

Winooski School District  
Office of the Superintendent  
60 Normand Street  
Winooski, Vermont 05404  
(802) 383-6000  
[www.winooski.k12.vt.us](http://www.winooski.k12.vt.us)

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**

- Introductory Meetings: I have not had any new introductory meetings since the last board meeting due to the emphasis on budget. I do have some scheduled meetings in the month of March.
- Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
  - FY 15 Budget: Congratulations to the board for the successful passage of the 2014-15 budget! I greatly appreciate your support of the resources needed to serve students well and move our organization forward.
  - 2014-15 School Calendar: Each year regional superintendent groups are charged with developing a school calendar that has at least 175 student days and at least 5 teacher-in-service days. For the full statute click here: [§ 1071. School year and school day](#)
    - In the consent agenda you will find the 2014-15 WSD Calendar, which incorporates these requirements as agreed upon by the Champlain Valley Superintendents Association (CVSA). The WSD administration recommends the board approve this calendar.
  - Classroom Visit: I went to Courtney Poquette's Accounting class to discuss the school budget. The questions and insights from our WHS students, primarily juniors and seniors, was impressive. We talked about how a budget represents the values and beliefs of a community, student-centered learning and how prepared they feel for the future.
  - Winooski Wellness Day: A group of teachers led by Mary 'Rourke designed our very first Faculty Wellness Day which was held on Tuesday, March 4th. We started the day with a healthy breakfast followed by my opening talk that reminded people of the purpose of the day:
    - Build community across our Prek-12 school,
    - Reflect and plan for our own wellness

- Connecting with each other and being intentional about our wellness to benefit our students.

From there Lindsey Foreman from the Center for Mindful Learning (CML) led us in mindful movement and meditation. After the opening there was a series of sessions held from 9-12 representing the [Six Dimensions of Wellness](#). Activities included journal-making, badminton, Managing Stress, Zumba, board games, soccer, clay, laughter yoga and making healthy snacks. Many teacher led these activities. There was a community lunch prepared by the Abbey Group where teachers were encouraged to mix with folks from other areas of the building. The afternoon consisted of one more hour of sessions and finished with smoothies. Lastly, I asked all teachers to submit 3-5 wellness goals to their supervisor by Friday and I shared my wellness goals with the faculty. It was a wonderful day. Two teachers have decided to offer a weekly dance class after school for staff and we are forming a group to figure out how to incorporate wellness practices for students and staff more frequently.

- Legislative update

- School Governance: I will be attending a VSA Governance Meeting in Montpelier this Friday, March 7th. Board President Mike Decarreau will be attending a VSBA Governance Meeting on Tuesday, March 11th. Mike and I will bring information from these meetings to the board meeting for discussion.

- Policy work

- Drug & Alcohol Testing for Transportation Employees: This policy was given a first reading at the February meeting. You will find the revised policy in the consent agenda. The WSD administration recommends the board approve this policy.
- Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)-Student Surveys: This policy is up this month for a first reading. Please read the WSD current and VSBA model policies for our discussion.
- Parent Involvement: This policy is up this month for a first reading. Please read the WSD current, VSBA model and Draft policies for our discussion.

- Job Postings for 2014-15

- Special Educator (1.0 FTE, EEE): The current employee in this position has resigned effective the end of the 2013-14 school year.
- Special Educator (1.0 FTE, Grades 4 & 5): This is currently a one-year position that will be made permanent and we have decided to post the position and make it available for a broad group of candidates.
- Special Educator (1.0 FTE, Grades K-5, Behavior Specialist) & Special Educator (1.0 FTE, Middle School): Based on research and work with UVM Professor Michael Giangreco we have decided to reallocate resources from

four Instructional Assistant positions to these two licensed Special Educator positions.

- Math (.5 FTE, Middle School): This position was added due to additional staffing needed in the iLab. We have decided to post the position and make it available for a broad group of candidates.
  - Director of ELL & Curriculum (Full-Time, Full-Year, PreK-12): New position
  - Data Manager (Full-Time, Full-Year, PreK-12): New position
  - Webmaster (Full-Time, Full-Year, PreK-12): The addition of .5 FTE will make this a full-time, full-year position moving forward.
  - Wellness Coordinator: (Full-Time, School-Year, PreK-12): New position
- Superintendent Monitoring Report: I would ask that the board approve my *Policy 2.1: Treatment of Students, Parents/Guardians & Community Monitoring Report* which is in the consent agenda.
  - Adam Urbanski Visit: Adam is a consultant with the Nellie Mae Education Foundation (NMEF) and returned this past month to meet with both WSD and BSD union leadership, superintendents and school board members. I found him to be an incredibly experienced and insightful resource as we move forward to develop negotiated agreements that reflect the needs of our students in changing learning environments. He will continue to be a resource in the future.
  - Opiate Addiction Working Group: I have been invited to be a member of this working group which was assembled by the Governor's office. Our first meeting is next Wednesday, March 12th. I will keep the board informed as this moves forward.
  - Vermont Business Roundtable (VBR): Jeanne Collins, BSD Superintendent and I have been invited by Mary Schwartz, Executive Director VBR Research and Education Foundation, to present to VBR's Education Task Force. VBR's Education Task Force, is looking at how the employment community can support meaningful education reform in Vermont. We will be sharing the presentation that we made at the WSD-BSD Joint Board Retreat in January.
  - Winooski Health & Wellness
    - Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 18th. We will start to develop an action plan at this meeting. At our January 28th meeting experts from Fletcher Allen's Community Health Improvement team, Julie Cole & Kristin Fontaine and the VT Department of Health, Tracy Dolan, presented to the group on the following documents and data:
      - Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA):
        - [Winooski-Specific data](#)
        - [July 2012 Pediatric Progress Report](#)

