

Winooski School District  
 Office of the Superintendent  
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[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: September 13, 16 and 27, 2017
- b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
  - Approval of Bills
- c) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - Superintendent Report
- d) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Board Job Description
  - Adopt Policy #5110, Student Attendance
  - Adopt Policy #6160, Educational Support System

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

**6. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):** (20 Minutes)

- a) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
  - Quarterly Financial Management Report: Review/Discussion/Approval
- b) Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
  - Superintendent Monitoring Report 2.4: Review/Discussion/Approval

**7. Board-Management Delegation (Policy Section III):** (15 Minutes)

- a) Policy Title: 3.2 Accountability of the Superintendent
  - Board Monitoring Report 3.2: Review/Discussion/Approval
- b) Policy Title: 3.3 Delegation to the Superintendent
  - Board Monitoring Report 3.3: Review/Discussion/Approval

**8. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):** (30 Minutes)

- a) Policy Title: 4.1.b Governing Style: Encouragement of a Diversity of Views
  - Review/Discussion of VSBA Resolutions
- b) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
  - Discussion – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #5124, Graduation Requirements
  - Discussion – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #8312, Public Participation at Board Meetings
- c) Policy Title: 4.5 Agenda Planning
  - Board Monitoring Report 4.5: Review/Discussion/Approval
- d) Policy Title: 4.7 Board Members Code of Conduct
  - Review/Discussion/Approval

**9. Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1):** (10 Minutes)

- a) Discussion: Recent community activities by board members with focus on Communications Plan
- b) Book Discussion: Deepening Community by Paul Born-read to page 30

## Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:

- **Barr Foundation Grant Award:** WMHS has been awarded a \$225K grant from the Barr Foundation to redesign our middle/high school model to meet the identified needs of our students and communities by providing students with credit-bearing learning opportunities in the wider learning ecosystem that includes the myriad educational, business, and nonprofit organizations within the surrounding communities. [See the full press release here.](#)
- **Consolidated Federal Program (CFP):** WSD has yet to receive its Consolidated Federal Program (CFP) grant. Usually we have received our CFP award and monies have been received in July, however, this year the process has become markedly more cumbersome and the VT AOE is overwhelmed reviewing applications. This has caused us to delay and/or cancel professional development plans.
- **Negotiations Update:** Both Support Staff and Teacher contracts were settled and ratified in the past two weeks. The work in central office has begun to update and publish new agreements, schedule retroactive pay for all union employees, enroll all union employees in new health plans and enroll support staff in dental plans.
- **Winter Transportation Pilot:** We have begun to reconcile the terms of the recently settled negotiated agreements with the FY18 operating budget. This will give us more clarity about any dollars available to fund this pilot. Our goal is to put the pilot out to bid again by the end of October and run an abbreviated pilot beginning in mid-January through the end of March.
- **Capital Project Committee:** The committee held its first meeting on September 26th. [All agendas, meeting minutes and supporting documents can be found here.](#)
- **Wellnooski/Promise Community:** Our group received three Letters of Intent to apply to become a high-quality childcare provider and lease space at the O'Brien Community Center (OCC). This includes up to \$95,000 available through a sub-grant from the Wellnooski Steering Committee as part of the Promise Community Initiative under the State of Vermont Child Development Division. Applications are due on Friday, October 13th with finalist(s) notification on October 20th, finalist(s) interviews the week of October 23-27 with a recommendation to the Winooski City Council on November 6th.
- **Winooski Housing Commission:** Our group has met twice and has an ambitious timeline to present and discuss preliminary housing goals with the Planning Commission on December 14th and to the City Council on January 22nd. These housing goals will be in the context of Area Median Income (AMI) affordability brackets to set parameters for future housing growth and turnover. [All agendas, meeting minutes and supporting documents can be found here.](#)
- **Legislative Work**
  - **2017 Education Legislative Reports:**
    - [Education Legislative Update July 10](#)
    - [Education Legislative Update May 19](#)
    - [Education Legislative Update May 15](#)
    - [Education Legislative Update April 24](#)
    - [Education Legislative Update April 6](#)

## WSD Goals

### Goal #1: College & Career Readiness

- The “First Six Weeks of School” are drawing to a close at JFK and engaging academics start to increase. Classes have begun their initial math, reading and writing units. Each beginning unit builds upon itself, not only for the current year but for the following years at JFK.
- In comparing the September attendance data for September between the 2016-17 and the 2017-18 school year, JFK data shows:
  - An increase in the total number of students
  - The same number of students days for each year
  - Absences have decreased by 70
  - Tardies have decreased by 200

- WMS advisories have sent delegates to our first General Assembly to create a school-wide social contract. After a school-wide vote, students and teachers will sign this contract and hold one another to its agreements. This work stems directly from the Developmental Designs curriculum.
- The WHS Advisory program has been totally revitalized and restructured this year. Training is being provided regularly throughout the school year, along with ongoing support from coordinator Lindsey Cox. In addition to structured activities and curriculum, students are building their Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs) during the 30-minute advisory periods daily. A highlight of the early weeks of school is this year's Spirit Week, the week of October 2nd. School spirit is strong throughout the week!
- We are no longer administering the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) alternative assessment for students with cognitive disabilities. The new pricing structure that was voted-in by the member states made the cost of the assessment per student increase to a level that Vermont (small states) could not sustain. A Request for Proposals (RFP) is scheduled to go out for bids in mid-October. Once the Assessment team and the State of Vermont review the bids, a vendor will be selected to administer all three of the alternate assessments: ELA/ MA/ NGSS.
- WMHS is completing their first round of math and reading assessments for the 2017-2018 school year. All 6th -12th graders take the STAR Math and the FAST Reading assessment three times a year to monitor their growth in these areas. In addition, all students in 6th-8th grade take a handwriting assessment and the Developmental Spelling Inventory three times a year. All of this data is used to place middle school students in appropriate intervention blocks. JFK students will begin taking their first round of math and reading assessments the week of October 23rd.

