

May 5, 2017

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

**5. Consent Agenda: (5 Minutes)**

- a) Minutes of Meetings: April 12, 2017
- b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
  - Approval of Bills
- c) Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
  - Approve Contract Recommendations for 17/18 SY
    - Avery, Jillian - M/HS Intensive Needs Special Educator
    - Bohlen, Kari - Grade 3 Teacher
    - Carlson, Kirsten - HS Special Educator
    - Holcomb, Sara - .5 FTE Guidance Counselor, K-5
    - Iyengar, Sona - MS ELL Teacher
    - Jacobs, Thomas - Grade 3 Teacher
    - Lothrop, Sarah - Grade 4 Teacher
    - McLaughlin, Heidi - HS Guidance Counselor
    - Poland, Sara - Elementary Music Teacher
- d) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - Superintendent Report
- e) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Board Job Description
  - Adopt Policy #4311, Privacy of Health Related Information (HIPAA)
  - Adopt Policy #5118, Participation of Home Study Students in School

Programs & Activities

**Discussion & Action Items:** Please review backup for the following items.

**6. ENDS Monitoring (Policy Section I): (45 Minutes)**

- a) Discussion ENDS Metrics Alignment: these backup materials will be sent under separate cover by Monday.

7. **Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):** (15 Minutes)
- a) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Conditions and Activities
    - Discuss/Approve Tuition Waiver for 17/18 SY
  - b) Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
    - Discuss/Review Superintendent Monitoring Report
8. **Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):** (30 Minutes)
- a) Policy Title: 4.1.b Governing Style: Encouragement of a Diversity of Views
    - Student Report to the Board
  - b) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
    - Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, #6171, Parental Involvement
    - Discussion – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, #8311, Board Member Conflict of Interest
  - d) Policy Title: 4.5 Agenda Planning
    - Review/Discuss: Board Monitoring Report

**Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:**

- **Grant Award:** I am delighted to inform you that WMS and Circus Smirkus has been awarded a Flexible Pathways Expansion grant for FY17. There were three separate RFPs posted reflecting areas of expansion under Flexible Pathways – Expanded Learning Opportunities, Work-Based Learning and Developing Career Advisories – and, despite the compressed timeline, it was a highly competitive process with diverse and compelling proposals from 26 applicants representing the combined efforts of districts, community organizations, higher education institutions, after-school programs and the list goes on. WSD and Circus Smirkus has been awarded \$62,500 to create a case study of a school district and an arts education organization collaborating to develop a proficiency-based measurement system within a personalized learning environment. The goals are to:
  1. Create an effective partnership between a school district and an arts education organization and Expanded Learning Provider (ELP),
  2. Deliver effective programming that meets the district’s educational targets and student-defined goals,
  3. Measure proficiencies and integrate these assessments into learning goals and Grade/Graduation Expectations (GXs) and PBGRs,
  4. Demonstrate how ELPs can work within schools to provide personalized learning paths,
  5. Provide a range of deliverables including a Case Study, a curriculum alignment guide, and student assessment tools for the school district, the AOE, and ELPs statewide, and
  6. Introduce a network to provide information to artists and ELPs to support state educational objectives.

- **Winooski Peace Initiative:** This group worked with the [Middle Grades Collaborative](#) to provide 11 scholarships for WSD students in grades 5-8 to attend the MGC Career Camp June 26-30 at Champlain College. The camp builds on three primary goals:
  - Individual voice by asking students:
    - Who am I?
    - What are my learning styles and preferences?
  - Individual efficacy as fundamental for success beyond middle school by asking your child:
    - Where am I going?
    - What are the educational and career opportunities available to me based on my learning profile?
  - Role of education by asking students:
    - How do I get there?
    - What are some goals I need to focus on as I anticipate my education and career options?
  
- **Policy Update:** Policy #6146 Access to Technology will be placed back in the Review Cycle as there is currently a national conversation about how to improve procedures around student use of devices, device camera use and overall digital citizenship. Most likely this policy will come to the board in the fall of this year.
  