- VT State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)
  - <http://healthvermont.gov/hv2020/ship.aspx>
- WSD Weekly issues
  - **WSD WEEKLY-Wellness** <http://flip.it/drY3P>
  - **WSD WEEKLY-ELL** <http://flip.it/N8ack>
  - **WSD WEEKLY-PROJECT-BASED LEARNING** <http://flip.it/yDKMa>
  - **WSD WEEKLY-Student Centered Learning** <http://flip.it/Dmtlp>
  - **WSD WEEKLY-Mindfulness** <http://flip.it/sBxcj>
  - **WSD WEEKLY:Great Teaching!** <http://flip.it/ZYNBB>
- Partnership for Change (P4C) updates:
  - Spring 2014 Neighborhood Learning Conversations (NLCs) will be focused on Personal Learning Plans (PLPs), Advisories, and Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements aligned with Graduate Expectations (GXs). The bulk of the NLCs will occur in the month of April.
  - A meeting was held with Education Development Center (EDC) to finalize the teacher and student surveys to be administered at WMHS and BHS before the April break.
  - Kevin Perks of West Ed has organized a site visit to observe signature practices of mastery-based learning at Winooski Middle High School (WMHS) and Burlington High School (BHS) in Vermont on March 11th and 12th, 2014. The site visit will include the following:
    - Observations of the iLab at WMHS and the School Innovation Seminar at BHS on March 12th ;
    - Participation in the Share It evening presentation of student work from the iLab on March 11th ;
    - Opportunities to talk to students and staff involved in both signature practices during visits to both sites on March 12th .
    - This event is sponsored by the Professional Learning Community on Mastery-Based Learning that is part of the Building New Models for Systems Change initiative supported by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation.
- Upcoming Events
  - Faculty vs. Student Bball game, Monday, 3/10, 6:30pm, Winooski Gym
  - iLab Share-It Night, Tuesday, 3/11, 5:30-7pm, Cafeteria
  - PACTS, Thursday, 3/13, 6-7:30pm, LMC
  - P4C I-Team meetings, Thursday, 3/20, 6:00pm
  - Music In Our Schools-Spring Concert, Thursday, 3/20, 7:00pm, PAC

## WSD Goals

### Goal #1: Increase student learning and growth

- WSD is participating in the field testing of Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM). DLM is a multiple-state consortium that is developing a new type of alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Assessments are being designed in grades 3-12 in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. These assessments are aligned to learning maps that show relationships between knowledge and skills that build toward challenging grade-level learning targets for this population. DLM is delivered in small “testlets,” consisting of an engagement activity and 3-5 items. This test will replace the Vermont Alternate Assessment Portfolio (VTAAP). Field tests will take place this spring.
- Two high school students, Uyen Bui and Mina Dhamala, traveled to Framingham, MA for [Upward Bound’s National Trio Day Conference](#) February 20 and 21.
- Senior Brandon Shortsleeve has been recognized with the Outstanding Community Service Award for his three years of service with the regional Chill Program teaching snowboarding to children. Congratulations, Brandon!
- Senior Tucker Dimassi, attending the Center for Technology at Essex (CTE), qualified to participate in the Vermont Skills USA competition which will take place this spring. He will be competing with other culinary students in technical centers around Vermont for a chance to participate in the national competition this coming summer.
- Seven high school students, chaperoned by advisors Melissa Clark and Libby Houghton, are attending the Northeast [PeaceJam](#) Conference at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT the weekend of March 14-16.

