

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: October 13, 2021
  - ii. Regular Board Meeting: October 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
- d. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
  - i. Adopt Policy #3545: Transportation
  - ii. Adopt Policy #4115: Alcohol & Drug Testing of Transportation Employees

### **2. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV): (75 Minutes)**

- a. Policy Title: 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership
  - i. Discussion: Youth-Adult Partnership with UP for Learning
- b. Policy Title: 4.5 Agenda Planning
  - i. Discussion/Approval: Board Self-Evaluation Tool
- c. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
  - i. Discussion: 1st Reading Policy #5146 Whole Child & School Wellness

- d. Policy Title: 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership
  - i. Report/Discussion: Multistakeholder Group update
- 3. **Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):** (30 minutes)
  - a. Policy Title: 2.1 Treatment of Students, Parents/Guardians & Community
    - i. Discussion/Approval: Superintendent Monitoring Report
  - b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Conditions and Activities
    - i. Review/Approval: FY21 Quarter 4 Financial Management Report
    - ii. Review/Approval: Capital Project Budget
- 4. **Board-Management Delegation (Policy Section II):** (30 minutes)
  - a. Discussion: WSD-City Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

### **Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:**

- **COVID-19 Updates**
  - *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 all policies up for a “2nd Reading”.
  - **Consent Agenda**
    - 2nd Reading-Adopt Policy #3545: Transportation
    - 2nd Reading-Adopt Policy #4115: Alcohol & Drug Testing of Transportation Employees
      - No notes, both ready for adoption.
  - **Governance Process**
    - 1st Reading Policy #5146 Whole Child & School Wellness
      - No changes recommended
- **Staffing:** We still have seven open Instructional Assistant positions and continue to struggle on a daily basis to safely staff our schools.
- **Pupil Weighting Task Force Testimony:** The Task Force cancelled their November 5th meeting and the next meeting is scheduled for [Wednesday, November 10th, 9-3](#). The full [Pupil Weighting Factors Report](#) can be viewed here.
- **Transportation Update:** The market for bus drivers continues to be problematic. We have worked with Green Mountain Transit (GMT) on a plan to provide public bus transportation to and from school. Riding the GMT busses is FREE for everyone this year. Here is our current plan for riding a GMT bus to school:
  - Winooski students catch #9 bus when it loops through Elm/Hickock neighborhood around 7:21am, and then get off the bus at Winooski Falls/Spinner Place at 7:26am
  - Students will wait at the Winooski Falls/Spinner Place stop for 10 minutes
  - Winooski students catch the next outbound #9 at 7:39am, and get off the bus at Normand St around 7:45am

And 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)

- **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 afternoon teaching positions.
- Maybeline Lopez and Katherine Blair have met with Sean McMannon and Nicole Mace to review options for the three new preschool classrooms for the 2022-23 school year. More work is being done on developing specifics on the potential preschool options along with funding estimates.

- **Support Services**

- Michael Giangreco and Jesse Suter from UVM whom we have contracted with ESSER funds to conduct a process called “Numbers that Count!” will meet with the three school-level special education teams (JFK, MS & HS) in November to debrief what has been collected for data. These debrief sessions will provide 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.

- **Legislative Work**

- **2021 Education Legislative Reports:**
  - [VT School Boards Association \(VSABA\) Legislative Blog](#)
  - [VSBA Email Archive](#)

## **WSD Goals**

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

- Middle school multilingual mathematicians put their geometry knowledge to work in the field-- the soccer field! Students have been studying area, perimeter, and measurement in the context of sports fields. They worked together and in collaboration with the City of Winooski to design a soccer field for Richards Park. They then played a game of soccer on the field that is now a new feature for Winooski residents to enjoy this fall! Thanks to the Parks and Recreation Department for their supplies and support!
- The High School is planning for JanPo which are our Graduate Expectations (GX) Expositions that will take place on January 12th-18th. As always we welcome our school board members' participation in our expositions.
- We have closed our first local assessment window. We introduced two new literacy assessments in JFK and the data we are collecting is very promising and helpful in planning instruction.
- Our Literacy Leadership Team held its first meeting to review the action plan we created last spring. We have set priorities for this year based on that plan.
- JFK teachers and staff had their second professional development session with the Reading League. This session focused on phonemic awareness, how to assess students and provide focused instruction in this early literacy skill.
- JFK teachers in grade K-3 will be using the fall DIBELS assessment during parent/teacher conferences at the end of November to talk to families about their student’s current early literacy skills, and what the teachers will be focusing on with the students.

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

- We are piloting a new work-based learning program with two of our adult multilingual high school students. These students are working at Shelburne Farms doing cheesemaking and working in the retail farm store. The skills they are learning on the job are connected to English, math & science

proficiencies, which they are developing while they are making money to support their family. Shelburne Farms has been fantastic to work with and recently featured our students in their staff newsletter.

- During pre service, the JFK staff worked together to explore our own identities. We spent time articulating our social and personal identities and how they intersect to impact our work with others, students and staff. The staff has taken that work, and is working with our students on their identities. Third graders drew self portraits and shared important information about what makes them who they are. In 5th grade, students completed an identity wheel, and used that to create an “I Am...” poem. Identity work is happening in different forms in all of our classrooms.
- VERMONT YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (YRBS) will be administered to Middle & High School Students on Nov. 10th. Every other year, since 1993, the VT Health Department and the Agency of Education sponsor the Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The YRBS was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1990 to monitor priority health risk behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death, disease, injury and social problems among youth. These behaviors, often established during childhood and early adolescence, include:
  - **Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence**
  - **Physical activity**
  - **Nutrition**
  - **Weight status**
  - **Tobacco use**
  - **Alcohol and other drug use**
  - **Sexual behaviors**

The survey is part of a larger effort to help communities increase the resiliency of young people by reducing high risk behaviors and promoting healthy behaviors. Also, results from the YRBS have been used as metrics to measure progress on the “*healthy, productive and successful lives*” portion of our Ends Statement

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

- We have hired three new Multilingual Liaisons this fall. Mukhtar Abdullahi is our new Somali & Mai Mai speaking liaison, Monica John is our new Swahli & Kirundi speaking liaison & Padam Thapa is our new Nepali speaking liaison. We are currently hiring for an additional Swahili & French speaking liaison and hope to have someone on board by December.
- A meeting was held for the parents of our Boys Varsity Soccer team on Monday, November 1 in the evening to discuss further the game on September 18th against Enosburg. The meeting provided parents with an understanding of our response, our ongoing efforts of prevention, work with the VPA, and preparations for the semi-final game against EFHS on Tuesday, November 2nd.
- JFK is hosting UVM Juniors this fall for one of their field experiences. Classroom teachers are hosting 2 juniors, two days a week. This partnership allows the juniors to gain invaluable experience, and allows for extra educators to support our student’s learning.

### **Finance/Operations**

- At the end of the October, we are predicting a favorable balance of \$190,034 or .96% of the approved budget. 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 \$320,751. There are no outstanding obligations for this account.
- The budget for Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) for FY22 is \$508,015. We have expended \$109,069, or 21% of the budget.

- On October 15, we closed on the 2021 BAN for the capital project. We used the proceeds to pay off the 2020 BAN and deposited the balance in the Capital Project bank account held at People's Bank. We paid the \$512,500 in interest due on the 2020 BAN using debt service funds budgeted for in the FY 22 operating budget. The WSD continues to benefit from historically low interest rates. The interest rate on the 2021 BAN in the amount of \$57.8m was .44%, resulting in a much lower cost of borrowing - \$254,320. This amount will be due next October when we pay off the 2021 BAN with the USDA loan proceeds.