- **Promise Community Grant:** Our committee, now called “WellNooski!” has developed our Roadmap (purpose, vision, goals) and budget which was approved by the State of VT’s Department of Children & Families in April. The committee is developing the application materials so \$200K can be available to:
  - Support Winooski family’s access to basic needs and services (stable housing, nutritious food, healthcare and transportation).
  - Support Winooski children to succeed in school and in the community by improving access to early education, playgroups and parent support programs.
  - Reduce Winooski children’s exposure to trauma, violence at home and in the community by reducing the factors that get in the way of a caregiver’s ability to be a stable support (mental health, drug use, lack of money)
  
- **Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO):** I would like to thank our PTO for leading the following community events that enhance relationships
  - **Screenagers:** This film addresses the concerns of children’s use of technology. It will be shown to students in grades 5-9 during the school day, and in the evening on Friday, May 5th from 6:30-8:30pm in the WSD Performing Arts Center (PAC). A facilitated discussion will follow the movie. [Click here for a movie trailer.](#)
  - **WMS Dance:** While students attend the dance parents can see the film *Screenagers*. This is a great example of how our staff and parents are collaborating to combine events and address important shared issues.
  - **Spring Vendor/Craft Fair:** This event will be held at WSD on Saturday, May 13 and will feature many beautiful handcrafted items, as well as some popular direct sales companies, including: Pampered Chef, Thirty-One, Beauty Counter, LuLaRoe, Tupperware, Scentsy, and many more.

- **International Potluck:** Families are encouraged to bring their favorite dish to share to the WSD Cafeteria on Thursday, May 25th, from 5-6:30pm. The potluck will be coupled with a Q & A about the School-Based Health Clinic (SBHC).
- **Open Job Postings for 2017-18**
  - JFK Special Educator (1.0 FTE)
  - WHS Math Teacher (1.0 FTE)
  - WHS Driver Education Teacher (.25 FTE)
  - Accounts Payable/Payroll
  - Daytime Custodian
- **Legislative Work**
  - **2017 Education Legislative Reports:**
    - [Education Legislative Update April 24](#)
    - [Education Legislative Update April 6](#)
    - [Education Legislative Update March 27](#)
    - [Education Legislative Report March 17](#)
    - [Education Legislative Feb 27](#)
    - [Feb 24, 2017 Education Legislative Alert](#)
    - [Education Legislative Report #5](#)
    - [Report #3](#)
    - [Report #2](#)
    - [Report #1](#)

## **WSD Goals**

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

- iLab teacher Will Andrews and senior Ennis Horozovic have been invited to make presentations at *Power2: Youth and Adults Shaping Vermont Education Together*, a conference at Lake Morey Resort on Tuesday, May 2nd. Will is speaking about the iLab experiences, and Ennis is talking about the youth leadership collaboration this year in planning our high school early dismissal days.
- Thursday April 13th and Friday April 14th were spring parent-teacher conferences. As always, they were incredibly well attended by our families. For these conferences, 5th graders lead their own conference. The 5th graders worked hard to create their digital portfolios to share their learning with their families. It was amazing to see how proud the students were of their hard work and growth.
- This year 5th-grade teachers departmentalized. Each teacher had a homeroom of students and is the point person for those students. During the day, each teacher taught a specific subject, and students rotated between the three teachers. Due to the success 4th grade will departmentalize starting next school year.
- Approximately 73 children who participated in Act 166 high quality preschool will be eligible to attend kindergarten this year. We are pleased that so many families have taken advantage of this option for children. There remains a need for more preschool opportunities in Winooski as we continue to have a wait list.

- The Winooski Family Center in collaboration with Winooski School District has reapplied for a second year of the Preschool Expansion Grant to continue with full-day preschool for four year olds.

