

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 action items in the Consent Agenda:

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

- a. Minutes of Meetings
  - i. Capital Project Executive Committee Meeting: September 8, 2021
  - ii. Regular Board Meeting: September 8, 2021
- 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. Adopt Policy #5151(New): Homeless Students
  - ii. Adopt Policy #1340: Tobacco Prohibition

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

- a. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
  - i. Discussion: 1st Reading Policy #3545: Transportation
  - ii. Discussion: 1st Reading Policy #4115: Alcohol & Drug Testing of Transportation Employees
  - iii. Discussion/Approval: 2nd Reading Executive Limitations Policy 2.9 Race & Equity
  - iv. Discussion/Approval: 2nd Reading #8313 Role & Adoption of School Board Policies

- v. Discussion/Approval: 2nd Reading 4.9 Board Committee Principles
- vi. Discussion/Approval: Board Committee Assignments
- b. Policy Title: 4.5 Agenda Planning
  - i. Review/Approve: School Board Annual Agenda Plan
- c. Policy Title: 4.7 Board Member Code of Conduct
  - i. Review/Approve: Board Monitoring Report

**6. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II): (60 minutes)**

- a. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Conditions and Activities
  - i. Review/Approval: FY22 Quarter 1 Financial Management Report
- b. Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
  - i. Report/Discussion: WSD Financial Overview
  - ii. Approve: Equity Audit Funding
- c. Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - i. Discussion/Approval: Superintendent Monitoring Report

**Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:**

● **COVID-19 Updates**

- *Health Update:*
  - [COVID-19 Response Testing Programs for Schools](#)
  - [VDH COVID-19 Current Activity Dashboard data](#)
  - [Vaccine Dashboard can be found here.](#)
- [VT Agency of Education COVID-19 Information](#)
- [VT Legislative Joint Fiscal Office Updates](#)

- **Policies:** As you can see there are a lot of policies on this agenda! I do recommend the board approve all policies up for a “2nd Reading”. Hopefully, the notes below will be helpful to your policy decisions and discussions:

○ **Consent Agenda**

- 2nd Reading - Adopt Policy #5151(New): Homeless Students
  - While reviewing the VSBA website this week I noticed that this policy was marked “Under Review” so I contacted VSBA and was told that the definition of “homeless” is under review just as Kamal Dahal had suggested at the September board meeting. I do recommend the board adopt the policy as proposed and allow for a technical change of the definition of “homeless” when we receive it from VSBA. By approving the Consent Agenda the board would accomplish this.
- 2nd Reading - Adopt Policy #1340: Tobacco Prohibition
  - No notes, ready for adoption.

○ **Governance Process**

- 1st Reading Policy #3545: Transportation
  - The only note is that the procedures were recently updated to include [VSBIT Employee/Volunteer Driver Checklist](#). Ready for a 1st Reading.
- 1st Reading Policy #4115: Alcohol & Drug Testing of Transportation Employees
  - No notes, Ready for a 1st Reading.
- 2nd Reading - Adopt Executive Limitations Policy 2.9 Race & Equity
  - This policy was reviewed last month with two other options: VSBA Model and Essex-Westford School District. I think this policy will serve us well because it will be added to the Executive Limitations section and will be monitored annually

by the superintendent with the opportunity for the board to discuss and approve the interpretation and evidence sections of the monitoring report. It is also very clearly written to support action and is aligned with antiracist and equity work WSD is already pursuing.

