

Winooski School District
Office of the Superintendent
60 Normand Street
Winooski, Vermont 05404
(802) 383-6000
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:

5. Consent Agenda: (5 Minutes)

- a. Minutes of Meetings
 - i. Capital Project Executive Committee Meeting: January 13, 2021
 - ii. Regular Board Meeting: January 13, 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
 1. WSD-UVMMC Parking Lot Agreement

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

- a. Policy Title: 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership
 - i. Recognition: Black History Month
 - ii. Report/Discussion: Steering Committee for Antiracism
- b. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - i. Discussion - 1st Reading: School Safety Policy
 - ii. Discussion - 1st Reading: District Equity Policy

7. Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1): (5 Minutes)

- a. Discussion: Recent Community Activities by Board
 - i. Newsletter Topics
 - ii. Weighting Study Coalition Update

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:

- **COVID-19 Updates**
 - *Learning "Recovery":* We are awaiting guidance from the AOE on the framework of a required plan relative to ensuring students have targeted learning opportunities over the next few years with support from federal funds such as [ESSER II](#) to make up for lost instructional time. WSD is currently gathering our second local data points in literacy and math for all students this year and evaluating progress on Individual Education Plans (IEP) goals for students with disabilities. This data will be used to develop a multi-year plan both in and outside the normal 177 day school year to address all of these needs.
 - *Health Update:* The latest update from VDH on February 8, 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.
 - *Positive Cases at WSD:* As of today, there have been 78 known positive cases of COVID-19 in our learning community since December 1.
 - [VT Agency of Education COVID-19 Information](#)
 - [VT Legislative Joint Fiscal Office Updates](#)

- **WSD Antiracism Steering Committee**
 - The Planning Team of Lindsey Halman, Evelyn Monje, Hussein Amuri, Tori Cleiland, Sean McMannon, Rainbow Chen and Luke Dorfman collaborated on the following documents to set the composition of the WSD Antiracism Steering Committee in motion. We are very excited to build this committee and start working on the board-approved demands in a radically-inclusive manner. Thanks to Lindsey and Evelyn for pulling all of the team's work together!
 - [Public document](#)
 - [Application](#)
 - [Flyer](#)

- **WSD-UVMMC Parking Lot Agreement:** WSD Administration recommends we continue this agreement as described in the backup documentation.

- **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 and the two prospects who had expressed interest decided not to continue with the training program. STA is advertising on facebook, the Department of Labor website and will begin posting on Front Porch Forum (FPF). STA said they are in need of at least 10 drivers to fill current demand.

- **Winooski Spartans Penguin Plunge:** Once again WSD will be supporting Special Olympics Vermont (SOVT) throughout February and March in a "creative" Penguin Plunge season! Instead of one day, there will be an entire Plunge season! Right now, keeping a safe distance is important, and people may feel more comfortable supporting us from afar. The Cool Schools Penguin Plunge will be fully remote in 2021 and will offer school teams the opportunity to get creative and produce a one-of-a-kind *Penguin Splash* video to be included in the Penguin Plunge Celebration live stream! The Plunge season is from

Feb 6-March 27. The Winooski Spartans team will be developing our unique "plunge" in February and will share the video in mid-March.

We have raised over \$70K for this worthy cause in seven years and it has allowed us to build our Unified Sports program to over 40 Winooski student-athletes! During this challenging year our team goal is to raise \$10,000! Please consider supporting Special Olympics VT, and the Winooski Penguin Plunge & Unified Sports Teams by following the link below to securely donate to the Winooski School Team via my fundraising page:

<https://give.specialolympicsvermont.org/fundraiser/3107898> All donations are greatly appreciated!

