

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:

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

- a. Minutes of Meetings
  - i. Capital Project Executive Committee Meeting: October 14, 2020
  - ii. Regular Board Meeting: October 14, 2020
- b. 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
- d. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
  - i. Approval - 2nd Reading Title IX Policy

### **5. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV): (100 Minutes)**

- a. Policy Title: 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership
  - i. Discussion: WSA Anti Racism Demands Process
    1. Prioritize Demands
    2. Establish composition and outreach of demand-based working groups
- b. Policy Title: 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership
  - i. Discussion: Review Proposed Revisions to City of Winooski/Winooski School District (WSD) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- ii. Action: Authorize Superintendent to sign extended Side Letter through February 19, 2021 for current City of Winooski/Winooski School District (WSD) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

**6. Executive Session: (30 Minutes)**

- a. Legal Advice Regarding Contracts

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

- a. Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
  - i. Discussion: FY22 Budget Timetable
- b. Policy Title 2.6 Asset Protection
  - i. Discussion: Capital Project Update
    - 1. Approve contract Change Order # 3
    - 2. Approve contract Change Order # 4
    - 3. Approve Value Engineering Package
  - ii. Discussion/Approve: WSD Winter Transportation Bid

**Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:**

● **COVID-19 Updates**

- *Health Update:* The latest update from VDH on November 5, 2020 [can be found here](#) and additional [VDH Dashboard data](#) can be found here. Vermont continues to have some of the most encouraging data relative to the virus.
- *WSD Reopening News:*
  - [Latest on Phasing K-5 to 4 Days of In-Person Instruction](#)
    - We have delayed bringing back 5th graders for 4 days of in-person instruction for two weeks and it remains a weekly decision point based on available staffing.
  - [WSD K-12 Hybrid Model Presentation](#)
  - [WSD's Safe Reopening Plan video](#)
  - [WSD's Reopening website](#)
- [VT Agency of Education COVID-19 Information](#)
- [VT Legislative Joint Fiscal Office Updates](#)

- **Rumors Related to School Closure:** There are rumors that schools across Vermont will return to fully remote learning from November break until January 1, 2021. Given the adverse effect of the abrupt dismissal on the academic growth and social emotional wellbeing of our students, as well as the adverse impact dismissal had on working families, I believe it is very unlikely Governor Scott, the AOE and VDH will require schools to go fully remote this year, unless the health data demands it. Health Commissioner, Dr. Levine, recently stated, "The less risk we take on, the more we can protect our students, co-workers, our own families and our community." If everyone does their part, then Vermont schools can continue to safely operate.

● **City-WSD MOU Update**

- Please review the memo and revised MOU in the agenda backup for the discussion and action items on the agenda.

● **School Safety & Security Community Engagement Update**

- The goal of the School Safety and Security Community Engagement is to plan and run a community education, engagement and voice process about school safety and security. This effort is being directed by our school board in response to [student demands about the immediate removal of our School Resource Officer](#) (SRO). The board has directed this process so they can hear from the community to inform their decision-making about general school safety and

security by mid-January, and specifically the SRO role for the 2021-22 school year. Lindsey Halman of UP for Learning and Evelyn Monje of the Winooski Students for Antiracism (WSA) will co-lead the project through the established Restorative Justice (RJ) group of students, staff and community members, with support from an advisor and consulting team from UVM.

- **WSD Winter Transportation Bid**

- We did not receive any bids for winter transportation which were due Friday, October 9th. We contacted our current provider, Student Transportation of America (STA)/Mountain Transit and were told that they are experiencing staffing shortages, specifically bus drivers, and did not bid because they could not in good conscience enter into an agreement that they potentially could not fulfill. After further discussion we requested they submit a bid contingent upon driver availability. This contingency-based bid will be brought to the meeting if it has been received.

- **WSD Capital Project Update:**

- There are three Capital Project action items on the agenda with backup included:
  - Change Orders #3 & #4: As we move through our significant and complex capital project there are monthly change orders based on unbudgeted needs over the course of the project. The superintendent is authorized to approve any change orders up to \$15K and the board authorized capital project representatives Mike Decarreau and Alex Yin to authorize any changes in excess of \$15K. Mike and Alex's preference is to bring these to the full board in the interest of transparency and shared understanding, and if the timeline allows. The memo and backup for Change Orders #3 and #4 are in the agenda packet and we are recommending the full board approve these change orders.
  - Value Engineering: Please review the memo in agenda backup materials.

- **Legislative Work**

- **2020 Education Legislative Reports:**

- [Issue #11](#)
- [Issue #10](#)
- [Issue #9](#)
- [Issue #8](#)
- [Issue #7](#)
- [Issue #6](#)

## **WSD Goals**

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

- PSAT & SAT: Due to COVID-19 all local SAT sites were closed. Winooski had to offer their own school day administration of the SAT. The PSAT & SAT were given on 10/14. SAT results were released on 11/4. 23 WHS students took the SAT and 20 took the PSAT.
- The 2020-2021 Ready for Kindergarten! Survey (R4K!S) anticipated release is mid-November. The delayed release is due to COVID-19 and the many challenges that school districts, administrators and teachers are facing to provide quality education (in-person/hybrid/remote) for each and every student. This delayed release also provides kindergarten teachers extra time to learn more about their students' learning as well as their health and social/emotional wellness. As in previous years, kindergarten teachers will have a six-week window to complete and submit the R4K!S for each student enrolled in their kindergarten class.
- Winooski School District (WSD) continues to participate in the Chittenden County Early Learning Partner Consortium for Act 166. There are openings at multiple partner programs: Shelburne Nursery School, Frog and Toad, Almond Blossoms, Nadeaus-Colchester, Pine Forest, Reach for the Stars, Early Learning Center, Kids and Fitness- Williston, Carolyn's Red Balloon, GB YMCA, St Albans. EJs, Donna's Labor Of Love, Julie Brigante- Early Years in Colchester