### **Goal #2: Increase student engagement through best instructional practices**

- Our in-service work on Monday, March 3rd focused on science. Dave White, our science consultant spent the morning on the concepts of engineering. Teachers had a chance to conduct experiments and to understand the basic definition of engineering. In the afternoon, we broke into grade level clusters (K-2 & 3-5) and looked at the learning progressions using the new science standards. The feedback from teachers was the day was very productive.
- The middle and high school in-service on Monday had two tracks. Most math and science teachers had their first class with the Vermont Math Initiative’s (VMI) middle/high pilot interdisciplinary program. Everyone else worked in interdisciplinary groups to explore how we can better know, understand, and empower every student through the TA structure. This becomes increasingly important as we honor personalized and proficiency-based learning.
- Middle school students are beginning a collaborative effort to “complete 500 combos” in ReadingPlus. Combos are an indicator of student engagement and progress. Our own author and member of Dollars for Scholars, Laban Hill, will be coming to the middle

school to speak and celebrate with the middle school after the students reach the target. In preparation, all middle school team teachers have been purchased a classroom copy of two Laban Hill books, Harlem Stomp! and Dave the Potter. This is an exciting collaborative effort with the PTO, ReadingPlus, Laban Hill, and our school.

**Goal #3: Increase parent/community engagement**

- Our fourth and fifth grade students presented “ A Tribute to Dr. Seuss” on Friday, March 7th to elementary students and the public. They did a wonderful job! Many parents helped Lisa Goetz with this production. A big thank you to all involved!

**Goal #4: Collaboration and communication**

- Following is an update on the number of ELL students in our district as of 2/5/14:

School	Total Students	# Who are ELLS	Percentage who are ELLs
JFK Elementary	351	116	33 %
JFK Middle	154	52	34 %
Winooski High	211	95	45 %
Winooski School District	716	263	38 %

- WSD is undergoing an Act 62 Prekindergarten Education Community Needs Assessment during the month of March and April. We will have our first planning committee meeting on Thursday, March 6th, and welcome new committee members. The assessment will focus on answering the following questions:
  - 1. Does the community support establishing or expanding prekindergarten education (pre-K)?
  - 2. Do families with young children feel that they need and want publically funded pre-K?
  - 3. If there is support, what do the data indicate are the most appropriate delivery models that should be implemented (i.e., what should it look like?)

Please contact Robin Hood, Director of Support Services or Maybeline Lopez, Act 62 Coordinator/Early Childhood Special Educator at 655-9575, if you would like to be on the committee.

- High school math teacher Tom Payeur has been invited to present at the Robert Noyce Scholars Conference in Philadelphia later this month. Tom is a [Noyce Math and Science Scholar](#), and will be sharing with fellow scholars about his first two years of teaching.
- Nancy Keller is a partner in founding two companies. She and five other women joined together about ten years ago to establish [The Safety Team, Inc](#), a Vermont non-profit dedicated to enhancing the safety, empowerment, and safety of women. Recently she and



Dave Quinlan created [Bushintia-Do Programs](#) based on the belief that active bodies make for healthy minds and believe that Bushintai-Do Programs can make a difference. Their online, classroom-based, movement lessons are designed to counter obesity, foster academic achievement, and build respect and self-control. Once the development costs have been recovered, 5% of the profits will be donated to WSD's Wellness program.

- We had a great Wellness Week at JFK, February 10th-14th, coordinated by Barb Pitfido. Each day there was a different area of wellness that was highlighted. Day four focused on kindness and gratitude. As we entered the building we found the school walls plastered with positive statements such as:
  - “Always be kind because everyone is fighting a hard battle.” Plato

The adults in the building were given little cards to hand out to the kids. The cards said “Smile—pass it on.” Soon the kids were passing the cards on. In the hallway by the IT department was the Compliment Zone. Sticky notes were provided and everyone had the opportunity to thank our custodians and maintenance workers. Throughout the day, many of our students were putting compliments not only in the zone but also left stickies on the walls. We are now working on ways to continue this practice. It makes a difference.

## **Finance**

- As of February 28, 2014 our estimated fund balance for FY14 is \$59,027.
- The Reserve Account has a balance of \$664,513. We will be getting bids for summer projects in the next few months.
- Our FY13 audit is almost complete and our fund balance is \$115,736.00 Bill Yacavoni was here on March 6 to finish up a few “tests” to complete the audit and meet the AOE deadline of March 31, 2014. A complete audit report will be available for the April board meeting.
- A RFP will go out this spring to secure auditing services for FY15.

## **Action Items**

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

- Consent Agenda
  - Minutes of Meetings: February 12, 2014
  - Policy 2.1: Treatment of Students, Parents/Guardians & Community
    - Approve Superintendent Monitoring Report
  - Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
    - Approval of Bills

- Policy 2.7: Compensation and Benefits
  - Approve Teaching Contracts for 2014/15 SY
- Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - Approve 2014/15 School Year Calendar
  - Superintendent Report
- Policy Title: 4.2.2 Board Job Description
  - Adopt Policy #4115: Drug & Alcohol Testing: Transportation Employees