

Winooski School District
Office of the Superintendent
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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)

- a. Minutes of Meetings
 - i. Special Meeting/Budget: January 2, 2020
 - ii. Regular Meeting: January 8, 2020
 - iii. Capital Project Executive Committee Meeting: January 8, 2020
- b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - i. Approval of Bills
- c. Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
 - i. Approve Contract Recommendation
 1. Rachel Hurwicz: Long-Term Sub, High School ELL
- d. Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - i. Superintendent Report

6. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II): (15 Minutes)

- a. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - i. Approve FY19 Audit
- b. Policy Title: 2.4 Financial planning and Budgeting
 - i. Review of FY21 Budget Cycle

7. Board-Management Delegation (Policy Section III): (10 Minutes)

- a. Policy Title 3.2: Accountability of the Superintendent
 - i. Review/Accept Board Monitoring Report

8. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV): (20 Minutes)

- a. Policy Title: 4.1b Governing Style: Encouragement of a Diversity of Views
 - i. Student Report to the Board
- b. Policy Title 4.6: Chair's Role
 - i. Review/Accept Board Monitoring Report
- c. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - i. Discussion - 1st Reading #1340 Tobacco Prohibition
 - ii. Discussion - 1st Reading #4311 Privacy of Health Related Information (HIPAA)

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:

- **Penguin Plunge:** Our Winooski team celebrated their 7th year of participation by raising \$7256 for Special Olympics Vermont! Over 30 students and staff plunged into the icy waters! 10% of the proceeds come back to WSD to support our Unified Sports program. Donations can still be made at: <https://give.specialolympicsvermont.org/fundraiser/2539092>
- **Working Communities Grant:** Winooski is one of eight Vermont communities selected to receive a \$15,000 planning grant to move forward in Vermont's Working Communities Challenge. The challenge is a grant competition that supports local collaborative efforts to build strong, healthy economies and communities in Vermont's rural towns, regions, and smaller cities. Winooski's proposal is to increase the participation of underrepresented populations in policy-making. Special thanks to Kirsten Kollgaard, Tul Niroula and Dalib Bulle who joined Winooski city staff for the interview with the Working Communities jury! Over the next six months, the grants will fund the teams' work to turn their ideas into formal action plans. Four teams will then be chosen from the eight for larger, multi-year implementation awards – estimated to be \$300,000 each – to fully execute their initiatives. Read more about the Working Communities Grant [here](#).
- **Winooski Housing Authority (WHA):** The WHA board has agreed to enter into a 5-year lease agreement with WSD for use of the Winooski Family Center (WFC) for the purpose of preschool. The lease agreement will come to the school board at a future meeting. We no longer need the WFC for one of our preschool classrooms April-June 2020 as we figured out how to allow them to finish the current school year, move over the summer and open for the 2020-21 school year at the WFC.
- **WSD Capital Project Update:**
 - [Overall Design with QR Codes with 3D viewing](#)
 - [Site Logistics Plan](#)
 - [Phasing Plan](#)
 - [Project Schedule](#)
- **VT Agency of Education Memos:**
- **Legislative Work**
 - **2019 Education Legislative Reports:**
 - [Issue #2](#)
 - [Issue #1](#)

WSD Goals

Goal #1: College & Career Readiness

- The fourth grade completed their **Energy Transformation for Sustainability PBL**. They worked with community partners, Sun Commons, Trueex, and the City of Winooski Dam, to learn about renewable energy. By the end of the unit, each student was able to answer the driving question “How might we design a model that

transforms energy in a sustainable way?" Students created a model that transforms energy in a sustainable way, and linked it to providing energy to a specific part of the school.

- The **WIDA ACCESS testing** for all of Winooski's K-12 English Language Learners has begun. The WIDA ACCESS assesses the four domains of English: reading, writing, speaking and listening. It provides valuable data for ELL and mainstream teachers as they help develop students' English language proficiency. The test window runs until Friday, March 6th.
- Check out the trailer for *The Most Important Class You Never Had* featuring our own Courtney Poquette and Winooski High School students! "What really pushes me on this topic is that only 1 in 6 students in the country have access to this education, BUT if you looked at low income schools, only 1 in 12 students are learning this. The work we are doing at the state level is trying to move that needle so every student in Vermont has this as a graduation requirement. The standards have been adopted by the AOE, but with local control it really takes someone advocating at each school to get this moving. I'm proud that we are recognized for the work we do in Winooski and know that there is still more we can do building this in K-12." - Courtney Poquette
Winooski is recognized as one of 14 Gold Star schools in the state when it comes to Financial Literacy education. [Check out this preview of a documentary featuring our own students and Courtney!](#)

Goal #2: Healthy, Productive & Successful Lives

- JFK has started our annual **Big Change roundup contest**. There are 12 adults participating. The adult that raises the most money gets to wear a ballerina hippo costume for the day. Within the first 4 days of the contest we raised close to \$1,000! All the money goes to the UVM Children's Hospital, a valuable resource for all of our families.



