

September 6, 2013

Winooski School District
Office of the Superintendent
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The mission of the Winooski School District is to awaken in its diverse student body, a thirst for knowledge, a passion for learning, and a desire to become responsible members of the world community. We offer a safe, supportive, educational environment. Our team of professionals recognizes individual strengths and needs and fosters academic excellence and personal growth. Working together in partnership with families, and the community, we strive to instill shared core values –respect, responsibility, empathy–and a commitment to help every student reach his or her potential.

Superintendent's Board Report

Opening

- Introductory Meetings: I have continued my emphasis on building relationships across the Winooski community by meeting with the following folks:
 - Nicole Mace-Winooski resident & parent, chair of district-level Parents and Community Together with Schools (PACTS) and Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA) Associate Director of Legal Service
 - Reading Plus
 - Kelly Scannell, Chief Operating Officer
 - Alexandra Spichtig, Chief Research Officer
 - Jennifer Huber, Implementation Specialist
 - Rachel Ring, Sales
 - Jessica Spohn, Nellie Mae Education Foundation, Senior Program Officer
 - ELL Student Pathways from High School to College working group sponsored by P4C
 - Dee Steffan - Executive Director of Academic Centers, Community College of Vermont (CCV)
 - Katie Mobley – Director of Community Relations and Development, Community College of Vermont (CCV)
 - Dawn Moskowitz – Parents for Change
 - Raquel Aronhime – Community Impact Manager, Education & Health at United Way of Chittenden County
 - Frank Gerdeman-State Director of Adult Education and the Assistant Director of Secondary Education for the Vermont Agency of Education
 - I will begin to meet with local businesses in the upcoming months.

- **Enrollment:**

	8/28/13
	Enrollment Total
Infant/Toddler	16
Pre-School/Headstart	20
Pre-School/WFC	16
EEE	3
TOTAL PRE-K	55
K	68
1	57
2	59
3	55
4	56
5	54
TOTAL JFK	349
6	56
7	47
8	55
TOTAL WMS	158
9	44
10	68
11	43
12	48
Ungraded - SE Programs Outside Dist.	0
Adults w/out Diploma	36
School Choice Students @ WHS (no ADM)	7
TOTAL WHS	246
School Choice Students @ Other Schools (ADM)	11
GRAND TOTAL	808

- **Calendar 2.0 Update**
 - Four dates in October have been established for community forums across the Champlain Valley region regarding the proposed School Calendar 2.0 for the 2014-15 school year. Based on the [Vermont Superintendent's Association \(VSA\) Education Quality Framework](#) and the [VT World-Class Education Agenda](#), the proposed Calendar 2.0 is a new way of looking at what a school calendar could look like. This calendar preserves the current 175 student days while building in blocks of times, or intercessions, that could be used for a variety of purposes by students, families, and teachers. This calendar is still a proposal and is not yet finalized. It is meant to engage educators, students and families around how to further the quality of education in this region.
 - The dates of these regional forums are:
 - Wednesday, Oct. 2, 6:30 p.m. – Essex High School
 - Thursday, Oct. 3, 6:30 p.m. – BFA St. Albans
 - Wednesday, Oct. 9, 6:30 p.m. – Burlington High School
 - Thursday, Oct. 10, 6:30 p.m. – Champlain Valley Union High School
 - For more information on the proposed regional calendar, visit: schoolcalendar2.blogspot.com.
- **Policy 2.5 Monitoring Report**
 - Policy 2.5 Superintendent Emergency Succession is the first monitoring report submitted to the school board in our new policy governance model. I used reports from Essex Town School District and Orange Southwest Supervisory Union to inform this initial report and sent the report to several colleagues for their feedback. Please read carefully and be prepared for the discussion so we can build a shared understanding of these important reports.
- **Student Reps to School Board**
 - I am working with Middle/High School Principal Leon Wheeler to develop an application and interview process to nominate student representatives to the school board. Our hope is to bring these nominations to the school board at the October meeting.
- **Required Policies Report**
 - “The VSBA lists policies as “required” when a state or federal law or regulation states, or a regulatory agency advises, that a school district must have a policy governing its activities in a certain area.” (<http://www.vtvsba.org/policies.html>)
 - I have completed the comparison of WSD and VSBA required policies and the only inconsistency is that we do not have an “Alcohol & Drug-Testing: Transportation Employees” policy in place. While we do not provide daily pickup and drop-off student transportation, WSD does employ two instructional assistants who primarily transport students for field trips and other special circumstances. A model policy recommended by the VSBA can be found here: <http://www.vtvsba.org/policy/d11.html> I would recommend the board consider reviewing this model at a future meeting for possible adoption.

