

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:

1. Consent Agenda: (5 Minutes)

- a. Minutes of Meetings
 - i. Capital Project Executive Committee Meeting: February 10, 2021
 - ii. Regular Board Meeting: February 10, 2021
- b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - i. Approval of Bills
- c. Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation & Benefits
 - i. Approve Teacher Contracts for 2021-22
 - ii. Approve Request for Benefits in Articles 10.13 and 20 for Joan Benjamin
- d. Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - i. Superintendent Report

2. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV): Antiracism (90 Minutes)

- a. Policy Title: 4.1 Governing Style
 - i. Board Training: Board Self-Assessment and White Supremacy Culture
 - ii. Discussion: Governance Processes Training dates for March or April
- b. Policy Title: 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership
 - i. Report/Discussion: School Safety Community Forums

- ii. Discussion/Planning: Special Board Meeting regarding School Resource Officer (SRO) position for the 2021-22 school year
- c. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - i. Discussion/Approval - 2nd Reading: School Safety Policy

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 in-person instructional time. WSD has been allocated \$3,523,182 in ESSER II funds which can be used through September 30, 2023. 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 March 5, 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 84 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 applications for membership on the steering committee are due Monday, March 8th and then a group of community consultants will help the Planning Team of Lindsey Halman, Evelyn Monje, Hussein Amuri, Tori Cleiland, Sean McMannon, Rainbow Chen and Luke Dorfman select members of the committee.
 - [Public document](#)
 - [Application](#)
 - [Flyer](#)
- **Staff Wellness Day**
- **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 will be offered final interviews including site visits from March 15-19 culminating in a recommendation to hire at the April board meeting.
- **Teacher Retirement**: Congratulations and thanks to Joan Benjamin for her 42 years of amazing service to WSD! There is an attached memo and retirement letter from Joan. Approval of the Consent Agenda will approve this item.
- **Teacher Contracts for 2021-22**: There is an attached memo and list of WSD teachers that we would like to offer contracts for the upcoming 2021-22 school year. Approval of the Consent Agenda will approve this item.

- **WSD Winter Transportation Bid:** From our research, Student Transportation of America (STA)/Mountain Transit has not made any updates to their recruitment efforts and have not returned our recent messages. If there is any update it will be brought to the meeting.

- **Winooski Spartans Penguin Plunge:** Once again WSD will be supporting Special Olympics Vermont (SOVT) throughout February and March in a "creative" Penguin Plunge season! The Plunge season is from Feb 6-March 27. The Winooski Spartans team will be developing our unique "plunge" this month and will share the video in late-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! So far, we have raised \$2515, 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 #2](#)
 - [Issue #1](#)
 - [VSBA Email Archive](#)
 - **2020 Education Legislative Reports:**
 - [Issue #11](#)
 - [Issue #10](#)

WSD Goals

Goal #1: College & Career Readiness

- We have wrapped up our second round of local literacy and math assessments and are in the process of putting together the data in class profiles that will allow us to look for patterns in student learning. We are planning for an additional round of diagnostic testing for students who are well behind where we expect them to be.
- Robin Hood, Director of Support Services and Jean Berthiaume, WMHS Co-Principal have given support for a School 2 Work (S2W) funding proposal to Vermont Department of Vocational Rehabilitation under the RFP – Youth Employment grant. This grant, submitted by Champlain Community Services will be awarded to three recipients across the state of Vermont to provide student and youth support to individuals transitioning from high school, post-secondary education or under the age of 26. There would be no cost to the Winooski School District. SS2W's youth development program is a career development and job placement initiative that prepares high school/post-secondary students with disabilities for successful transitions to the competitive workplace. Champlain Community Services Inc (CCS), coordinates this innovative and collaborative project, building on its expertise, and employer connections, developed through its nationally recognized Way2Work supported employment program. The results are meaningful jobs in the competitive economy – jobs that are rewarding personally and financially to the employee and meet the needs of the employer or marketplace.
- On March 10th, students in the Bridging program will be learning more about the [SUCCEED Program](#). SUCCEED is a post-secondary education program for students with intellectual disabilities or autism. It is offered by Howard Center in collaboration with area colleges. SUCCEED students participate in a

college experience that prepares them for a future of success, creativity, and contribution to their community. While enrolled in the program, students receive support from SUCCEED staff and feedback from their peers, professors, employers, and organizations. When students graduate, they have the skills they need to live in their own apartment, develop meaningful friendships, obtain fulfilling employment, and establish community connections.

