

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: March 10, 2021
 - ii. Regular Board Meeting: March 10, 2021
- b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - i. Approval of Bills
 - ii. Sun Common Lease Agreement
- c. Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
 - i. Approval: Teacher Contract
 1. Pirawan Ratanapratum: Elementary Classroom Teacher
 2. Camilla Thomassen-Tai: Middle School English Language Arts Teacher
 - ii. Administrator Contracts
- d. Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - i. Superintendent Report
 - ii. 2021-22 School Calendar
 - iii. WHS Scholarship Request

5. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV): (90 Minutes)

- a. Policy Title: 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership
 - i. Board Training: Board Self-Assessment and White Supremacy Culture
- 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/Action: Multi Stakeholder Group Regarding School Safety and SRO
- c. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - i. Discussion:
 1. [Role & Adoption of School Board Policies](#)
 2. [Policy Development Procedure](#)
 - ii. Discussion: [Board Committee Principles](#)
 - iii. Discussion - 1st Reading School Safety within Policy Titles: 2.1, 2.2 & 4.1.2

6. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II): (10 minutes)

- a. Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
 - i. Action: Approve Nomination of Katherine Blair as Director of Support Services and Early Learning
- b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - i. Action: Approve Quarter 3 Financial Management Review (FMR) Report
 - ii. Action: Funding of Antiracism work
 1. WSD Antiracism Steering Committee
 2. Demand-Based Team Work
 - iii. Action: Food Service Fund Balance Purchase Request

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:

● **COVID-19 Updates**

- *Learning “Recovery”*: The AOE has developed a website entitled [COVID-19 Education Recovery](#) which provides all on the framework, overview, resources, and timelines of a required plan relative to ensuring students have targeted learning opportunities over the next few years with support from federal funds to make up for lost instructional time. [WSD has been allocated \\$3,523,182 in ESSER II and \\$7,442,526 in ESSER III funds](#) which can be used through September 30, 2024. WSD has composed our Learning Recovery Team led by Michael Eppolito, Director of Curriculum and Learning and they will begin meeting the week of April 12th. Nicole Mace, Finance Manager will provide a financial overview of the federal funds and Michael Eppolito will provide an update from the WSD Learning Recovery Planning Team at the May board meeting.
- *Health Update*: The latest update from VDH on April 9, 2021 [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.
- [VT Agency of Education COVID-19 Information](#)
- [VT Legislative Joint Fiscal Office Updates](#)

- **SunCommon Lease Agreement**: The voters of Winooski resoundingly approved the solar lease agreement on Town Meeting Day 2021. By approving the Consent Agenda the board will authorize the superintendent to sign the lease agreement as an agent of the board.

- **WSD Antiracism Steering Committee**: The committee held its first meeting on Monday, April 5th. Lindsey Halman, Evelyn Monje and Hussein Amuri skillfully and thoughtfully facilitated the session with a focus on the “Why?” of our antiracism work and discussing the [“Seed to Tree” visual metaphor of](#)

[student voice and agency](#). Our next step will be to attend a WSA training session on the WSA Demands.

- **2021-22 School Calendar:** The Champlain Valley Superintendents Association(CVSA) has approved a common 175 student day calendar for the upcoming school year as required by statute. Our local WSD calendar will have at least 177 students days and we may return to the board to increase the number of student days if some agreements can be made with our local labor associations. There are no significant changes in the 2021-22 calendar as compared to the current school calendar.
- **Board of School Directors Award:** Karen Greene, Student Services Assistant organizes scholarships that are awarded during the graduation ceremony each year. She has requested your approval to continue the \$500 Board of School Directors scholarship at the 2021 graduation. By approving the consent agenda you will approve a \$100 contribution from each board members stipend to be contributed toward this scholarship. You will find her letter of request and criteria for the scholarship in the agenda backup.
- **Equalized Pupil Update**
- **Director of Support Services & Early Learning Hiring:** The position was posted on [Schoolspring.com](#) and [Nemnet.com](#) on November 17th. The Interview Team met to review confidentiality, develop a set of desired characteristics and skills, and construct interview questions. 18 candidates applied and the team conducted 4 first round interviews. 2 candidates were offered final interviews including site visits from March 15-19. One candidate accepted another position so we bypassed the site visit step of the process. I am very excited to nominate our very own Katherine Blair to the board as our new Director of Support Services and Early Learning. Katherine started with WSD in 2003 as an elementary special educator and spent 11 years in this role which included a few years working in one of our therapeutic classrooms. In 2015 she moved into the District Evaluator role and she has run our elementary summer programs as well. She recently earned the Director of Special Education endorsement and worked with Dr. Robin Hood in the practical aspect of her licensure journey. I feel very fortunate to nominate Katherine for the board's consideration as she is a great fit based on the knowledge, background and skills developed by the Interview Team and brings a deep understanding of our students, staff and families!
- **Support Staff Contracts for 2021-22:** We will be distributing contract offers to staff for the upcoming 2021-22 school year by May 1st as required by the negotiated agreement. In the past we have furnished the board with a list of support staff. Given it is not a statutory requirement for the board to approve unlicensed contracts and the continued capacity challenges in our district office I have not provided that list and will continue to notify the board each year of the distribution of support staff contracts in the upcoming years every April.
- **WSD Winter Transportation Bid:** Student Transportation of America (STA)/Mountain Transit has continued to struggle with their recruitment efforts and we have no new updates. I have reached out to Secretary of Transportation Joe Flynn who has been very helpful in connecting me to other VT Agency and Department leaders so we can work on a long-term sustainable approach to recruitment of drivers and specifically the recruitment of candidates with language barriers to the application and training processes. This work will not begin in earnest until late spring/early summer.
- **WSD Capital Project Update:**
 - [Weekly Job Reports](#)
 - [Pics](#)

