

November 4, 2016

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

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

- a) Minutes of Meetings: October 12, 2016
- b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
  - Approval of Bills
  - Approval of Superintendent Monitoring Report: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
- c) Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
  - Approve Contract Recommendation
    - Thomas Jacobs, Long Term sub for A. Schlatter (Gr. 2)
- d) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - Superintendent Report
- e) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Board Job Description
  - Adopt Policy Policy #4127, Volunteers, Work Study Students and Student Teachers

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

**5. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV): (90 Minutes)**

- b) Policy Title: 4.2 Board Job Description
  - Board Monitoring Report 4.2: Review/Discussion

**6. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II): (30 Minutes)**

- a) Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
  - FY18 Budget Timetable
- b) Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
  - Superintendent Monitoring Report 2.4: Review/Discussion

### **Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:**

- **Space Concerns:** You have probably noticed the challenge of parking in our lot during the school day due to overcrowding. As we have added staffing in the past

- four years to support our students, space has become more challenging. Also, we have several outside folks who come to WSD each day such as volunteers, student-teachers/interns, and various service providers. In addition to parking, we are finding it difficult to accommodate adequate professional office space, meeting areas and small-group instruction needs. We are in the process of updating our Five-Year Facility Plan which will address these needs and will be presented to the board during the FY18 budget cycle. Lastly, we will be requesting up to \$10K for an initial engineering study
- **School-Based Health Clinic (SBHC):** Our School Nurses, Elizabeth Parris and Katharine Monje are working with two local doctors and a pediatric resident to plan for a school-based health clinic in the future. An SBHC can improve access to health care and minimize lost learning time. The overall vision is to spend this school year preparing and planning, and to open a SBHC in the fall of 2017. On this timeframe, this will likely involve starting on a smaller scale in terms of hours and services, and expanding as it becomes possible with increasing space and provider availability.
  - **Chittenden County Opioid Alliance update:** The Chittenden County Opioid Alliance (CCOA) is a group made up of state and local government, businesses, non-profit leaders and residents that have agreed to come together and work on reducing the opioid abuse and the burdens it brings to our community, through a Collective Impact model. This alliance is made up of four teams. I am a member of the Long-Term, Community Level Prevention Action team which will be meeting monthly  
The biggest impact we see in the school is the addiction by parents/guardians that negatively impacts the basic needs of our students. [The 1-page overview can be found here.](#)
  - **Labor Negotiations:** Board negotiators Mike Decarreau and Matt MacNeil have begun negotiations with both the WEA Teacher and Support Staff bargaining units.
  - **Driver Education:** We have been unable to hire a licensed Driver Education instructor for the fall course after our teacher resigned in the summer. We attempted to hire through Schoolspring.com, a Request for Proposal (RFP) and using the VT-AOE Listserv. We continue to work to find a solution for the spring and will keep the board updated.
  - **Legislative Update**
    - [2016 Education Legislative Update #10](#)

## **WSD Goals**

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

- We noted in last month's report we received results from Ready for Kindergarten! Survey (R4K!S). Full report can be found here: [2015-2016 Ready for Kindergarten! Survey Report](#). This new survey was completed by kindergarten teachers in the fall of 2015. It is a readiness assessment about student's knowledge and skills within the first six to ten weeks of kindergarten. The district continues to focus on early learning which includes school readiness and transition to kindergarten. A few results from this new assessment are below. We are optimistic that we are moving in the right direction!

### Percent Ready by Demographic Compared to the State

|          | <b>Winooski</b> | <b>State</b> |
|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| All      | <b>79.55</b>    | <b>81.79</b> |
| Boys     | 77.27           | 77.42        |
| Girls    | 81.82           | 86.58        |
| F & R    | 76.19           | 73.23        |
| N F&R    | 82.61           | 88.13        |
| Pre-K    | 94.74           | 85.38        |
| No Pre-K | 68.00           | 77.52        |

### Percent Ready by Demographics Within Chittenden County

|          | <b>Winooski</b> | <b>Burlington</b> | <b>So. Burlington</b> | <b>Chittenden Central</b> | <b>Chittenden South</b> | <b>Chittenden East</b> | <b>Colchester</b> | <b>Essex Town</b> | <b>Milton</b> |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| All      | 79.55           | 75.98             | 91.54                 | 80.20                     | 95.10                   | 92.37                  | 81.55             | 93.23             | 81.63         |
| Boys     | 77.27           | 72.52             | 87.69                 | 84.62                     | 92.38                   | 88.06                  | 72.22             | 93.55             | 79.59         |
| Girls    | 81.82           | 79.67             | 95.38                 | 75.51                     | 97.98                   | 96.88                  | 92.31             | 92.96             | 83.67         |
| F & R    | 76.19           | 62.07             | 76.19                 | 52.94                     | 87.80                   | 71.43                  | 64.00             | 81.48             | 72.22         |
| N F&R    | 82.61           | 83.23             | 94.50                 | 85.71                     | 96.93                   | 94.87                  | 88.98             | 96.23             | 87.10         |
| Pre-K    | 94.74           | 82.69             | 92.50                 | 79.59                     | 98.41                   | 95.71                  | 88.89             | 91.49             | 100.00        |
| No Pre-K | 68.00           | 65.31             | 90.0                  | 80.77                     | 89.74                   | 88.52                  | 81.13             | 94.19             | 79.55         |

