

Winooski School District  
Office of the Superintendent  
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[www.wsdvt.org](http://www.wsdvt.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:

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

- a. Minutes of Meetings
  - i. Capital Project Executive Committee Meeting: November 11, 2020
  - ii. Regular Board Meeting: November 11, 2020
  - iii. Special Board Meeting: December 2, 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

#### **5. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV): (60 Minutes)**

- a. Policy Title: 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership
  - i. Discussion: Anti Racism Work
  - ii. Discussion: Planning and Steering Committees for Anti Racism
  - iii. Presentation: WSA Budget Proposal
    1. What excites you about this budget?
    2. Where are the growth areas for this budget?

3. What are your creative ideas to find funding for this work?
- b. Policy Title: 4.1b Governing Style: Encouragement of a Diversity of Views
  - i. Action: Heart of Winooski (HOW) Board Member Representative Appointment
  - ii. Discussion/Possible Adoption/Action: Weighting Study Coalition and Resolution
- c. Policy Title: 4.2.9 Negotiating Union Contracts
  - i. Approve WSD Support Staff Contract for July 1, 2020- June 30, 2022

**6. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II): (45 Minutes)**

- a. Policy Title: 2.6 Asset Protection
  - i. Action: Approve Capital Project Change Order #5
- b. Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
  - i. Discussion: FY22 Budget Work Session

**Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:**

● **COVID-19 Updates**

- *Health Update:* The latest update from VDH on December 4, 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.
- *Positive Cases at WSD:* Our COVID Response Team were made aware of two probable positive cases of [COVID-19 in our schools](#). Months of careful planning paid off, as our COVID Response team’s engagement with the Vermont Department of Health was rapid and efficient. All potential close contacts were contacted within 24 hours. People who have been determined by the Vermont Department of Health to be close contacts have been asked to quarantine and may return to school once they receive a negative COVID-19 test.
- *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](#)

● **Weighting Study Coalition and Resolution**

- The [Pupils Weighting Factors Report](#) submitted to the legislature in December 2019 will be a focal point across the upcoming legislative session and could bring significant resources to WSD if adopted in its current form. Board member Alex Yin agreed to represent the board in a meeting with other board reps from across the state to develop a coalition and strategy to advocate for adoption of this report. The administration recommends all board members read the report, particularly the Executive Summary pages 2-6 and Appendices C-G on pages 108-137.
- The Administration and board member Alex Yin recommends the full board join this coalition and adopt the following resolution:
  - Proposed Resolution: *Therefore, be it resolved, the Winooski School District hereby joins with other Vermont school boards to advocate to the Vermont legislature for the adoption of the recommendations of the Vermont Pupil Weighting Factors Report (Act 173 of 2018, Sec. 11).*

● **WSD Support Staff Negotiated Agreement Ratification**

- Board negotiators Mike Decarreau and Matt MacNeil (recently resigned) and the Administration are pleased to recommend ratification of this agreement for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022. [The agreement can be found here.](#) WEA and WSD have mutually agreed to ratify and work on completing Appendix B-Wage Grid by late winter/early spring. This agreement was reached so that current support staff members can receive their prorated wages by the end of January and not be further delayed. Also, both parties want to solve some past issues with the wage grid and there has just not been enough time to thoughtfully do this work.
- **School Safety & Security Community Engagement Update**
  - The school board has requested a community engagement, education, and voice process about broad school safety and security. This process is intended to increase feelings of safety and security at WSD caused by systemic racism as described in the [Winooski Students for Anti-Racism \(WSA\) letter](#). It is also important to highlight that replacing the School Resource Officer (SRO) with trauma specialists is only one part of a complex and constantly shifting equation, sustainable change takes time and discontinuing the SRO program in response to one group's demand could inadvertently decrease feelings of safety and security for others. Also, it is critical that any serious move to change systems aimed at safety and security requires wide representation of the population, open and democratic deliberation, and numerous opportunities for voicing and hearing opinions. The board has directed this community process for December and January so they can hear from the community to inform their decision-making about general school safety and security by late January and specifically the SRO program for the future. The following definitions are provided for shared understanding:
    - **Safety:** the condition of being protected from or unlikely to cause danger, risk, or injury.
    - **Security:** procedures followed or measures taken to ensure the safety of a state or organization.
  - **Community Process:** All of these opportunities will be made available in various languages.
    - **Step One:** Questionnaire (Engagement).
    - **Step Two:** 2-3 Virtual Town Halls with school and emergency personnel (police, fire, medical) to discuss the current state of school safety & security (Education & Engagement).
    - **Step Three:** 2-3 Virtual Town Halls for the community to talk about what is needed to ensure a safe and secure school environment for all moving forward (Voice).
    - **Step Four:** The school board is retaining the funds for the School Resource Officer (SRO) in the FY22 budget and will notify the City of Winooski via their shared Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by mid-February if they will retain SRO services or use these funds for an alternative purpose.
  - The [WSD School Safety & Security Questionnaire](#) has been sent to staff, families and the broader community this past week. It will go to students next week.
- **WSD Winter Transportation Bid**
  - Student Transportation of America (STA)/Mountain Transit provided an update last week that they have been unable to hire any bus drivers for our winter transportation so it is on hold. We did get some encouraging news that two Winooski residents have inquired about the driver training program which takes six weeks to complete. We will continue to utilize our communication modes to promote this need and update the board and community.
- **WSD Capital Project Update:**
  - Change Order #5: 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 #5 are in the agenda packet and we are recommending the full board approve this change order.

