132, Professional Development
    - Discussion – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #5118, Participation of Home Study Students in School Programs
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- Introductory Meetings:
  - Jen Cirillo & Ryan Morra, Shelburne Farms
  - Roger Hess, VP & General Mgr. Local 22 & 44
  
- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:
  - 2015-2016 School Year Calendar:
    - The regional and local calendars are in the agenda packet. The regional superintendent group, Champlain Valley Superintendent's Association (CVSA) is statutorily required to develop a regional calendar with 175 common student days. You will notice in our local calendar that WSD has 177 student days and 10 additional professional days for teachers. The board is responsible for approving the local calendar.
    - There was some controversy this year about incorporating generally accepted religious high holidays into the school calendar. CVSA agreed to make these high holidays non-common days which means the local school district can decide to hold a student day or not. The high holidays CVSA agreed to incorporate as non-common days moving forward are Yom Kippur (Judaism), First Eid (Islam), Diwali (Hinduism) and Christmas (Christian and a federal holiday in US). In our local calendar we will not have school on Yom Kippur (9/23), Diwali (11/9) and Christmas. Diwali also happens to be Veterans Day.

The First Eid does not fall on a school day during the 2015-16 school year. Lastly, there is also discussion about whether Diwali or Duhsehra is the highest holiday in Hinduism so we will continue to discuss with our local Hindu community.

- [JFK Elementary Principal Search posting & process:](#) The Principal Interview Team has completed first round interviews with seven candidates and will move 4 forward to the second round. Second round interviews will be Feb 10, 11, 16 & 17. As you will see in the linked document there will be public forums for finalists in March and I will recommend a new principal to the board at the April board meeting.
  
- Legislative update:
  - [Education Legislative Report-Jan 6, 2015, Issue #1](#)
  - [Education Legislative Report-Jan 13, 2015, Issue #2](#)
  - [Education Legislative Report-Jan 23, 2015, Issue #3](#)
  
- Policy work:
  - 1st readings for:
    - [Policy #4132: Professional Development](#)
      - This policy is no longer a [“required” policy](#) nor is it listed as a [“recommended” policy](#) on the VSBA website.
    - [Policy #5118: Participation of Home Study Students in School Programs](#)
      - This policy is up this month for a first reading. Please read the WSD current and VSBA model policies for our discussion.
  
- Partnership for Change (P4C) update:
  - Education Development Center (EDC): EDC are the third party evaluators for the Nellie Mae grantees. They make an annual site visit to collect information for an annual report to Nellie Mae. They visited WSD and BSD January 26-28 and held the following meetings or observations at WSD:

- WMHS Leadership Team meeting
  - WHS Newcomer ELL class
  - iLab class
  - Senior Seminar
  - Effective Business Topics
  - Science Seminar
  - WMS jiLab class with Team Journey
  - Interview with WMHS Principal Leon Wheeler
  - Interview with WSD Superintendent Sean McMannon
  - WMHS Teacher Focus groups
  - WMHS Student Focus groups
  - Interview with Lead Community Partners (LCP) Dawn Moskowitz, Meg Cline & Infinite Culcleasure
  - Phone interview with WsD board member Tori Cleiland
- Reminder: The following statement was developed by the P4C Executive Committee and shared with WMHS and BHS staff in response to Nellie Mae's deferral of a decision to fund our site for another three years. I am confident that we can provide the assurances need for Nellie Mae to move forward with a positive decision in the spring.

With funding from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, the Partnership for Change has supported the Winooski and Burlington School Districts as they move toward a collective vision of student-centered, proficiency based education. Our Fellowship and Partner Teacher programs have laid the foundation for a new kind of instructional practice, one that is grounded in collaboration among teachers and increased student voice and agency. Other innovative efforts we have supported include the iLab, the Year End Studies program, Neighborhood Learning conversations, and the Family Friendly Report Card, among others.

Recently, we submitted the requested re-application for the Nellie Mae Education Foundation for another three-year cycle

of funding. The Foundation has encumbered the funds, but will defer its decision until later this spring, when it can better determine if the new leadership in Burlington – namely, the Superintendent and School Board – will continue to embrace the vision and its full implementation.

The Winooski and Burlington schools have diligently worked with all stakeholders in the community to build understanding and support for student-centered, proficiency-based learning. We will make every effort to respond fully to the Foundation's concerns in the hopes that we can continue the important journey we have embarked upon together. We thank our faculty, students, parents, and the community at large for your commitment to this work. Please direct any further questions to Winooski Superintendent Sean McMannon – [smcmannon@wsdschools.org](mailto:smcmannon@wsdschools.org) or Burlington Interim Superintendent Howard Smith – [hsmith@bsdvt.org](mailto:hsmith@bsdvt.org).

- [BSD Superintendent Search update](#)

## **WSD Goals**

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

- Winooski School District has been selected to participate in the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) this year. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policy makers, and the public. On February 19th and 20th our 4th and 8th graders will be tested in reading, math or science. We are excited that our school will be participating in NAEP. We know that Winooski's students will help us show what our nation's students know and can do.
- Beginning January 20th the middle/high school staff has celebrated one student each morning who has been recognized by their teacher as demonstrating excellence in one GX area. The student's identification as the [GX Champ](#) along with supporting information is posted in the school, announced, added to the web site, and tweeted. The WMHS Leadership

team chose this as a “keystone habit” that we believe will have a significant positive impact on our school culture.