WSD Goals

Goal #1: Increase student learning and growth

- We have received the 2013 Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAO) Determination based on Spring 2012 ACCESS for ELLs assessment and Fall 2012 NECAP results. We are pleased to announce the Winooski School District (WSD) met the State’s Title III AMAO 1: Growth. The current target is 54.5%, and the percentage of WSD ELL students to meet the AMAO was 61.01%. Next year’s target is 56%. WSD also met AMAO 2: Proficiency. The current target is 8%, and the percentage of WSD ELL students to meet this AMAO was 14.81%. Next year’s target is 9%. WSD did not meet AMAO 3: Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the ELL subgroup at the LEA level which is NECAP performance, and therefore does not meet the overall Title III AMAOs for the 2012-13 school year.

Goal #2: Increase student engagement through best instructional practices

- JFK ELL teacher, Kirsten Kollgaard, attended a weeklong certification training at the World-Class Instructional Design & Assessment (WIDA) offices in Madison, Wisconsin to become a certified WIDA trainer for the district. With this new learning Kirsten will host an 8-week professional development class to be offered after school for teachers. Title III will fund this class; with the main objective to familiarize teachers with the 2012 WIDA amplified standards and how they connect to the common core standards, and classroom planning and instruction. Each participant will build a student profile for one of their more challenging ELL students, and learn to map their students on the performance definitions. This work will enable teachers to create a unit connected to the common core, which also develops language objectives to support their current students. This after school training will begin in January 2014.
- David White, science consultant, will continue to provide professional development to K-12 teachers this year. He has already arranged for dates to meet with the JFK teachers in grade-level groups, and we are in the process of arranging dates for the middle and high school teachers as well. At the end of the last school year, the K-12 Science Committee had developed a list of science learning principles, based on the [New Generation Science Standards](#) that were adopted by Vermont last spring. These principles will guide our future science work.
- By June 30, 2014, the WSD schools will have developed K-12 curriculum in all content areas. These curricula will be aligned with both the Common Core State Standards and with the Winooski High School Graduate Expectations. Although this task seems more than a little daunting, we expect to meet the challenge.
- The “Best Practices in Mathematics” course held during the week of in-service at the elementary school was engaging for all! They say timing is everything and this was the right time to introduce this new work. The teachers have had many years of professional development in math content. This course focused on the pedagogy. As the week progressed you could see the transformation in the room. Early observations in classrooms show that teachers have put these practices in place thoughtfully and quickly.
- The “Mindfulness” Training was a positive way to spend our last morning before students arrived. The entire K-5 staff participated in a two-hour training. Lindsay Foreman (trainer) walked everyone through the meaning, the curriculum and the practices. This is a five minute practice at the beginning of the day and having students apply the new strategies at least two more times during the day. Originally, six teachers had expressed interest in piloting the curriculum. After the training, six other teachers came forward to volunteer to try it out. So, we will be using these mindful techniques in 12 out of our 25 classes.
- Leadership of professional development with writing is being transferred from Teaching All Secondary Students (TASS) consultants Bill Rich and Wendy Cohen to our middle/high school leadership team. Exciting work was done this summer by Brent Litterer, Christina Lauterbach, and Chris Magistrale developing a user-friendly middle/high school writing guide, writing rubric, and assessment process. In addition, Mr. Litterer led a school-wide training in the use of 4-Way Thinking (Summary, Interpretation, Evaluation & Analysis) as a tool for teaching about writing. This process is being embraced and integrated into the writing process in the work of the vertical teams.

