

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: November 10, 2021
 - ii. Regular Board Meeting: November 10, 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. Monthly Superintendent Report
- d. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - i. Adopt Policy #5146 Whole Child & School Wellness

5. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV): (15 Minutes)

- a. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - i. Discussion: 1st Reading Policy # 5111 Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students

6. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II): (90 minutes)

- a. Policy Title: 2.1 Treatment of Students, Parents/Guardians & Community

- i. Discussion/Approval: Superintendent Monitoring Report
- b. Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
 - i. Discussion/Approval: Capital Project Funding
 - ii. Discussion: FY23 Budget Work Session

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:

- **COVID-19 Updates**
 - **Vax Clinics:** WSD will be hosting a 2nd vaccination shot clinic on Tuesday, December 7th for WSD students ages 5-11.
 - **Surveillance Testing:** WSD continues to provide weekly surveillance testing available to all students and staff. We have been averaging over 120 tests per week and have yet to have a positive test result.
 - **Test to Stay (TTS):** WSD is ramping up to provide this service to students and staff which will
 - *Health Update:*
 - [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:** I do recommend the board approve the one policy up for a “2nd Reading”. Hopefully, the notes below will be helpful to your policy decisions and discussions:
 - **Consent Agenda**
 - 2nd Reading-Adopt Policy #5146 Whole Child & School Wellness
 - Based on board discussion last month I have incorporated in “anorexia and bulimia” into the *Policy Statement* section, created language about “culturally-appropriate food options” to section 1 (b) and updated the *Legal References*
 - **Governance Process**
 - 1st Reading-Policy #5111 Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students
 - No changes recommended
- **Pupil Weighting Task Force Testimony:** The Task Force has their final meeting Friday, December 10th from 9-3. Their final report to the General Assembly is due December 15, 2021. [The agenda can be found here.](#) The full [Pupil Weighting Factors Report](#) can be viewed here. [My recent comments to the Task Force can be found here](#) about potential discrimination in their current proposal to fund English Language/Multilingual Learners and [here is a letter written by former Winooski Rep. George Cross which was published in Seven Days.](#)
- **Early Learning Updates**
 - The Early Learning Center (ELC) located at the Winooski Family Center (WFC) is still running with only a morning preschool session. This is due to Head Start being unable to fill the two PM teaching positions.
- **Support Services**
 - Currently there are seven open instructional assistant positions within the district which we are working hard to fill.

- The middle and high school therapeutic programs moved into their new classrooms on November 29th. Teachers & staff within these programs worked hard on getting these spaces ready for their students.
- Michael Giangreco and Jesse Suter from UVM whom we contracted with ESSER funds to conduct a process called “Numbers that Count!” have met with all three school level teams (JFK, WMS & WHS) to debrief data. These debrief sessions provided an overview and analysis of our current special education service delivery system which will guide the vision for our district moving forward.
- The VT AOE continues to roll out training and information regarding the shift in the Act 173 funding model for next year and other changes which will impact special education such as evaluations and eligibility requirements. Webinars on the following topics have been released thus far: development of MTSS systems; definition of special education; parental input; and goal writing.
- **Legislative Work**
 - **2021 Education Legislative Reports:**
 - [VT School Boards Association \(VSABA\) Legislative Blog](#)
[VSBA Email Archive](#)

WSD Goals

Goal #1: College & Career Readiness

- **Curriculum Work:**
 - The middle school has started reviewing and redesigning the 6-8 humanities curriculum. They are using an updated template for sequencing their units, identifying their key performance indicators and driving questions. This is the beginning of work that will culminate in June at the School Development Institute.
 - The Literacy Leadership Team will begin a comprehensive evaluation of our current ELA curriculum on December 9th and begin looking at other programs to ensure we have an aligned, research based curriculum.
- **Global Explorations Students Present Solutions to Climate Change in Somalia!** On Wednesday November 17 students in Global Explorations class focused on the study of the history of colonialism, the legacies of conflict, and current issues in the major countries where many of our students come from: Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, and Nepal. In their current unit of study, students studied the history of Somalia and then turned their attention to how climate change is disproportionately affecting developing nations, including Somalia. Students presented how climate change is impacting Somalia, as well as what they think is the best solution to help Somalia adapt to climate change or mitigate climate change. Students presented in front of a panel which included our cultural liaison, curriculum director, teacher, principal, and community member. The panel "judged" their presentations and awarded the winner with "1 million dollars" for the best solution. (This is of course fictional, but motivational nevertheless!)
- **WHS Student Presentations of Learning:** High school students are preparing for Jan Po at this time. We are excited about the opportunity to get back to in person presentations of learning.
- JFK had our fall conferences in November. Families received their student's report card and fall assessment data. During conferences families and teachers discussed student's current academic levels, and discussed next steps.

Goal #2: Healthy, Productive & Successful Lives

- WSD is partnering with AALV (The Association of Africans Living in Vermont) & Connecting Cultures at UVM on a grant that will bring Trauma Systems Therapy for Refugees to the school district and

community. This grant work will include workshops for community members to work on destigmatizing mental health services, training for school staff on the Trauma Systems Therapy for Refugees approach and skills groups for refugee students to build resiliency and skills related to academics and healthy lifestyles.

- **Winooski Student-Athletes Participate in the VPA/VSADA Athlete Leadership Conference**

Three of our high school student athletes (Hussien Abdulaziz, Ruby Ly, and Kiara Mack) attended a great Athletics Leadership Conference last month. We are proud of these athletes who want to be ambassadors here at our school on and off the playing fields. They represented the Spartan country with great pride! Below is a quick summary about the Conference.

VPA/VSADA Athlete Leadership Conference. We have planned a great day for you. Our theme is "Educate to Motivate"-Coach Jackson. Our intention is that you bring your best self, ready to actively pursue a leadership education rather than to just be part of a leadership experience. Once you return back to your schools we expect that you will take the lead beyond just the teams you play on and become one of the culture keepers in your school.

Goal #3: Local & Global Community Engagement

- **Racism in America Forum:** On Wednesday, December 15th, at 7:00p. an online monthly gathering where topics of utmost importance to people of color are shared and discussed, will present **Young and Black in Vermont**, during which Black Winooski high school students Joseph Abdallah and Kiara Mack will share their experiences of being Black in one of the whitest states in the nation. Kiara and Joseph are students at Winooski Union High School in Winooski, Vermont, the most ethnically and racially diverse town in the state. Recommended Reading: *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* by Beverly Daniel Tatum; and *Black Students in White Schools* by Noah Tennant. [The Registration Link to the December 15th Forum can be found here](#)
- We have hired another new Multilingual Liaison this month. Baudouin Mulolo is our new Swahili & French speaking liaison. We now have a full team of 8 multilingual liaisons and a number of additional on call interpreters.
- Middle school students in 6th grade have been conducting a study of food waste. Students conducted a food waste audit of our cafeteria. Students as part of their student took a field trip to Green Mountain Compost.
- JFK participated in the VT Vermont Agency of Transportation Name-A-Plow project. Look for our plow on the roads this winter named JFK Snow You Didn't
- JFK School Counselors are working with local businesses to coordinate winter vacation support for over 15 families.

Finance/Operations

At the end of November, we are predicting a favorable balance of \$554,947 or 2.8% of the approved budget. \$350,500 of this surplus is due to debt 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 \$320,778. There are no outstanding obligations for this account.
- The budget for Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) for FY22 is \$508,015. We have expended \$126,414, or 25% of the budget.