- Students participating in the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alternate Assessment are now participating in Phase 3. This is an opportunity to assess children with significant cognitive impairments on grade level skills aligned with the common core.
- Winooski School District is in a good position to move forward with Act 166. At present, over 90 Winooski children are participating in prekindergarten. We are in the process of applying for recognition as a prequalified prekindergarten program, a requirement for participation in Act 166.
- On February 20th the Winooski Early Childhood Program team will screen child’s development in the areas of Speech & Language Skills, Motor Skills, Adaptive Skills, Personal/Social Skills, and Academic/Cognitive Skills. This screening is play based and free for 3 and 4 year old children, living in Winooski. This is also part of Winooski School District’s Child Find.
- Dave White is meeting with each grade-level team over the course of the next month. He started his work this week with Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade. His focus is lesson study, the new science standards and how to build a new unit of study at each grade level. Teachers are trying to connect the new unit with Project-Based Learning.
- We had our third studio day the last week in January. The focus of this studio visit was the cognitive demand of the tasks. When teachers provide high cognitive demand task, with the supports of a growth mindset, students will excel.
- All teachers at JFK have completed mid-year assessments on all students in reading and math. We will be looking at the data over the next few weeks. Discussions with teams will take place regarding the data. The coaches will focus on progress monitoring of students in need of additional support.
- Seniors Har Wa Bi and Connor Drown were chosen as state finalists in Senator Bernie Sanders “State of the Union Essay Contest,” and invited to a roundtable conversation with the senator and other 18 finalists from across the state. Teachers Marc McQuinn and Bill Clark joined the students at the event. It was a tremendous experience for these two hard working students!
- During the week of February 4th, middle and high school students took the

2nd of 3 annual Reading Plus screening assessments, called the Insight Assessment, to identify each student's reading proficiency and growth since the beginning of the school year.

- Similar screening tools for mathematics have recently been purchased. We plan to have two math screenings this year, and then likely be on a 3x/year schedule beginning next school year.
- All three schools continue to prepare our teachers and students for the new Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) that students in grades 3-8 and 11 will take this spring. The test will be completely computerized, so we are working to familiarize teachers and students with the technology skills that will be needed for the assessment. If you're interested in getting an idea of what it will be like you can go to this [link](#), sign in as a guest and select the grade level you'd like to take.

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

- On January 21st there was a presentation for special educators, guidance counselors and social workers titled: VT-Futures discussion at DCF on "No Decision About Me Without Me". This discussion is specifically designed to help school districts understand from a foster child's perspective what it is like having to transfer schools often and have multiple people making decision about them with little input from the student themselves.
- Our 100,000 STARS celebration will be held on Friday, February 13th. Foodplay productions will be here to present to the entire student body. This show teaches kids about healthy eating and active lifestyles.
- We had a well-attended concert at JFK the last week of January. The orchestra performed "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." They played as a group and then many of them performed it as a solo. It is very brave to be willing to try this when you have only been playing an instrument for a few months and it is your first concert. The chorus then sang five songs for us. They did a wonderful job! You could see how all of their hard work had paid off. The band students did not feel ready to perform and will wait until the spring.

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

- The Winooski Penguin Plunge Team is gearing up for the February 7th event at the Burlington Waterfront. We have over [62 plungers, and 194 supporters have raised over \\$12,500!](#) Also, WHMS Special Educator Tim Rich has raised over \$3700 and leads all individual fundraisers. Tim also runs our new Unified Sports program.
- Parents as Educational Partners (PEP) has starting a second class next week on Thursday nights. This class is a continuation of last year's "mom's" group and is focusing on building participants' English literacy skills. The mothers are very happy to be back in PEP, continuing to build their literacy skills and the relationships they have with their children's ELL teachers.
- Following a one month reprieve, Parent Learning Walks resume March 10th with a focus on graduation and the transition from high school to college and career.
- The Winooski School District recently hosted the Weekend Islamic School (WIS) of Vermont's fundraiser event titled, "Parenting: A Humbling Experience" by Dr. Feyza Basoglu who is a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and the University of Vermont Medical Center. The event was on January 17th, 2015. During this talk, Dr. Basoglu spoke about how different scientifically researched parenting strategies overlap with Islamic values and teachings on family life.
- WSD is collaborating with the Connecting Cultures program at UVM to run an after school group for our Bhutanese Nepali teenage boys in conjunction with a group for parents focusing on the challenges of parenting across two cultures. The goal of these groups is to help students and parents feel more connected to the school community and develop strategies for supporting each other through the transition of moving to the United States.
- Several of the middle and high school ELL students are working with one of our liaisons, Aftaba Mezetovic, to organize a community luncheon at the Winooski Senior Center on Friday, February 13th. Students will be cooking a variety of ethnic foods to share with the seniors, followed by an interactive presentation that will include poetry reading, Nepali dance and musical performances.
- The PACTS group met on January 22nd. There was a conflict with an event at the middle school that evening so not as many parents were available to attend. The group spent the night focusing on a talent show that will take



place in April. They also planned the next community reads event.

**Finance/Operations:**

- At the end of January, our fund balance for the FY15 is favorably forecasted at \$112,518 or just over 1% of the voter-approved budget.
- The balance of the Reserve Fund is currently \$574,248.
- The RFP for the High School Unit Vents will be released on 2/4/15 and the pre-bid walk through will happen on 2/12/15. Bid Results will be available for the March board meeting.
- The ethnic bar is up and running for lunch each day. We have had great feedback and continue to look for more suggestions for different offerings.