- On October 27th, 8 teachers and 15 students attended the Annual Rowland Conference. Afterwards I heard a lot of great things from those who attended including this from WMHS Art teacher Jessica Bruce: "I just wanted to ... say how incredibly proud I was of our students yesterday... While the topic of the conference was Equity and Equality, with a heavy concentration on race/ethnicity

in many discussions, our students spoke with passion, intelligence, and open mindedness that really left a positive impact and impression with teachers and administrators from other schools. A few people approached me with praise and remarks about how wonderful it must be to work with our students, including a teacher from Rutland who is excited and nervous about the upcoming surge of Syrian refugees arriving there. It was a great day!" And WMHS Assistant Principal Kate Grodin received the following email from a workshop facilitator: "It was such an honor to work with the Winooski crew today. It was amazing you had 23 attendees with 15 students!! The students were articulate and thoughtful and everyone listened to each other so well. You have great stuff going on there!"

- In mid-October Imaj Associates sent the first proof of several student vignettes they're creating to capture the story of Winooski. Sit back and enjoy this affirming, feel good story told through the experience of sophomore [Destiny Syharaj](#). This is our story coming alive in one student, a product of your care and commitment, and our collective hard work to create a student-centered learning community. We are making a difference!
- Both JFK and WMHS have completed Benchmark 1 of their reading and math local assessments for the fall. Classroom teachers, specialists and administrators are using this data to plan instruction and develop programs for students.
- High school advisories are being supported this year with weekly lesson/activities designed to strengthen relationships and self-awareness, and build on the foundation for meaningful student Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs). Some of the recent topics have been: HEART; Timeline for the Future; How to Get There from Here; Group Challenges for Community Building; and Kinesthetic Activities for Community Building.
- Gayle Moskowitz and Pam Chomsky-Higgins from The Vermont Reads Institute at the University of Vermont started their work with JFK in October. Each consultant will be coming to JFK twice a month to work directly with teachers, and with our literacy coach, to implement Readers Workshop.

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

- Kristi Theise, our home school coordinator, has been heading up a successful clothing drive for WSD families in need of winter clothing. We will begin distributing the clothing at an event on Thursday, November 3rd and based on the response we may have follow up events during the WMHS STEM Night and parent teacher conferences.
- On Friday, October 7th, Howard Center's School Services Program hosted a conversation and training about truancy. Representatives from Centerpoint (Mitch Barron), Court Diversion/BARJ (Patrick Sheehan), the South Burlington Restorative Board (Lisa Bedinger), and DCF (Liz Nault and Elizabeth Beaulieu) were present. The training reviewed trends, resources, and strategies, which can be used with school partners. There was also an opportunity for idea sharing between districts and community programs. This was attended by Robin Hood, Director of Support Services, and Kristi Theise, Home School Coordinator. Our

district is working to target students and families who need support in getting to school.

- Sarah Murphy, Sara Raabe, and Amanda Babcock attended a full day Hazing, Bullying, and Harassment training at VSBIT. The training focused on the laws and procedures schools need to follow and implement. While we did get updated letters and some new information, it was reassuring to hear that we are already doing much of what we need to in order to keep students safe so they can engage in learning.

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

- This fall we have seen a large increase in the number of Swahili speaking families from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As a result, we have hired an on-call interpreter who speaks Swahili, Lingala and French. He will be supporting WSD with parent teacher conferences, new family registrations and other communications with these families.
- The WHS PeaceJam group helped Winooski children and families celebrate Halloween at the city's Halloween celebration at the O'Brien Center on Saturday, October 29th. They handed out treats and played games with children. It was a highly attended event that was enjoyed by all.
- October 19th was the official kick-off of our revised early dismissal mornings with specially designed activities for both middle and high schools. With Spartan Games, a Mt. Philo hike, Mazza's Corn Maze, creative pumpkin and apple activities, the morning was engaging and fun, and reflections at the end of the day were filled with praise and appreciation by students and adults alike. The purpose of these days is to have positive and engaging experiences that strengthen college and career readiness, enhance advisory experiences, and build student PLPs, and thanks to all those who are helping with organization, students and staff alike, it was a great beginning!
- The first Community Reads event took place on Friday, October 28th. Ray Coffey, Interim City Manager, was the guest reader. The event was well attended by students and families.
- The work we're doing here in Winooski is being used at a national meeting of state-level educational leaders to prompt a conversation about transforming traditional school systems! Pat Fitzsimmons of the VT AOE sent an email in mid-October noting that our "["We Are the Future of Winooski" video](#)" will be used this coming week at the national [Innovation Lab Network](#)'s Annual Convening. The video will be shown to "*provoke a discussion among participants regarding: Why do you think the video shows exemplars of transformational leadership? How might this look different than the expectations of leadership in a traditional school system?*"

### **Finance/Operations**

- At the end of October, our fund balance for FY17 is favorably forecasted at 6\$K or less than 1% of the voter-approved budget.
- The projected balance of the Reserve Fund is currently \$472,299. This balance includes encumbrances for the IT Switch project that is set to be completed in December. All other approved projects have been completed.

- The Facility Team is busy closing down the outside fields and preparing the building for the colder weather.
- The leadership team has begun the budget building process for FY18.