- The JFK staff has used two staff meetings to look at our Equity SWIS data. SWIS is the system we use to track behavior referrals. JFK has reviewed last year and this year's school wide data for referrals by ethnicity, risk ratio, and risk index. Staff have also looked at their personal data of who they have written behavior referrals by ethnicity and risk ratio. Staff have held meaningful discussions, and individuals have developed personalized next steps.

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

- WMHS held their fall conferences all on Zoom. For WMS approximately 80% of families participated, which is down slightly from 84% last fall. For the HS approximately 81% of families participated, which was up from 75% last year.
- [\*Winooski Soccer team plays pandemic ball, and loves it!\*](#)
- **Winter Sports:** We are excited to announce that we are able to hold a limited WMHS basketball season, [per Vermont Agency of Education guidelines](#). There are many details we are currently looking at and we will share more information next week. Practices will not start until December. Due to health and safety restrictions, there will not be any spectators allowed but we are exploring options to live stream games.
- **Restorative Justice (RJ):** We are now up and running with optional Restorative Justice Circles three Wednesdays a month from 12-1 for teachers and staff. On October 21st, Laura Straub conducted our second Restorative Justice Workshop. Participants engaged in learning about the whole school restorative practices framework, the elements of a restorative circle, and the components of the circle process. Participants experienced a restorative community-building circle.
- Mary Carleton, one of our 4th grade teachers, created a Donors Choose campaign on July 9th that was recently fully funded. This project is enabling all of the adults at JFK to participate in professional book groups for the text [Teaching For Black Lives](#). This work will run through the end of the school year.
- **Equity Visioning & Professional Development Committee:** We held our first meeting of the Equity Visioning & Professional Development Committee on Monday, November 2nd. This committee is made up of K-12 staff and we are hoping to engage students, families and community members in this work. This committee has two goals for their work: 1) Develop an equity vision statement and strategic plan that will guide district-wide planning and decision making and serve as a lens through which the district will approach its work moving forward. 2) Design short- and long-term professional learning plans for the district that align to the equity vision and build greater coherence district-wide.

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

- WMHS students and staff attended a special virtual presentation by author-lecturer Dr. Sally Roasch Wagner on Women's Suffrage and the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the nineteenth amendment. This event was provided for us by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) through the Peace and Justice Center, Mr. Clark, and Marguerite Adelman.
- **Bridging Update:** Here is the TV show our Bridging students created with **Meghan O'Rourke at CCTV**. [Here's the link](#). The group also met with **Geoff Gevalt** who invited the group to find a picture that represents the community to them. This Friday they'll do a writing project connected to that. On Monday the group identified and discussed "**Kitchen Hazards**" in preparation for a talk this coming week with **Carrie from City Market** who will demo some healthy recipes virtually. Today in **Virtual Bridging** students did the chair yoga to the Macarena. Students also watched a movie created by Bridging students last year. [Here's the trailer](#). And [here's the movie](#).
- JFK Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for November 23rd and 24th. All the conferences will be held over Zoom. Our cultural liaisons are busy scheduling families who need interpreting support.

### **Finance/Operations**

- We are predicting a favorable balance of \$859,715 or 4.4% of the approved budget. \$773,000 of that favorable balance is due to funds that were budgeted to pay for capital project interest and principal payments that we will not need in FY 21 due to the terms of the BAN. However, those funds will need to be held in reserve so that we are able to make the required interest payments in October 2021 when

the payment on the MCM BAN is due. Assuming those funds are restricted to capital project debt, then the projected favorable balance is \$86,128, which is .44% of the approved budget.

- This favorable balance relies on the WSD receiving full reimbursement for all unbudgeted COVID-19 expenses from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) and the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief funds (ESSER). The WSD's ESSER allocation is \$844,730, and we have submitted an application to the Agency of Education for CRF reimbursement for \$1,171,376 of unbudgeted COVID-19 related expenses. The WSD's CRF application has not yet been approved.
- Please keep in mind that many assumptions have been made in projecting fiscal year totals because we are so early in the fiscal year. During the coming months, as we complete open enrollment for health benefits, fill open positions, and continue to encumber tuition and Act 166 payments, we will have a better sense of where we are with budget versus actuals.
- The balance of the Capital Reserve Fund is currently \$320,566. There are no outstanding obligations for this account.
- The budget for Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) for FY21 is \$524,959. We have expended \$69,469, or 13% of the budget.
- The Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) with the People's United Bank was paid off on October 15 with the proceeds of the \$41m BAN through Municipal Capital Markets (MCM). The MCM BAN will ensure we have enough cash on hand to pay for project costs for the next twelve months. At that point, we will take out a final BAN for the last year of the project, which will be taken out by the USDA loan.