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

- JFK Elementary School, has been selected to receive a VTPBIS Merit award for the 2016-2017 school year! This recognition is the result of our school having demonstrated the following:
  - Implementing Universal PBIS with fidelity (measured as 70% on the Tiered Fidelity Inventory or 80/80 on the School-wide Evaluation Tool);
  - Using behavior data within a problem-solving framework to improve student outcomes; and
  - Completing the annual Self-Assessment Survey (SAS) to help plan/revise implementation.
- JFK sent a team of four people to the National PBiS conference in Chicago. It was a fantastic conference that gave the team guidance to plan for the 2018-19 school year with a focus on family engagement, social thinking, and equity. These pieces are already in place at JFK, but as a leadership team we will be working this year to strengthen these areas even more for the 2018-19 school year.
- WMS students are having breakfast in the classroom during morning advisory this year. This new system has supported a better transition between classes and more students taking advantage of a healthy meal.

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

- Within the "First Six Weeks of School", all JFK teachers have sent home at least one positive postcard to each student and their family. As a school, our goal is for teachers to have at least four positive interactions with families for every one interaction that is responsive to a challenging behavioral situation.
- During the month of October, all JFK classrooms will be inviting families in to join their student(s) class for a morning meeting. In the spring, we hope to invite families to join their student(s) class for a closing circle.
- The PTO is hosting a [WSD Potluck Dinner](#) on Thursday, November 2nd from 5:30pm-7:00pm. We will also be holding our Second Annual Winter Clothing Drive giveaway that evening. If you would like to donate gently used winter clothing please contact Grace Holcomb at [gholcomb@wdschools.org](mailto:gholcomb@wdschools.org).
- The Winooski Middle School Nepali Dance Group performed in front of a large local audience at the New American Financial Wellness Day sponsored by the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) at VSAC. Their next scheduled performance is at the WSD Potluck Dinner.
- PEACE JAM TRIP REFLECTIONS: We would like to share some experiences and quotes from students while on our New York City trip. We started "PeaceJamming" with 6 students at the start of

this school year, and entered into a room of 21 students yesterday who shared their reasons for joining PeaceJam. It was touching to hear their hopes and dreams for our club's future. Our PeaceJam family is growing! Yay! Here are their quotes:

- “When I first saw the Statue of Liberty I thought of my family and how they must have felt when they first arrived in America. Scared? Nervous? Happy? Overwhelmed? They must have been feeling so many different things.” Ines Horozovic
- “[The Ellis island Immigration museum] kind of disappointed me. For example- they are profiting off of yes, American history, but also the history of people who went through HELL just to come to America where it took many years for these immigrants to be accepted as we as treated respectfully.” Ines Horozovic
- “In the [9-11] museum everything got clear for me and I learned exactly what happened in that time. I started crying and I had a lot of questions in my head like: What did they do that? What did they get from doing it? How were they able to do that? How did they feel when they did it? And are they really humans or monsters?” Tabarik AbdulSaalam
- “We went to the UN which was fun. We took a lot of pictures. I remembered all of the help that me and my family got from them before.” Tabarik AbdulSaalam
- “The Statue of Liberty was so big that it reminded me that the world was so much bigger than I thought! We walked a lot. Our feet started hurting. I think Mess (Teacher Sue Messier) should give us a 4 for P.E. While being here I got to go to some restaurants and it was my first time in eating in the restaurants. It was a good first experience.” K.B.
- “We explored the city. We did fun things such as jumping on our beds and learning about each other's religions. We also sang on road trips and complimented each other and helped each other like family would and we are so excited to see the Statue of Liberty.” Ubah Hussein
- “We learned about the 9-11 memorial. We got to know what happened on 9-11-2001 and we got to know a lot of things that I didn't know. We got to know what happened in New York City in the year 2001.” Indra Ghaley

### **Finance/Operations**

- The audit team from Fothergill, Segale & Valley were here on October 2 & 3 to do their field work. The team will be back for another half day to follow up on some outstanding items. Projected FY17 unapproved audit fund balance is favorably forecasted at \$14K. We are still awaiting some final reconciliation.
- At the end of September, our fund balance for FY18 is favorably forecasted at \$81K or less than .05% of the voter-approved budget. The forecast also includes several assumptions related to labor negotiations, specifically salary/wages and health care. This favorable balance includes spending \$50K on the transportation pilot.
- The projected balance of the Reserve Fund is currently \$380K. This balance includes encumbrances for the Drainage/Parking Project, Central Office Renovations IT Firewall and Building Study. The parking lot project is complete.