

March 4, 2015

Winooski School District
Office of the Superintendent
60 Normand Street
Winooski, Vermont 05404
(802) 383-6000
www.wsdschools.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: February 11, 2015
- b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 1. Approval of Bills
- c. Policy Title: 2.6 Asset Protection
 1. Approve Superintendent Monitoring Report
 2. Approve Vendor for Unit Vents & Exhaust Fan Replacement
- d. Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation & Benefits
 1. Approve Long-term Substitute Contract for Corey Kotlar
 2. Approve Administrative Contracts for 2015-16
 3. Approve Teacher Contracts for 2015-16
- e. Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 1. Superintendent Report
- f. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Board Job Description
 1. Repeal Policy #4132-Professional Development
 2. Adopt Policy #5118-Participation of Home Study Students in School Programs

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

- Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation & Benefits
 - Introduction/Discussion: Appointment of New JFK Principal Sara Raabe
- Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - Discussion – 1st Reading, Policy #4117: Hazing
 - Discussion – 1st Reading, Policy #8311: Board Member Conflict of Interest
 - Discussion - Graduation Requirements Policy
- Policy Title: 4.2.4 Legislative Update
 - Discussion: Latest Draft Bills
 - H.361
 - [Analysis by VSBA](#)
 - [Full Bill](#) (51 pgs.)
 - H.76
 - [Full Bill](#) (5 pgs.)

- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:
 - Board of School Directors Scholarship (\$500): Karen Greene, WMHS Student Services Assistant organizes scholarships that are awarded during the graduation ceremony each year. She has requested your approval to continue the \$500 Board of School Directors scholarship at the 2015 graduation. By approving the consent agenda you will approve a \$100 contribution for each board member's stipend to be contributed toward this scholarship. You will find her letter of request and criteria for the scholarship in the agenda backup.
 - 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](#)
 - Policy work:
 - [Policy Governance 101 Training](#) opportunity
 - March 27, VSBA Conference Room, Montpelier, 11 :00 a.m to 5:00 p.m.
 - 1st readings for:
 - [Policy #4117: Hazing](#)
 - This policy is up this month for a first reading. Please read the WSD current and VSBA model policies for our discussion.
 - [Policy #8311: Board Member Conflict of Interest](#)
 - This policy is up this month for a first reading. Please read the WSD current and VSBA model policies for our discussion.
 - Job Postings for 2015-16
 - 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.
 - Middle/High School Reading/Language Arts Specialist (2.0 FTE): The current employee in this position has resigned effective the end of the 2014-15 school year. We decide to strengthen the focus on literacy in the middle/high school by re-allocating the Grades 7-12 English position to a second Reading/Language Arts Specialist role.
 - 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.
 - English Language Learning Teacher (1.0 FTE): This position was added to lower existing student-teacher ratios.
 - Middle School Special Education Teacher (Anticipated 1.0): We are waiting to hear about a leave of absence so we have posted this position "anticipated".

- Program Director, 21st Century Community Learning Center (1.0 FTE):
The current employee in this position has resigned effective the end of the 2014-15 school year.
- Partnership for Change (P4C) update:
 - Please see the attached doc entitled “*Partnership for Change Funding Update March 2015*”
- WSD Weekly issues
 - **WSD WEEKLY-Grit** <http://flip.it/cjCN2>
 - **WSD WEEKLY-Wellness** <http://flip.it/drY3P>
 - **WSD WEEKLY-Project-Based Learning (PBL)** <http://flip.it/yDKMa>
 - **WSD WEEKLY-Choice Theory** <http://flip.it/wsgYK>
 - **WSD WEEKLY-Student Centered Learning** <http://flip.it/Dmtlp>
 - **WSD WEEKLY-Mindfulness** <http://flip.it/sBxcj>
 - **WSD WEEKLY-Great Teaching!** <http://flip.it/ZYNBB>
 - **WSD WEEKLY-ELL** <http://flip.it/N8ack>

