

Winooski School District
Office of the Superintendent
60 Normand Street
Winooski, Vermont 05404
(802) 383-6000
www.wsdsvt.org



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS

We are the future.

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 review backup for the following items and approve all of the following action items:

5. Consent Agenda: (5 minutes)

- b. Minutes of Meetings: August 21, 2019
- c. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - i. Approval of Bills
- c. Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - i. Superintendent Report

6. Executive Limitations(Policy Section II):

- b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - i. Discussion and Approval: Bond Anticipation Note (BAN)
 - ii. Discussion and Approval: Checking Account for Scholarships
 - iii. Discussion and Approval: WSD-SBSD Transportation Agreement 2019-20
 - iv. Discussion and Approval: Superintendent Monitoring Report

7. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):

- a. Policy Title: 4.2 Board Job Description
 - i. Discussion: Plan Meeting with Legislators
 - ii. Discussion: Community Engagement
 - iii. Discussion: District Newsletter Topics

- iv. Discussion: Board Agenda and Backup Format
- c. Policy Title: 4.7 Board Member's Code of Conduct
 - i. Discussion and Approval: Board Monitoring Report
- d. Policy Title: 4.8 Governance Investment
 - i. Discussion and Approval: Board Monitoring Report

Discussion Items: Please review backup for the following items.

6. Executive Limitations(Policy Section II):

- a. Policy Title: 2.6 Asset Protection
 - i. Capital Project Update
 - ii. Discussion and Approval: Contract with ReArch

7. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):

- e. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - i. Discussion: 1st Reading, Policy #5110, Student Attendance
 - ii. Discussion: 1st Reading, Policy #6160, Educational Support System

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:

- **New Teacher Orientation:** On August 15th New Teacher Orientation was held. This full-day included mindfulness, team-building activities, building tour, meeting key people, Winooski Trivia game, overviews of our ELL and Special Education programming and supports and time to work with their respective supervisor. A great day with [a talented and committed group of new teachers!](#)
- **WSD Pre-Service:** Teachers arrived on Monday, August 21st and participated in developing their personal wellness plans, worked in their cross-school K-12 groupings reading, discussing and identifying our strengths and areas of need relative to the [5 Best Practice Supports for Struggling Learners](#) (DMG Report, November 2017, pgs. 3-8). A few highlights from the rest of Pre-Service:
 - Capital Project programming meetings for specific groups (e.g. WMS teachers, WMHS Leadership Team) with our architects to review designs and gather more feedback.
 - IT meetings to support our domain change, review user security precautions and Help Desk procedures.
 - JFK teachers did community walking tours for the purpose of seeing Winooski through our students' eyes and gaining experiences that we can use to inform learning for our students.
 - At WSD Convocation Board President Mike Decarreau greeted the staff, thanked them for their commitment to our students and promised continued board support. WHS ELL teacher Becky Savage and JFK Kindergarten teacher Courtney Bryan were recognized as Teachers of the Year and preschool Instructional Assistant Kristina Martin received the Support Staff of the Year award!
 - Another successful WSD Welcome Back to School BBQ with over 950 meals served! Thanks to the Abbey Group for wonderful food!
- **Retirement Announcement:** JFK 1st grade teacher Lois Thompson will be retiring at the end of the 2019-20 school year. She will be missed by her colleagues and the many students and families she has served for over 23 years at WSD! Lois is a wonderful model teacher who creates a caring classroom community which fosters strong emotional and social development, growing literacy and math skills and lots of fun! Thanks Lois!
- **Education Quality Review (EQR), Annual Snapshot & Integrated Field Review (IFR):**
 - EQRs help assess the degree to which the Education Quality Standards (EQS) are being addressed in Vermont schools, identify best practices and to support the continuous improvement of our schools.

- The Annual Snapshot, is the yearly collection of quantitative data about a school system. This data includes demographic data, information about student performance on standardized assessments and other indicators of educational outcomes, such as graduation rates and college/career readiness. The data collected through the Annual Snapshot is described in Vermont's state plan under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act and appears on each SU/SDs annual report card.
<https://schoolsnapshot.vermont.gov/>
- The IFR is qualitative, collaborative and largely SD-directed process. It is not evaluative and is not required by federal law. Each supervisory union or school district will engage in the IFR process every three years.(<http://education.vermont.gov/vermont-schools/education-quality/education-quality-reviews>)
- **School Improvement Grant:** WSD has received \$188K this school year and will receive each year for FY21 & 22 specifically to support improvement in our graduation rate. We were notified in late July and quickly researched evidence-based strategies to improve graduation rates and decide to put these funds toward a second high school Guidance Counselor and a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Coordinator.
- **Barr Foundation Implementation Grant update:**
 - On Wednesday, August 14th, Jean and Sean attended the Barr Education Partners Summer Celebration at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. Lindsey Cox was part of a panel of 3 distinguished educators and schools highlighted at this celebration. Lindsey spoke about the grantee perspectives: What it Takes to Hold High Expectations
 - WMHS was awarded a \$500K grant over three years, \$220K for FY20 and \$150K for both FY21 and FY22 to continue widening the learning ecosystem by creating a system of flexible learning pathways including community-based learning opportunities. Later this year we will be hiring a Community-Based Learning Coach and Community-Based Learning Coordinator with Barr grant funds to lead this work.
- **VT School Construction Working Group:** I have joined a statewide group of architects, superintendents, facility directors and State of VT leaders to work on proposed legislation to bring back school construction aid. Our goal is to prepare draft legislation for the HOuse and Senate Education committees to consider during the upcoming legislative session.
- **Policy Review Cycle:** The board's policy review cycle has been updated to continue with the three-year review cycle and all required policies are included.
- **Anonymous Donor:** We are very fortunate to have received a generous \$10K anonymous donation for the basic needs of our families for the fourth year running.
- **Legislative Work**
 - **2019 Education Legislative Reports:**
 - [Issue #9](#)
 - [Issue #8](#)
 - [Issue #7](#)
 - [Issue #6](#)
 - [Issue #5](#)
 - [Issue #4](#)

