

Winooski School District
Office of the Superintendent
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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: January 4 and 11, 2017
- b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Approval of Bills
- c) Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
 - Approve Contract Recommendation
 - Cindy Day, Long Term Sub for R. Savage, 9-12 ELL
 - Rebecca Baker, Long Term Sub for N. Maley, 9-12 ELL
 - WSD Administrative Contracts
 - Leon Wheeler, WMHS Co-Principal
 - Katherine Grodin, WMHS Co-Principal
 - Sara Raabe, Elementary Principal
 - Robin Hood, Director of Special Education & Early Learning
 - Rebecca Goulet, Finance Manager
 - Kirsten Kollgaard, Director of Curriculum & ELL
- d) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - Superintendent Report
 - Parking Lot Agreement
- e) Policy Title: 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership
 - Action: Accept Board Monitoring Report 4.4

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

7. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV): (75 Minutes)

- c) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - Discussion – 1st Reading, Policy #4116: Harassment of Employees
 - Discussion - 1st Reading, Policy #6146: Access to Electronics
- d) Policy Title: 4.5 Agenda Planning
 - Discussion: Board Monitoring Report 4.5

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:

- **Penguin Plunge 2017:** We have raised over \$7000 for Special Olympics Vermont bringing our four-year total over \$43,000! [There is still time to contribute here](#) or come down to the Burlington Waterfront tomorrow, Saturday, February 4th at 11:00am and support our team of over 50 plungers!
- **Music Support:** The GRAMMY Foundation is planning to make a \$2,000 donation to Winooski High School's Music program as part of their Community Award program. The Hot Topic Foundation provided the GRAMMY Foundation with funding to make a series of community awards in selected markets around the country. The Hot Topic Foundation asked us to select a school in Vermont, and I'm

happy to say Winooski High School has been selected to receive an award of \$2,000. For some more background feel free to check out www.grammyintheschools.com and www.grammyfoundation.org

- **Promise Community Grant:** Our committee, now called “WellNooski!” has developed our Roadmap (purpose, vision, goals) and budget which was submitted to the State of VT’s Department of Children & Families in December and was returned in January with clarifying questions. The committee met and an updated Roadmap and budget will be re-submitted in February 10th. When the Roadmap and budget are approved we will have \$200K to:
 - Support Winooski family’s access to basic needs and services (stable housing, nutritious food, healthcare and transportation) by providing a community hub at the O’Brien Community Center
 - 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)

- **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 that has been meeting monthly. Recently, as part of a team action I distributed information and videos via social media and our mass messaging system from [ParentUpVT](#). The biggest impact we see in the school is the addiction by parents/guardians that negatively impacts the basic needs of our students.

- **Legislative Work**
 - **Meeting with Reps. Bissonnette and Gonzalez:** I met with our local legislators and reviewed current education bills in the House and Senate which can be found below in Report #3 and provided both a broad and local perspective on these prospective bills.
 - **Email Response to Governor Scott’s Budget Proposals:** This email was sent to the following legislators:
 - Speaker Mitzi Johnson
 - President Pro Tem Tim Ashe
 - House Education Committee Chair David Sharpe
 - Senate Education Committee Chair Phil Baruth
 - House Finance Committee Chair Janet Ancel
 - Senate Finance Committee Chair Ann Cummings
 - **2017 Education Legislative Reports:**
 - [Report #3](#)
 - [Report #2](#)
 - [Report #1](#)

- **All Are Welcome:** Our “Focus on Learning” topic this month will be on how WSD is working to grow our safe and welcoming school community in light of the recent political actions. You will hear about several ways in which we are ramping up our efforts around safety and inclusion such as:
 - [Email to WSD Staff re: Executive Order on Immigration and Refugees](#)
 - Symbol developed by the Burlington High School International Club



- **Hiring:** We interviewed 6 candidates in the first round for a new Network Administrator and selected 4 to return for second round interviews. 2 candidates have accepted a second interview and will be spending two hours next week touring the school to see our technology infrastructure, meeting with staff and completing some hands-on problem-solving tasks.