- 2nd Reading - Adopt Policy #8313 Role & Adoption of School Board Policies
  - This policy was first reviewed last June. It is the VSBA model policy and provides clear guidance on policy development.
- 2nd Reading - Adopt Governance Process Policy 4.9 Board Committee Principles
  - This policy was reviewed last June and due to an oversight was not included in 2012-13 when the board first adopted the Policy Governance model. This policy will be helpful as the board takes inventory and reviews their current and future list of board committees.
- **Staffing:** The past two weeks we have struggled to staff all of our schools due to staff being out and substitutes in short supply. A small percentage of staff leave has been due to WSD-directed quarantine for COVID. We are trying to alleviate this challenge by posting to hire two full-time substitute positions, one for JFK and one for WMHS, working with the Education Annex, who currently supplies tutors for our ESSER tutoring program, to recruit substitutes and working with WEA to find ways within the negotiated agreement to redeploy members of our staff. We still have five open Instructional Assistant positions.
- **Literacy:** We just finished our STAR reading and math assessments in the middle and high schools. We have been using the STAR math assessment in grades 3-12 since 2015. Last fall, the middle and high schools introduced STAR reading as the common reading assessment in grades 6-12. While STAR is one measure taken at a particular point in time and has its limitations, it provides useful data. This will be an important metric for WSD to assess the impact of our math and literacy practices and an essential component of Ends monitoring.
- **Pupil Weighting Task Force Testimony:** There will be an opportunity for public testimony in-person or via Zoom on [Wednesday, October 29th from 11am-1pm](#). [Here is the link to the agenda and to sign up to speak](#). It is very important for board members to join the advocacy as the task force is going to recommend Categorical Aid for ELL students which falls far short of full implementation of the weights recommended in the [Pupil Weighting Factors Report](#).
- **Transportation Update:** The market for bus drivers continues to be problematic. Some neighboring districts that had started the school year with full student transportation have recently had to reduce their routes due to even more drivers dropping out of the field. We have continued to work with Mountain Transit/STA and the only option they have is to lease WSD buses. This would cost \$110.00 per day plus .7 cents per mile per bus. Assuming two buses running from Dec-March this would cost \$18,000. In addition, we would need to provide the drivers, insurance, fuel and manage the program. We do have some interest from our own staff in training to become a driver but given the training timeline to earn a CDL and our current staffing challenges I am not hopeful that we can accomplish this by December. We will continue to investigate any avenue we can to provide transportation. Please have anyone you know who may be interested in training to become a bus driver specifically for WSD please contact Nicole Mace at (802) 383-6001 or [nmace@wsdvt.org](mailto:nmace@wsdvt.org)
- **Support Services**
  - All special educators across the WSD have attended one virtual session with Jesse Suter from UVM whom we have contracted with ESSER funds to conduct a process called “Numbers that Count!”. This is to provide an overview and analysis of our current special education service

delivery system. The information that we gather during this process will guide the vision for our district moving forward.

- The WSD received a letter of commendation from the VT AOE for 100% compliance with transition plans. This was for work done last school year under the leadership of Robin Hood.

[Letter of Commendation](#)

- **WSD Capital Project Update:**

- Space: We have moved half of high school classrooms from the new gym into other spaces to reduce the total number of students in the retrofitted and loud new gym. Our new kitchen is open but has a long punch list to be completed for it to be fully completed.
- Steel: As you can see, the new main entry, main lobby, School-Based Health Center (SBHC), JFK and WMHS offices, Multilingual Liaison office and Library which are scheduled to be completed in June 2022
- Phasing & Schedule: WSD, ReArch and Truex Cullins have collaborated to revise the phasing to get the high school into their new spaces in March 2022 instead of August/September 2022.
- Project Contingency Update: All of the WSD \$300K in fund balance approved by the board in June will be needed to keep the project moving with a reasonable contingency.

- **Legislative Work**

- **2021 Education Legislative Reports:**

- [Legislative Summary of Bills Passed, June 2021](#)
- [VT School Boards Association \(VSABA\) Legislative Blog](#)
- [VSBA Email Archive](#)

## **WSD Goals**

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

- The 6th Grade Academy launched their fall Expedition: *Me & We*. In this unit of study, teachers will support and challenge students who are beginning to see themselves as unique individuals with a desire to belong. The following questions will guide our work:
  - What does it mean to be a member of a community?
  - What happens when people don't feel a sense of belonging or safety?
  - How does our perspective shape the way we view others?
  - Who am I as a scientist, mathematician, writer, reader?

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

- After our student-athletes suffered racial abuse during the September 18th Varsity Boys Soccer game vs. Enosburg Falls HS the Winooski community showed their incredible support and "Winooski Strong" attitudes by showing up on Tuesday, September 28th to cheer our team to a responding victory! Thanks to Winooski and all who showed up, our Varsity Boys Soccer team felt your support!

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

- Global Explorations Class- Cleophae Mukeba came to speak to high school students in a new Global Explorations class taught by Caitlin MacLeod-Bluver about the Democratic Republic of Congo. Students heard about the history of colonialism and conflict in the country, as well as learned about how to raise awareness about what is currently going on in the Congo with regard to resource extraction. One student said, "It is great to have a chance to finally learn about my country in school."

## **Finance/Operations**

- At the end of the 1st Quarter of Fiscal Year 2022, it is still early to be making predictions regarding how we will end the year; however, we are predicting a favorable balance of \$173,000 or .88% of the approved

budget. More details can be found in the Q1 FMR Report. This surplus is due to expenses for the Capital Project being lower than was budgeted for, per the Board's five year phase-in plan for debt service.

- The balance of the Capital Reserve Fund is currently \$320,751. There are no outstanding obligations for this account.
- The budget for Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) for FY22 is \$508,015. We have expended \$91,990.69, or 18% of the budget.