- Ali Brown has been working with the JFK staff to identify professional development needs, and implement two optional PD series for all staff. The first series, Staff Connection & Well Being has begun. Once the first series wraps up, Ali will begin the second series, Addressing Equity Issues in Remote & Hybrid Learning.
- The **WIDA ACCESS testing** for all of Winooski's K-12 English Language Learners has begun. Kindergarten began 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.
- The Spectrum Multicultural Youth Programs Help Desk is going to be offering a drop in center at the Winooski Middle High School to support 6th-12th graders who need extra in person support with remote learning on Wednesday afternoons starting next Wednesday, March 10th. They plan to support a max of 12 students at a time with two to three Spectrum staff who will be trained in all our COVID guidelines. This will take place in two 1 hour and 15 minute time slots between 1pm and 4pm on Wednesdays starting March 10th.
- JFK has begun the Kindergarten registration process. We have a [webpage](#) with information for families with incoming Kindergarten students. The information has also been shared on social media, in the JFK weekly letter, and in the Winooski community newsletter.

Goal #2: Healthy, Productive & Successful Live

- On Monday, March 1st the JFK teachers participated in a [full day of Race and Equity professional development](#). Some of our support staff opted to join for the day, even though it was not a work day for them.
- The WMS Newcomer class has been meeting for cross country Saturday skiing at Catamount Trail Association (CTA). This program has been so successful the lead teacher from CAT will be teaching orienteering to the students this spring using a compass and GPS.
- Building Bright Futures (BBF) has released: [How Are Vermont's Young Children and Families 2020](#). This report includes important recommendations along with Chittenden County Regional Data (page 6 and 35). Given the COVID-19 pandemic's exacerbation of gaps and barriers faced by children and families statewide, as well as Vermont's re-commitment to dispelling systemic racism and social injustice, Vermont's Early Childhood Action Plan (VECAP) Committees and the State Advisory Council (SAC) made 5 areas of policy recommendations: 1. Recognize Vermont's Early Care & Education System & Workforce as essential, 2. Mitigate COVID impacts on family economic Stability and Mental Health, 3. Recognize Chronic Inequities & Racism as a Public Health Crisis, 4. Empower Family Voice to Rebuild a Stronger System, and 5. Evolve our Data System to Address Gaps. Winooski is committed to aligning our work with children and families to Vermont's Early Childhood Action Plan and to these recommendations.

Goal #3: Local & Global Community Engagement

- JFK filled the HEART monitor for the second time this year. The Friday before vacation, we played All School Bingo COVID style. Principal Sara Raabe zoomed into the classrooms dressed as Bertha The Bingo Caller, and the students all participated from their own classrooms. It was a huge hit with the students!
- High school students who are currently studying a unit on the legacy of slavery met with Michaela Clarke from the Equal Justice Initiative. The Equal Justice Initiative is committed to ending mass

incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, to challenging racial and economic injustice, and to protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society. Students heard from Michaela about her education and experience that landed her to work at the EJI and the broader work of the EJI in Montgomery, AL and communities across the United States.

- Winooski High School students had a lively discussion with Senator Ram. They asked her about her own path as a representative and now a senator, as well as on many issues they care about, including the minimum wage, increasing home ownership for BIPOC families, and affordable higher education.
- The 2020 State of the Union videos including WHS Hussein Amuri and Salama Mbilizi have recently been posted. This year has been challenging and has had its setbacks, however their essays were positive milestones of 2020. As finalists, part of their recognition was being included in a video on Senator Sanders' social media. The videos have been posted, linked here:
[Young People are the Future Leaders of our Nation - We Must Listen to Them](#)
[Young Vermonters Know a Bright Future is a Clean Energy Future](#)

Finance/Operations

- Eight months into the fiscal year we are predicting a favorable balance of \$1,127,708 or 5.82% 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 \$327,708, which is 1.69% 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 \$320,647. There are no outstanding obligations for this account.
- The budget for Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) for FY21 is \$524,959. We have expended \$165,641, or 32% of the budget.