WSD Goals

Goal #1: College & Career Readiness

- Al Summers, our Project-Based Learning (PBL) consultant, was here the week before break. He met with each elementary team for an hour. Al discussed the challenges the teams faced during their project or the questions they had if they had not launched a project. Teams who had finished their projects had open and honest discussions with Al. At our Monday in-service, each team spent part of the day beginning to discuss and design a new project.
- Time was spent on Monday on the SBAC training for teachers at JFK, WMS and WHS. This was good practice for us as we found out how our technology is working and what we need to do to prepare for administering the test. Our goal was to have all teachers in grades 3-8 and 11 complete the test administrator certification. Unfortunately, we were unable to do so due to technical difficulties. Our IT department is working with the State to rectify this problem.
- On Wednesday, February 18, our high school students celebrated the 2nd Annual Aspirations Day event. Keynote speaker Lyman Hicks inspired both students and staff with his message to start the day. Students then met in grade-level groups to review their EXPLORE (9th), PLAN (10th), and ASVAB (11th) assessment results with “Career Possibilities” included. The afternoon provided an opportunity for students to choose from a broad array of interest-driven workshops related to careers, college, and employment. A huge thanks to Emmy Charron and VSAC’s Heidi McLaughlin for building and growing this valuable new tradition.
- On February 19th and 20th, the 4th and 8th graders took part in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The NAEP administration went smoothly and the test administrators were impressed with our school and our students. One of the former principals of the Winooski High School was a NAEP administer and he enjoyed hearing about the progress our district has made in the last several years.
- The week before break twelve WSD teachers completed a course on how to apply the WIDA ELL standards in their classrooms to appropriately differentiate for students with

different language proficiencies. They will be able to use the strategies they learned in the class to support all students in their classes.

- Three of our middle/high school ELL teachers (Inge White, Bill Clark and Jean Plasse) completed the final two days of a five day WIDA Train the Trainers course in February. The course prepared them to train others on using the WIDA standards in practice. They are planning to provide professional development to the middle/high school staff based on what they have learned.

Goal #2: Healthy, Productive & Successful Lives

- A big thank you goes out to the PTO for sponsoring our huge school-wide celebration. Foodplay, an Emmy Award-winning nutrition media company, was here to perform for us. Their message of eating healthy and staying active was presented in such an engaging manner. The students were focused and attentive during the hour-long performance.
- The week of February 16, the middle school held their Winter Spartan Games competition. This extension of the SIM (Spartans In Motion) program had students compete by TA in four exercises: pushups, partner planks, wall sit, and jumping jacks. Judges were gathered from throughout the school to manage the games. It was an exciting week of positive school spirit.
- Our Wellness In-Service day, on Tuesday, March 3rd was so well received by all! There were many different activities for all to choose from.

Goal #3: Local & Global Community Engagement

- Friday, February 13 Aftaba Mezotovic organized a hugely successful luncheon at the Senior Center that included cultural foods prepared and served by middle and high school students and staff and Americorps volunteers. Following the delicious and abundant feast, a full house of community members were treated to dance and poetry presentations by several of our students! It was incredible all around, and well-received by all in attendance! It's important to say here that Aftaba is a blessing to our community in so many ways!
- "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" will be performed on Friday, March 6th by our fourth and fifth grade actors! It promises to be a great show. There are two performances during the day and one in the evening. The kids have been working hard on preparing for this big event.
- The Fun Fair will be held on Friday, March 20th. It will go from 4:30 - 6:30.
- JFK students will travel to the Elley-Long Building in Colchester to hear the Central Vermont Chamber Festival Musicians. This will occur on March 23rd.
- The PACTS group is hosting the first annual *Celebrating Winooski's Talent Show!* The show will be on Friday, April 10. AUDITIONS: ALL community members (children, adults, and groups) are welcome to audition at one of three sessions, to be held at the WSD Performing Arts Center at the following times: Monday, March 9, 3-4 PM; Tuesday, March 10, 3-4 PM; Saturday, March 14, 10AM-12PM. REHEARSALS: Auditions will be followed up with two rehearsal sessions in late March and early April (including a mandatory dress rehearsal).

Finance/Operations:

- At the end of February, our fund balance for the FY15 is favorably forecasted at \$124,519 or just over 1% of the voter-approved budget.
- The balance of the Reserve Fund is currently \$574,252.

- The RFP for the High School Unit Vents will be released on 2/4/15 and the proposals were opened on February 26, 2015. We received 5 bids. The administration recommends the contract be awarded to Brownell Mechanical (low bid) and that up to \$124,135 be allocated from the capital reserve account for these expenses.
- During the recent break, the facility staff attended a day of professional development and team building.