- Winooski Varsity Boys Basketball Team host a **Spartan vs. Cancer** event on Friday, January 31st. The goal of the team was to bring attention to the harmful affects of cancer. The Winooski boys basketball team wore pink during their game against Richford on Friday. The team wore pink tee shirts to warm up in, and pink socks during the game. There was a free entry for attendees who also wore pink. "It means everything to me, I lost my grandmother to breast cancer, and there's a couple survivors in my family so it means everything to me," said sophomore player, Sharras McIver. There was a donation box at the game for attendees who wanted to give money to the effort. The team also held a food drive earlier in the evening. "We always try to find ways to give back to our community and try to make these boys responsible to be grateful for what we have and to build their sense of community," said Winooski boys basketball coach Sam Jackson. This is the first year the Winooski boys basketball team participated in the awareness effort. Our boys won a close game playing against Richford High School



Goal #3: Local & Global Community Engagement

- On Friday, January 16th, to **PTO help their annual Family Disco night**. The event was well attended by JFK students and their families. Everyone had a fantastic time dancing, eating snow cones, and wearing glow in the dark bracelets in true disco fashion.
- In the month of January, JFK teachers started learning new languages during their early release day. Two of our home school liaisons, Dalib Bulle and Stevya Mukuzo, taught language lessons in Somali, Mai Mai and Swahili. They taught teachers ten short phrases they can use with students and families. These phrases included: "Jambo" - Swahili for "hello" and "Sha guh fuss" - Mai Mai for "good job." Teachers have been challenged to use at least one new phrase when talking with students and families this month. Language lessons will continue during professional development time this spring and teachers will learn these phrases in all 6 of our most commonly spoken languages.
- Our basketball programs have organized the first **family night** for the families of our student basketball athletes. On Wednesday, February 5th after the last game of the evening families, students, and coaches enjoyed a meal together.

- Congressman Peter Welch visited Winooski School District today! His visit was prompted by his desire to meet Winooski's newest [pop stars](#) Papa Rashid and Bonne-Idee, whose famous [music video](#) (*Twende Shuleni* or "Let's Go to School") now has nearly 13,000 views!



Congressman Welch was treated to a tour of the school and was able to read a book to a kindergarten class. Kirsten Kollgaard also introduced him to our newcomer class and shared information about our ELL programming and home-school liaisons. He also got a virtual tour of our new Performing Arts Center and a brief overview of the needs of our Capital Project. And last, but certainly not least, our high school students put together an incredible assembly, emceed by students Hussein Amuri and Evelyn Monje. Hussein gave a brief introduction to the three branches of the US government, and the role Congressman Welch plays in making laws.

Evelyn was able to ask a few student-generated questions about Welch's actions on climate change (specifically the Paris agreement) and what we can do about the lack of diversity in Congress. Then, the Wajanja Boys dance troupe performed, as well as Rashid and Bonne-Idee with their signature song.

- **Students Share Insights into Screen Time Through Art** When it comes to voicing opinions about teens and screen time, adults are often the ones doing the talking. But how do young people feel about social media, texting and video games? How do they think technology affects their lives and the lives of those around them?

At Winooski Middle School, seventh- and eighth-grade students recently embarked on a unit of study that spanned subject areas to examine how screen time impacts the adolescent brain. In language arts and social studies classes, they read scientific articles and opinion pieces on the subject. In science, they learned about brain development. And in math, they collected and displayed data about their own screen use.

As a final project, students created a piece of art in the surrealist style that reflected what they had learned from the unit. Winooski Middle School art teacher Emily Jacobs chose to focus on surrealism so that students were able to show their ideas "symbolically in a fantastical or bizarre way" and would not be confined by the limits of realism. "The content in their artwork shows great reflection and depth of thought, and shares a powerful range of messages," Jacobs said.

The student art is being exhibited at Scout & Co. coffee shop in Winooski until March 1. Some students have expressed that having their work hung in a public place makes them feel like professional artists, said Jacobs.

Finance/Operations

- At the end of January our fund balance for FY20 is favorably forecasted at \$270K or 1.47% of the approved budget.
- The budget for Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) for FY20 is \$490K. We have expended \$164K or 33% of the budget with six months remaining.
- The balance of the Capital Reserve Fund is currently \$322K. There are no outstanding obligations for this account.
- The audit has been sent out as part of the board agenda. We ended the FY19 with a fund balance of \$382,900.
- The Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) is available as a line of credit from the People's United Bank to support the capital project. Currently we have drawn \$1,138,000. An additional draw will be made Mid- February when our January invoices come in.
- A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be sent out in early March to seek pricing for the FY21 Winter Bus. We are required to go out to bid for this service, as it will change our current contract by more than 27%. Our intent is to have a contract ready for board approval in April.