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

- A dentist and hygienist from Vermont Dental provided free dental screenings in the WMHS office on Friday, April 21st. This was arranged through our Health Office and resulted in over 65 screenings.
- [Bosnian Women Reflect on Resettlement](#) is a powerful Seven Days article on the reflections and achievements of several local Bosnian women, including our very own **Aftaba Mezetovic**, who was **honored last month at the International Women's Day celebration in Burlington!** Congratulations Aftaba!
- Our students filled the Heart Monitor again! For our fourth All School Celebration, we had an All School Bingo Game. A huge thank you to the maintenance crew for setting it up, and to the third grade team for planning the celebration.
- On May 5th our second grade lead our All School Morning Meeting. They did a fantastic job leading the entire school through the activities. A great way to practice the Communications GX!
- JFK Teachers have begun the placement process for next year. Families returned an input sheet to their student(s) teacher before vacation. Teachers will use that information, as well as information gathered in school, to create class lists that are balanced in multiple ways to ensure that all students have a positive learning experience next year.
- The Winooski Unified Sports Bocce team began practice after April break. Unified Sports is a Special Olympics Vermont initiative where we pair students with an intellectual disability (athletes) with members of the student body (partners). Their motto is "on the field we're teammates, off the field we are friends." The annual Statewide Unified Sports Tournament will be held at the Collins-Perley Sports Complex in St. Alban's on Thursday May 25th. Over 20 schools from around the state compete in this event and we will be treated to a great barbecue to enjoy with all of our friends from around Vermont.
- In honor of "Better Hearing and Speech Month", our speech pathologists and assistants taught students about the dangers of listening to loud music through earbuds and headphones. Students learned that in order to protect their ears and prevent hearing damage, they should turn down the volume.

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

- The Youth Lobby group, which includes all the students from VT schools who helped make the "Rally for the Planet" event happen in Montpelier on April 12th, has been invited to testify before the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee. Xavier Clark and Alex Do will be part of the team that testifies. This is a great opportunity for the young people in general to weigh in on how we are treating their future. It will be a particular honor for Alex and Xavier.
- The Director of Programs for PeaceJam recently informed Leon that our team has caught the attention of the international organization for our local efforts to address the root cause of drug and alcohol addiction in Winooski. Doing what we can to make a difference locally is truly the way to build a peaceful world. Here's her email: *"I had the privilege to meet the PeaceJam group from WHS at the PeaceJam Conference in February and was very impressed by this group of student leaders and their project... I wanted to inform you that this group and their project were being looked at for*

*[PeaceJam's Up & Coming Peacemakers Award](#), a prestigious international recognition that is awarded each year in Monaco. We want to encourage you to support this group to keep up their great work and to continue with their project. Who knows what can happen next year, maybe they will become finalists! (I am UVM alumni so my heart is with your group!)"*

- High school advisories paired up with JFK classrooms on April 14th to nurture their creativity and make flowers that were then displayed in a beautiful garden in the cafeteria during the afternoon and evening Spring Into The Arts celebration. Many students and staff commented that this activity was a highlight of their year, and in some cases their career!
- Spring Into The Arts on April 14th featured displays of student and staff art, musical performances in the hallways and entrance, student-led cultural dance instruction, student-written play performances, the Empty Bowl supper, and an absolutely packed Celebrating Winooski Talent Show! It was a very successful event!
- Sarah Murphy attended a breakfast at St Michael's for organizations that welcome student volunteers into their buildings. We have a large number of St. Michael's students that volunteer to work with our students. It is a wonderful partnership that benefits many of our students.

### **Finance/Operations**

- At the end of April, our fund balance for FY17 is favorably forecasted at \$40K or less than 1% of the voter-approved budget.
- The projected balance of the Reserve Fund is currently \$457,719. This balance includes encumbrances for the IT Switch project that was completed in February and \$15,000 approved in December to begin a facility feasibility study. All other approved projects have been completed.
- We have entered into a feasibility study contract with [Joseph Architects](#) and have received some drawings. We will also begin to create a Facility Committee. We plan to have an organizational meeting for the new Facility Committee sometime in June.
- The facility crew has had a busy spring so far. Over April break, we began remodeling the Middle School bathroom, replaced some pumps, prepped the old tennis courts for paving, and did some much needed repairs to the track. We just need the sun to shine!