

Winooski School District
 Office of the Superintendent
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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:

6. **Consent Agenda:** (5 Minutes)
 - a) Minutes of Meetings: February 8, 2017
 - b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Approval of Bills
 - c) Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
 - Approve Teacher Contracts for 2017/18
 - d) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - Superintendent Report
 - Approval of School Calendar for 2017-18 SY
 - e) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Board Job Description
 - Adopt Policy #4116, Harassment of Employees

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

7. **Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):** (15 minutes)
 - a) Policy Title: 2.6 Asset Protection
 - Discussion: Superintendent Monitoring Report
8. **Board-Management Delegation (Policy Section III):** (15 Minutes)
 - a) Policy Title: 3.4 Monitoring Superintendent Performance
 - Discussion: Board Monitoring Report
9. **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
 - Reorganize Board/Committee Assignments
 - b) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - Discussion – 1st Reading, Policy #1340, Tobacco Prohibition
 - Discussion – 1st Reading, Policy #4310, Alcohol & Drug Free Workplace
 - Discussion/Possible Adoption – 2nd Reading Policy #6146, Access to Electronics

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:

- **Rowland Foundation Grant:** Winooski Middle/High School teacher Lindsey Cox has been awarded a \$75,000 Rowland fellowship for the 2017-2018 school year. [The Rowland Foundation](#) is dedicated to supporting visionary leadership within Vermont high schools to help create systematic change that will improve a school’s culture and climate towards learning. Lindsey will be developing learning opportunities that happen outside of the classroom as well as a system for assessing them. “My goal is

to create the assessment system, based off the Winooski Middle/High School Graduate Expectations (GXs) and Graduate Proficiencies (GPs) that is the missing link between the vision for “multiple pathways” and a map for students to travel those pathways,” Lindsey explained. The work is intentionally embedded in and aligned with the current work of the school district. Lindsey hopes to work with interested Winooski teachers and students to pilot this work throughout the 2017-18 school year while being released halftime from her teaching responsibilities.

- **Winooski Peace Initiative:** The Peoples Academy philosophy class, sponsored by the Winooski Peace Initiative is hosting a community-wide Socrates Cafe on March 8 from 6 pm to 7pm at the Winooski Senior Center. For those of you who have never attended a Socrates Cafe, it is a place where people are able to delve into timeless questions like “What is love?”, “Why do we lie?”, and “Is revenge ever justifiable?”. There is no correct answer to any of these questions, and that’s what makes them timeless. The beauty of a Socrates Cafe is that you get the chance to listen to the views each individual brings. Our goal is not to come to a consensus, or determine an answer to the question. Our goal is, as always, to leave with new questions and craving more. We hope you join us on our endeavor to explore other’s thinking and ideas. Our question will be: **What brings us together?**
- **School-Based Health Center (SBHC):** WSD School Nurses Liz Parris and Katharine Monje have worked with the VT Department of Health and UVM’s Children’s Hospital Resident Anna Zuckerman, MD to write a grant to the Community Health Investment Fund. This request will support start up-costs (office equipment and furniture, medical equipment, IT services, planning costs) and yearly costs (supplies, planning, mental health provider) for 3 years to support the SBHC.
- **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 was re-submitted on 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**
 - **VSBA/VSA ED Funding - Cost Containment Task Force**
 - The VT School Boards Association (VSBA) invited VT Superintendents Association (VSA) to join in a short but intensive project designed to develop a pro-active response to clear legislative interest in devising new cost containment approaches and modifying the education funding formula. I was fortunate to be invited and participate in this work.

VSBA's concept is to get out in front of the issues and see if VSBA and VSA can develop and come to agreement on substantive approaches and/or positions on cost containment and education finance that could then be promoted to the General Assembly. The task force met and developed substantive recommendations to address actual cost centers contributing to increases in education spending. The document of recommendations has been reviewed by all members of the task force and has been shared with leaders of VASBO, VCSEA, VPA and VSBIT. The hope is to finalize the document and submit it to the House and Senate Education Committees and possibly to legislative leaders and the Scott Administration in a timely manner

- **2017 Education Legislative Reports:**
 - **Education Legislative Report #6**
 - **Feb 24, 2017 Education Legislative Alert**
 - **Education Legislative Report #5**
 - **Report #3**
 - **Report #2**
 - **Report #1**