- **Legislative Work**
 - **2021 Education Legislative Reports:**
 - [VT School Boards Association \(VSABA\) Legislative Blog](#)
 - [March 15, 2021 VSA Legislative Update](#)
 - [Issue #2](#)
 - [Issue #1](#)
 - [VSBA Email Archive](#)

WSD Goals

Goal #1: College & Career Readiness

- JFK will be running summer school during the month of July this summer. We are currently working with community partners to develop project-based learning for students. This means that students will be off campus on Mondays and Wednesday for place based, outdoor learning experiences. This opportunity is going to make summer school fantastic and engaging for our students.
- SBAC Testing in ELA, Math & Science will begin for students in grades 3-9 and 11 after we return from April break. The grade level testing schedule will be going home with students next week and reminder voicemails will be sent out each week.
- The grade 7&8 B-Day pods have launched their Expedition *The Power of Place: How does where you live impact how you live?* This is a study of astronomy and culture. Students will write an argument essay outlining which aspect of place affects their chosen location the most.

Goal #2: Healthy, Productive & Successful Live

- JFK has started to administer our annual surveys for families, staff, and students. These surveys allow us to get input on how the current school year went in all areas, and compare our data year to year.

Goal #3: Local & Global Community Engagement

- JFK held an incoming Kindergarten information Zoom on April 6th for our English speaking families. This Zoom was in place of the meeting with families that normally happen during Kindergarten registration and Screening. We will be planning language based based meetings in May.
- JFK has Parent Teachers Conferences April 6th and 9th. During conferences teachers gave families updates on their students, talked to them about summer school, and asked them to complete the annual spring survey.
- Ramadan, the Muslim holy month, begins on Monday, April 12th and runs through Wednesday, May 12th. Ramadan is a month when Muslims fast and try to perform thawab, good deeds rewarded by Allah. WSD has created a plan to support Muslim students who fast during this month by providing food-free spaces for students who are fasting to sit during school meals, as well as a space to pray as needed during the school day. For more information on Ramadan [Please click here for a short Prezi about Ramadan created by our Arabic speaking Home School Liaison, Abeer Alzubaidy.](#) Here is another good read if anyone wants to learn more about the month of Ramadan.
- Caitlin MacLeod-Bluver's high school pod is planning a virtual community Iftar, (the Muslim meal eaten after sunset during Ramadan) for the evening of Tuesday, May 4th. More information will be coming out about it after April break.
- On Tuesday, Congressman Peter Welch met with WHS students, as part of the House A Civics unit. Students are engaging in issues that are important to them and learning about how they can use their voices to make positive change. Students asked Congressman Welch a variety of questions, such as his views on college tuition, immigration, trans rights, climate change, and the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes.

Finance/Operations

- As we end the 3rd quarter of Fiscal Year 2021, we are predicting a favorable balance of \$1,198,584 or 6.19% of the approved budget. \$800,000 of that favorable balance is due to funds that were budgeted to pay for capital project interest and principal payments in FY 21 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 BAN is due. Assuming those funds are restricted to capital project debt, then the projected favorable balance is \$398,584, which is 2.06% of the approved budget. More detail can be found in the Q3 FMR Memo and Spreadsheets in the Board packet.
- 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 balance of the Capital Reserve Fund is currently \$320,647. There are no outstanding obligations for this account.