Goal #1: College & Career Readiness

- August 28 was another successful Welcome Day for 6th and 9th graders. Students and staff both appreciate the opportunity to focus on new students who are transitioning to a new school.
- The middle and high school staff kicked off the second year of training with ISP International on equity and implicit bias. This year we will be using a train-the-trainer model at the middle/high school to train staff members to run small groups on these topics and take more local ownership of this work. This year JFK is also beginning this work and the WSD Leadership Team will be participating in an intensive training for school leaders called [Courageous Conversation: LEADS \(Leadership for Racial Equity\)](#), which will help us think more deeply about the issues of equity, bias and race in your school district.
- WMHS sent a team to a workshop on developing strong multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) in July at Lake Morey Resort. The team will be following up on this work with two visits to the Williamstown schools this fall.
- The JFK Leadership team spent time at BEST this summer developing Tier 3 of our MTSS system. During Pre Service, the leadership team presented to the staff. Amanda Babcock, our behavior coach, has been asked to present at the VT PBIS conference in October about the Tier 3 work our JFK Leadership team has done.
- Winooski School District continues to be a leader in Act 166, Universal Pre-k. This year we have 37 partner programs across Chittenden county, with approximately 115 three and four year olds participating. We continue to have a wait list. This has increased this year with the closing of the Winooski Family Center. We have 30 children on our wait list. We are working to contact partner programs and helping families find affordable placements.

Goal #2: Healthy, Productive & Successful Lives

- **WMHS Athletics & Activities:** Fall Soccer is in full swing for middle and high school. We have around 20+ players per team so around 100 MS and HS students playing soccer. We also have two WHS students participating in football on the BHS/SBHS team.
- JFK Teachers are working on expectations around healthy breakfast and lunch choices for our students during the first six weeks of school. Our kindergarten students are already moving around the cafeteria like pros!
- Our preschool classrooms are continuing to collaborate with the University of Vermont's program, [Kiddie Kats on the Move](#). This is designed to help preschoolers reach moderate-to-vigorous activity levels, become more aware of their bodies, practice important gross motor skills and learn the importance of incorporating physical activity into their daily lives.
- In our on-site preschool classrooms we are spending the first six weeks of school working on structures and routines, with a focus on social and emotional development, as well as community building. We are teaching children in how to appropriately use materials and engage with other peers in our classroom interest areas.
- Preschool teachers are in the process of conducting home visits with all families to ensure that we are incorporating families into our school community. This helps us to better understand cultures, values, and beliefs.
- Vision and Hearing screenings are being conducted with all preschool children. Through this, we have been able to identify children in need of a visit to their pediatrician.
- All teaching and support staff in our therapeutic classrooms participated in three full days of Therapeutic Crisis Intervention training (TCI). The Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) training program for child and youth care staff presents a crisis prevention and intervention model designed to teach staff how to help children learn constructive ways to handle crisis. Two of our teachers, Brian Dalla Mura and Bret Kernoff, have received training at Cornell University and are our on-site trainers.
- The Bridging Program has started once again. Winooski has three students participating this year. Photographer Melanie Webb did a presentation on Interesting Photography and shared work she has done both with former Bridging Groups and other ventures. She then did a photo shoot for the student pictures

that will hang at Bridging at Champlain Community Services. On Friday, September 6th, students will begin a two part Advocacy Youth Summit with Green Mountain Self Advocates.

- Fourteen staff members, who work with children with intensive needs, were recertified in CPR and First Aid. Many thanks to Officer Jason and his team!

Goal #3: Local & Global Community Engagement

- This summer we marked our 5th year of the WMHS Shader Croft summer program. 24 middle and high school ELL students participated in the 5 week program. This program helps students develop their oral and written English skills through hands-on, interactive community adventures that they plan themselves. Their adventures included learning how to kayak, paddle board and sail, learning how to make ice cream at Island Homemade Ice Cream and taking care of horses at the Morgan Horse Farm.
- 14 elementary ELL students participated in the JFK Newcomer Summer School for a week this summer. The students worked on their English and math skills and learned about their local community through field trips including a trip to Sugarbush Mountain Resort and riding bikes on the Burlington bike path.
- Two of the JFK staff, Amanda Babcock and Sarah Murphy, have been nominated for the Life Changer Of the Year award. This is a nationwide K-12 program sponsored by National Life Group that recognizes educators and school employees that make a significant difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, being a positive influence, and leadership.

Finance/Operations

- At the end of August our fund balance for FY20 is favorably forecasted. At this time there are many expenses that still need to be encumbered, support staff still to be hired and grant awards pending. Please look for the first complete Financial Management Report (FMR) for the 1st Quarter ending on September 30, 2019 in the October report.
- The budget for Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) for FY20 is \$490,374. We have expended \$45K or 9.1% of the budget with one month remaining.
- The balance of the Capital Reserve Fund is currently \$273,605. The Vermont State Board of Education reviewed our application for emergency construction aid at their June meeting. WSD has been awarded \$41K in emergency construction aid. When these funds are received they will be deposited back into the reserve account.
- The audit team from Fothergill, Segale & Valley were onsite on August 13, 2019 to begin their fieldwork for the FY 19 audit report. The team will be back on site September 30 and October 1, 2019 to complete their field work.