- [We are delighted to announce a \\$100,000 lead gift to the Heart of Winooski \(HOW\) Foundation.](#)
- Working on a solar agreement with SunCommon
- Working on finalizing Moving Plans with the only moves this school year in March and April 2021
- The masons finished the high section of brickwork on the north side of the new gym.
- The roofers have finished roofing the two monitors of the new middle school and have now started on the rest of the roof.
- The carpentry crew is installing roof shaving on the roof of the new Maintenance building by the track.
- [Pics](#)

- **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**

- Michael Eppolito has begun working with the JFK leadership team around proficient based learning. He will meet with the team once a month to discuss what proficiency based learning is, how it is implemented in the WMHS, and how we can implement it at JFK to align learning throughout the district PK-12. The next step will be to bring the learning to the entire JFK staff during the 2021-22 school year.
- **3 Outstanding Seniors Selected as Presidential Scholars:** Evelyn Monje, Hussein Amori, Penny Ly have been selected as one of Vermont's 2021 Presidential Scholars, who are chosen for their outstanding leadership and service to their communities. All students selected at the Vermont level of this program will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) for consideration as a Presidential Scholar at the national level. The DOE will select two students from Vermont to be part of the national recipients.

The Agency of Education is in the process of developing a virtual ceremony to recognize this year's recipients, due to the pandemic, the traditional ceremony at the statehouse is not a possible venue. Once plans for this event are finalized you will be contacted with the details regarding participation. The traditional recognition ceremony has been held in late January, that is still the approximate window for the date of the event.

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

- JFK students filled the HEART monitor for the first time this year! The entire school had pajama, movie, and popcorn day. Thank you to the WSD PTO for providing the popcorn for the students.

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

- *Students Connect with Equal Justice Initiative:* Four high school pods connected with a representative from [Equal Justice Initiative](#) on Tuesday, Nov 10. This was part of new thematic unit on the legacies of slavery. Student reactions:
  - Ayush: "Thank you for coming. I learned that people in your family were sharecroppers. This helped me to understand that things we learned about in history are actually not that long ago."
  - Ruby: "I got to learn a lot more about what EJI does and how I can educate my peers about these important issues."
  - Moseka: "It was cool to hear from someone who was so young and doing so much for racial justice."
- *Career Exploration & Helicopter Landing:* The National Guard let students view the inside of the helicopter, answer any questions (career or non career related), get to see the EMT vehicle and learn more about what The National Guard does. Thank you Stephanie Hackett and Officer Ziter for making this available for our students.
- Koffee Kup Bakery and TwinCraft donated donuts and soap to JFK. These donations were used to acknowledge and thank the staff for all of their hard work.

### **Finance/Operations**

- We are predicting a favorable balance of \$871,115 or 4.5% of the approved budget. \$574,000 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 \$297,528, which is 1.54% 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 still early in the fiscal year. The second quarter FMR report will provide more detailed projections regarding end of year balances, since we will have completed open enrollment and administrators will have encumbered their purchases for the second half of the fiscal year.
- The balance of the Capital Reserve Fund is currently \$320,585. There are no outstanding obligations for this account.
- The budget for Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) for FY21 is \$524,959. We have expended \$94,328, or 18% 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.