- **WSD Capital Project Update:**
 - [Weekly Job Reports](#)
 - [Pics](#)

- **Legislative Work**
 - **2021 Education Legislative Reports:**
 - [Issue #1](#)
 - [VSBA Email Archive](#)
 - **2020 Education Legislative Reports:**
 - [Issue #11](#)
 - [Issue #10](#)

WSD Goals

Goal #1: College & Career Readiness

- JFK has started our winter local assessments. Our local assessments monitor math and literacy growth, as well as a behavior screener that we use to gauge social and emotional growth.
- WHS students have been focused on the themes of Social Justice or Happiness. Half of our students participate in a social justice unit entitled: The Legacies of Slavery. In this unit, students explore the question of the legacy of slavery through the lens of exploring data, both from the past and from today. They ask questions, such as:
 - What stories does the data tell us about the legacy of slavery?
 - Did slavery truly end in 1865 or evolve?
 - What does it mean to be free? What did it mean to be Black and “free” in the Reconstruction era?
 - And, how does our nation’s history of racial violence help us understand our present racial injustices?

In one class students wrote a letter to Bryan Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative. Mr. Stevenson

said that slavery did not end, but evolved. Students either agreed, disagreed, or modified his statement using

both evidence from the Reconstruction era and evidence from contemporary data.

- The **WIDA ACCESS testing** for all of Winooski’s K-12 English Language Learners will begin in the next few weeks. Kindergarten begins Monday, February 8th and 1st-12th grades will begin on Monday, March 8th. 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, April 30th.
- Maybeline Lopez, WSD Act 166 Coordinator, attended the Champlain Valley Early Learning Partners (ELP) meeting on Feb. 3rd. Act 166 collaborative agreements were updated for the following year. The new rate for families to access publicly funded pre-k for the 2021-22 school year was set by the State at \$3,536.00.

- Our Head Start programs are beginning to accept applications for the next school year. There is an [online application](#) which families may access. Teachers have also begun discussions with families for children who are transitioning to kindergarten.
- Robin Hood was reelected to the Executive Board of the Vermont Special Education Advisory Panel. The panel's purpose is advising the State special education staff regarding the education of eligible children with disabilities. In addition, the panel has the following responsibilities:
 - Advise the state on unmet needs in the education of children with disabilities.
 - Comment publicly on any rules and regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities.
 - Advise the state in developing evaluations and reporting on data as required by federal special education laws.
 - Advise the state in developing corrective action plans for the U.S. Department of Education.
 - Advise the state in developing and implementing policies relating to coordination of services for children with disabilities.

Goal #2: Healthy, Productive & Successful Live

- WHS Memoir Publication Celebration: Caitlin Macleod-Bluver's WHS pod hosted a virtual publication celebration of student memoirs on Thursday, Jan. 28th. Students, their families and members of the WSD community participated in this celebration of our students. A link to these amazing stories can be [found here](#).
- Nancy Devost took her newcomer class sledding at Landry Park after our big snowstorm. For some students, this was their first time sledding. Nancy talked to her students about this being a great wellness activity during the winter and the pandemic in order to get outside and get some exercise.
- On February 10th, our students in the Bridging Program will participate in a workshop by the Green Mountain Self Advocates (GMSA), where they will learn important information about GMSA. Their workshop will also focus on boundaries and healthy relationships.

Goal #3: Local & Global Community Engagement

- On Monday Jan. 25, newly elected Rep. [Taylor Small](#) from Winooski met virtually with WHS House A classes who are immersed in their social justice unit. She spoke a little bit about her background, what inspired her to run for office, and her legislative priorities.
- WMS' 6th grade girls shared their thoughts on the significance of our first female and person of color serving as our nation's vice president. If you did not see our students on NBC's channel 5 local news here it is [linked here](#).
- 5th graders have begun their StarBase trips. The experience has been adapted to meet COVID19 guidelines, but is still an amazing experience for our 5th graders.

Finance/Operations

- Seven months into the fiscal year we are predicting a favorable balance of \$916,988 or 4.74% 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 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 \$116,998, which is .60% 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 \$924,000 of unbudgeted FY 21

COVID-19 related expenses. The WSD's CRF application was approved in December and we received our first payment from the grant to cover FY 20's costs in early January.

- Please keep in mind that assumptions have been made in projecting fiscal year totals because we are dealing with a lot of uncertainty due to COVID and its impact on our ability to offer fields trips, co-curricular activities, athletics, and other educational programming that was planned for this spring but may not be possible due to health restrictions.
- The balance of the Capital Reserve Fund is currently \$320,628. There are no outstanding obligations for this account.
- The budget for Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) for FY21 is \$524,959. We have expended \$103,685, or 20% of the budget.