WSD Goals

Goal #1: College & Career Readiness

- JFK Teachers have been working with 2Revolutions consultant Ali Brown to create Project-Based Learning (PBL) experiences in their classrooms. On March 6th, teams have a full day to work with Ali and plan a high quality, high rigor PBL unit to implement this school year.
- Teachers at JFK completed their third day of training around Teacher Language during the half-day release in February. During this session we focused on [Envisioning Language](#).
- Middle and high school students with a passion for theatre have been busy writing plays for the past few months through the Vermont Young Playwrights residency program. With a generous Artists in Schools grant from Vermont Arts Council, 35 students have had the opportunity to learn from professional playwrights in a two-day workshop program where students learn how to write their own 10-minute play. Students' creativity has soared with topics ranging from a talking dog in a castle, to a Walmart sale gone wrong, to the exploration of the complexities of teen relationships, to how teens with disabilities view their daily high school experience. Two middle school and two high school playwrights will be selected by a committee and will be honored with a performance of their play by professional actors at the Vermont Young Playwrights Festival in May. We are so proud of the persistence and creativity shown by these young theatre artists!

Goal #2: Healthy, Productive & Successful Lives

- A few months ago, JFK applied to participate in UNICEF's Kid Power program, as we were selected to participate for free! We received a class set of UNICEF Kid Power Bands, and a tablet to track the student's activity each day. As students complete different missions through staying active, they unlock packets of therapeutic food for malnourished kids all over the world. Click [HERE](#) for more information.
- The third grade led the February All-School Morning Meeting. The students lead the assembly, starting with sharing a new greeting, leading an all school activity, and reading the morning message. This experience helps them become comfortable with speaking in front of a large group. They did a fantastic job.

Goal #3: Local & Global Community Engagement

- JFK completed our Big Change Roundup Hair competition on February 24th. O'Briens Salons volunteered time, people, and space to do the hair dying. We had the Hair Reveal and gave Jamie

Magowan from WOKO \$1,750.25 for the Vermont Children's Hospital. There are pictures of the Hair Dying on the JFK Facebook page.

- On Friday, February 17th the Winooski Middle School ELL department sponsored the third annual International Luncheon at the Winooski Senior Center. Aftaba Mezetovic, our ELL program assistant, organized the event, which included dishes representative of the cultures of WSD, Bhutanese Nepali dancing and student poetry reading. The senior center hosted close to 100 people for the event.
- The last weekend of February, the Winooski High School Peace Jam Group attended the annual [Peace Jam conference](#) in Danbury, Connecticut. This year they presented a workshop on the community service work they have been doing in Winooski around supporting New Americans. Aftaba Mezetovic, ELL program assistant, and Melissa Mason, high school math teacher, are their advisors and coached and accompanied them at the conference. Aftaba said: "The conference was an enriching and empowering educational growth experience for all. The students enjoyed every moment. It is through these types of experiences that our students are given the opportunity for further self growth, connections, love and empathy towards each other, and our world. Our workshop was full of emotion, laughter and tears, and had an overall beautiful vibe that truly left a mark on many hearts. The Winooski Peace Jam students made Melissa and I exceptionally proud. They proved their leadership abilities and uniqueness." Here is a quote from a teacher who attended our students' workshop: "Thank you so much for collaborating with us! We were so blessed by the experience. You have AMAZING kids. I am just blown away! I would love to see how we could collaborate in more ways to get the awareness out there. I will never forget what we learned and shared together. It was almost like you could hear all of our hearts growing with compassion in unison."
- Varsity Boys Basketball Coach Tom Obbagy has been chosen to be inducted into the Vermont Basketball Coaches Association Hall Of Fame. Tom will be honored at Windsor High School on March 25 at the Senior All-Star Classic.
- [Leadership Champlain](#) members explored Education on Tuesday, 2/14 with a group of [14 leaders visiting WMHS](#) for an introduction, tour, and student conversation from 8-9:30. Leadership Champlain board member and iLab teacher, Lindsey Cox, facilitated the visit. Following the school visit Leon Wheeler joined the BHS and CHS principals in a conversation with the leadership cohort at the Free Press Innovation Room.

Finance/Operations

- At the end of February, our fund balance for FY17 is favorably forecasted at \$23K 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 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](#). Principal Joe Green will be in the building during the February break to perform an initial assessment of our facility.
- We are working with Civil Engineering Association, Inc. to review the parking lot drawing that was done in 2011 to begin a process to address our parking issue.
- We have been notified by STA of Vermont (Mountain Transit) that our contract will not be extended under our current agreement. An RFP will be sent out by the end of March to seek competitive bids for transportation services moving forward.