WSD Goals

Goal #1: College & Career Readiness

- Andrea Wheeland, Kate Grodin, Lisa Italiano, and Matt Webb visited King Middle School in Portland ME on January 27th to learn about their proficiency-based system that's been evolving for over 25 years and is highly acclaimed especially in the area of expeditionary learning. King has a similar demographic as Winooski. The team discovered a cohesive middle level program that wound together all the aspects of high-level learning that we're working on at our middle school: GXs (the Expeditions), Expos (demonstrations of learning), GP progressions (literacy interventions), and a robust arts program. We were energized by a strong model for coherence at the middle level and are confident that we have the curious, creative, skilled faculty to do something similar here.
- The WMHS Math Best Practices coaching and studio was held January 26th & 27th. The focus of our work this year is to design and facilitate learning that demonstrates high cognitive demand in each math classroom.
- Purdue doctoral researcher Elizabeth Brott-Beese visited our school for two weeks in January exploring personalization. She visited two [Big Picture Schools](#) prior to visiting Winooski. She was pleasantly surprised by the complexity of personalization in Winooski, meaning that we're exploring more approaches to personalization than the Big Picture schools. She notes that our students identify several areas where they see learning is really personalized including the iLab, Math Lab, and French Studio. Our students also talked about the many questions and confusion they have about how the GXs and GPs will be used to determine readiness to graduate. She was very appreciative of and informed by her visit with our students and staff.
- Winooski was one of two Vermont schools selected by Senator Patrick Leahy to participate in the [2017 Capitol Hill Challenge](#). Here's the email from Senator Leahy's office that led to our invitation: "I am writing on behalf of Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) to nominate Winooski High School, based in Winooski, VT for the SIFMA Capitol Hill Challenge. This school lies in one of the state's largest and most ethnically diverse cities, and serves a high proportion of resettled refugee families. With the help of the Business Education Program Director, Courtney Poquette, students have collaborated with the Champlain College Center for Financial Literacy to create an innovative curriculum to improve the financial literacy of all students. This program, and Winooski High School are most deserving of an invitation to participate in the Capitol Hill Challenge, and I hope you may kindly consider this request."

- JFK Math Best Practices studio day was held January 25th. The first day, January 24th, was canceled because of the snow day. This day will be made up during the next visit.
- The WIDA ACCESS 2.0 English Language Learner testing began January 17th and will continue through February break. All English Language Learners (ELLs) are tested annually in the four domains of language: listening, speaking, reading and writing. WSD receives the data in early May and will use it to inform our ELL curriculum and instruction practices as well as student placement for the 2017-2018 school year.
- Winooski Middle School has been selected to participate in the NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress). NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students know and can do in various subjects. It is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP is different from our state assessment because it provides a common measure of student achievement across the country. The results are released as The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public. Only students in 4th and 8th grade will take this assessment. Each student will take a mathematics or reading assessment. 8th graders will be tested on Tuesday, February 7th and 4th graders will be tested on Wednesday, February 22nd.
- 5th grade launched their Starbase rockets in the back of the school January 27th. Starbase filmed it with a drone. The video is on the JFK Facebook page.

Goal #2: Healthy, Productive & Successful Lives

- Anna Willis, Linden Bronz-Russo, Michaela Parris, Destiny Dowd and Samantha Lefebvre represented our middle school chorus at this past Friday's District III Music Festival. They auditioned for and scored high enough to be accepted into the festival. The concert was Saturday January 28 at 2:00 at ADL in Essex Junction.
- The fourth grade did an amazing job leading the January All-School Morning meeting.
- JFK filled the Heart Monitor again! Friday February 3rd, we had a school wide dance party and crazy hair/hat day.

Goal #3: Local & Global Community Engagement

- The last of the four Winooski student vignettes has been finalized by Imaj Associates: [Mustafe Abdi - The Power of Hope!](#) Mustafe shares a simple, poignant, and timely message that I find both sobering and affirming. This is why I came to Winooski, and why I will stand with open arms with others and declare that all are welcome here!
- This year's State of the Union Essay contest, sponsored by Senator Bernie Sanders, had about 800 contributors from 43 Vermont High Schools. Our own Musa Mayange was selected as the 2nd place winner for his essay "A Perspective on Racism!" This is quite an honor! In addition, Rainbow Chen's essay, "Our America," was honored as one of 17 finalists. What an honor for both of these hard working students! Here's Senator Sander's [2017 State of the Union Winning Essays](#) web site with the full text of the finalist essays.
- Many times when we have field trips we receive positive feedback from the host organization. Our students generally demonstrate true HEART on these trips. Affirming that pattern we received the following from Erin Ackerman, aquatics director at the Fitness Edge in Essex: "They were one of the best behaved groups we have had rent the pool. They listened to the rules, asked questions, and corrected their actions when we asked them. They all looked like they were having a great time."
- JFK had a "Magical Community Reads" on Friday, January 27th. Board Chair Mike Decarreau was the guest reader. After the read aloud, students and families were able to visit different stations where members of the student council performed magic tricks.
- JFK is participating in the Big Change Roundup again this year through our Hair Challenge. 13 staff members have volunteered to participate. The staff member that raises the most money has to dye their hair a fun color. Students, staff, and community members can donate by putting change in jars in the front office or online at bigchangeroundup.org

Finance/Operations

- At the end of January, our fund balance for FY17 is favorably forecasted at \$25K or less than 1% of the voter-approved budget.
- The projected balance of the Reserve Fund is currently \$457,482. This balance includes encumbrances for the IT Switch project that will be completed in February and \$15,000 approved in December to begin a facility feasibility study. All other approved projects have been completed.
- A meeting was held with Joe Green, Principal from [Joseph Architects](#). We expect to have a proposal and timeline from Joe in the next week.