Goal #3: Increase parent/community engagement

- Four ELL teachers, Nancy Devost, Nellie Maley, Becky Savage and Kristin Van Fossen are working hard to prepare for the Parents as Educational Partners (PEP) class beginning later this month. The PEP class will focus on the following content: common school vocabulary, the school calendar, school personnel and the school day, attendance, leaving messages and making phone calls, writing notes to school, when it is appropriate to miss school, field trips, school closings, report cards, curriculum, homework, behavior issues, and how to help their child succeed in our schools. We are excited to get the pilot program started and look forward to expanding as time goes on!

- We are in the early stages for planning Spring Into the Arts (SITA) 2014 and will have our first meeting in mid-September. Leon Wheeler has identified SITA as a middle/high school standing committee and this will enable us to meet more regularly. We look forward to the continued support from Ray Coffey, who has offered the O'Brien Community Center as the venue for the kickoff event in May. He has also agreed to let us display K-12 student artwork at the Center during the month. We are hoping to enlist a few more parent/community volunteers to assist us with this wonderful series of events.
- The iLab has over 70 students directly enrolled in student-designed learning opportunities, in addition to 30 middle school students in end-of-day enrichment classes and 20 students taking Virtual High School (VHS) online classes. This is an impressive start and it's leading to creative and inspired problem solving as the iLab gets underway.
- The "Welcome Back Barbecue" was very successful. Parents were so appreciative that the staff was present. It was a great way to begin our year. It truly felt like a community.

Goal #4: Collaboration and communication

- The middle school continues to partner with Dave Quinlan, Martial Way VT, in our evolving movement-based program recently renamed SIM (Spartans In Motion). This dynamic program is based on extensive research on the positive impact of movement on student learning, and funded through the support of the Bay and Paul Foundation. You will see and hear more about this during the "Focus on Learning" portion of the board meeting.
- On September 9th, Robin Hood, Director of Student Support Services, will attend a mental health summit sponsored by Community Health Improvement at Fletcher Allen and the United Way of Chittenden County. This daylong summit brings education and mental health professionals together to talk about the mental health needs of Chittenden County children and youth. The goal for the day is to identify strategies with the potential to improve access to needed services and outcomes for families.
- Our partnership with the UVM Women's Soccer team continues this year. The women's soccer team will be here for a school-wide celebration on September 23rd.
- We continue to work closely with the Thrive Program. Conversations occur on a regular basis around space and hiring.

Finance

- FY13 fund balance still remains around 1% or \$100,000. The Agency of Education (AOE) has not announced the final reimbursement rate for special education expenditures. They recently sent a memo indicating that their target date is the end of September.
- On September 11, we will be hosting a Federal Title 1 Fiscal Monitoring Team. The team is in Vermont reviewing the practices of the Vermont Agency of Education, and will be visiting WSD and the Burlington School District.
- FY14 is off to a good start. We will be putting together a fiscal report for the October board meeting.
- In support services we are beginning to work on the Special Education Service Plan for next year, which is due at the Agency of Education (AOE) on October 15th. This provides the foundation for next fiscal year's budget and plans for the needs of all students on Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

Facilities

- We welcome two new additions to our maintenance and custodial staff:
 - Joe Driscoll-maintenance worker
 - Todd Laplant-evening custodian.
- The majority of the new parking signs are up around campus. Also, the new directional signs in the main lobby have been installed.

Action Items

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

- WSD-City of Winooski Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- All Consent Agenda items
- Modify the following Annual Agenda Plan 2013-14 items
 - Move “Discuss Budget Parameters & Board’s Budget” to October
 - Move “Report on VSBA Regional Meeting” to October
 - Move “Report on VSBA Annual Meeting” to November