

March 4, 2022

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

Discussion/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. *Notes about specific agenda items are in bold below:*

4. Consent Agenda: (5 Minutes)

- a. Minutes of Meetings
 - i. Capital Project Executive Committee Meeting: February 9, 2022
 - ii. Regular Board Meeting: February 9, 2022
- 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. 300 Main Street: As you may know, [the residents at 300 Main Street have all received lease termination and non-renewal notices effective July 1, 2022.](#) In these approximately twenty-four units we have 30 students who will be impacted. One family has already procured housing in Burlington and would like to continue attending WSD for the remainder of the school year. We expect more families may be forced to locate outside of Winooski in the last four months of school. The WSD Administration is requesting board permission to provide continuity of learning by allowing any

students impacted by this situation to continue attending WSD through the end of the current school year. Here are the pertinent procedure and policy: [WSD Procedure #305 Tuition & Waiver of Tuition](#) and [Policy #5150 Admission of Non-Resident Tuition](#). Instead of bringing individual requests to the board each month due to being greater than the 20 or less days allowable by the procedure by approving the Consent Agenda you will authorize the WSD Administration to allow the students affected to continue in our school through the end of this school year.

- d. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - i. Approve: 2nd Reading Policy #5125: Student Educational Records (FERPA)
 - ii. Approve 2nd Reading Policy #4311: Privacy of Health Related Information, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- 5. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV): (60 Minutes)**
- a. Policy Title: 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership
 - i. Discussion: Youth-Adult Partnership- **See attached backup materials**
 - b. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - i. Discussion: 1st Reading Policy #Section 504 and ADA Grievance Protocol -**See attached backup materials**
 - ii. Discussion: 1st Reading Policy #Special Education-**See attached backup materials**
- 6. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II): (30 minutes)**
- a. Policy Title: 2.1 Treatment of Students, Parents/Guardians and Community
 - i. Discussion/Action: Accept Superintendent Monitoring Report-**See attached backup materials**
 - b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - i. Discussion/Action: Approve FY2021 Audit Report-**See attached backup materials**
 - c. Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
 - i. Discussion: FY23 Budget Cycle Reflection
 - d. Policy Title 2.8: Communication and Support to the Board
 - i. Discussion: Interim Superintendent Transition Planning

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment:

- **COVID-19 Updates**
 - **Test at Home Program:** We continue to follow AOE guidance as we have shifted to new methods of contact tracing, testing and family and staff notification. We are providing antigen test kits as needed to students and staff as determined by our COVID Coordinators contact tracing. So far, our inventory of antigen test kits has been adequate.

- **Vax Clinics:** WSD will be hosting weekly vaccination clinics starting on Friday, January 21st for WSD students and staff. This will include 1st shot, 2nd shot and boosters. We are in the process of developing and offering educational sessions for students and families about vaccination prior to our school-based clinics.
 - *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](#)
- **Pupil Weighting:** [The Task Force published their Final Report December 17, 2021.](#) On Tuesday, January 4th, the legislature convened for the last half of the 2021-22 biennium.

[The legislative Social Equity Caucus \(SEC\) sent this letter to House and Senate Leadership, the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Education, and the Chairs of the House Committee on Ways & Means and the Senate Committee on Finance.](#)

WSD's [Finance Manager, Nicole Mace](#), [Director of Multilingual Programs, Kirsten Kollgaard](#) and [Nepali-Bhutanese Multilingual Liaison Tul Niroula](#) have provided important testimony in the last few weeks to the Senate Education committee regarding the need to include the full recommended weight for multilingual learners in the funding formula, as opposed to categorical aid.

After taking testimony from many stakeholders on the issue of weights for multilingual students, the Senate Education Committee sent a letter to the Senate Finance Committee recommending that the UVM-derived weight of 2.49 be incorporated into the law for multilingual learners. The Senate Finance Committee incorporated that recommendation into [its current draft bill](#), which uses weights, instead of categorical grants for all student groups. The bill is expected to be approved by the Senate Finance Committee when it returns from Town Meeting Day break; it will then move to the Senate Appropriations Committee before going to the full Senate.

- **Capital Project:** WSD's application to use \$4.8m of federal funds to support our new HVAC system has been approved! This will go a long way toward reducing the overall amount that will need to be borrowed from USDA when the project is substantially completed.
- **Legislative Work**
 - **2021-22 Education Legislative Reports:**
 - [VT School Boards Association \(VSABA\) Legislative Blog](#)
 - [VSBA Email Archive](#)

WSD Goals:

Goal #1: College & Career Readiness

- Stefanie Hamble is continuing her work with the JFK Math Teachers and Math Best Practices. While the structure of the professional development has had to change to be responsive to the current needs of our teachers, the content is still meaningful and deeply impacts student's learning.
- We continue our professional development with the Reading League and the Stern Center. This professional development is helping our teachers understand the science behind how children learn to read and then translate that understanding into practice. On February 16th the Reading League will show us how to use diagnostic assessments to plan interventions for early readers.
- We are also sending math teachers to specific professional development focused on delivering math interventions.
- During the fall semester, students read *The Omnivore's Dilemma* to learn about where our food comes from in the US. 7th & 8th graders compared the four different systems (Industrial, Industrial-Organic, Local Sustainable, Hunter-Gatherer) presented in the book, and synthesized that information with what they learned from two movies: *Food Inc.* and *The Biggest Little Farm*. Students also took a trip to Shelburne Farms to see some of their learning in action. Unfortunately, due to school closures, the Celebration of Learning was canceled, however, students created high quality info graphics and PSAs about their learning.
- High students in Ms. Caitlin MacLeod-Bluver's Block 4 *Challenging Systems of Oppression* class presented some of their written work as they finish their first unit on the U.S. Reconstruction. A few students read excerpts of their writing, and then invited guest teachers and principal to participate in "gallery walk style" to read student writing and provide individual students with constructive feedback on their writing. Students then celebrated their work together with refreshments!
- First Winooski "Business Fair" was held on Friday, March 4th, high school entrepreneurship students were awarded \$100 in mini grants to start a business. They have been working on this since January and are competing to see which business will be most profitable. Some of the groups have products to sell and others are still looking for feedback and ideas. Students and staff stopped by and supported entrepreneurship students by engaging and asking them questions.

Goal #2: Healthy, Productive & Successful Lives

- Sarah Murphy, Jason Ziter, and Drew Blanchard will be going into every 5th grade class to discuss technology use at school and at home, appropriate and responsible use, and consequences.
- Hello all, I am super proud of our Girls Varsity team. They came up short in the quest to knock off a #5 seed. If you happen to see one of our seniors please remind them how important they are to our community. I know this is not the outcome they wanted but they played their hearts out. This team has come a very long way and I know the future is bright. I had the opportunity in Royalton last night to share with the girls on how proud I am of their accomplishments as they were entering the locker room.

These girls have taken the bigger than basketball approach seriously. They raised money for the Hope lodge to continue to remind us about the effects of Cancer. We know right

here in our own community someone is fighting this awful disease. Our girls basketball team wanted to stand and fight with every survivor and fighter. We are truly stronger together.

They brought awareness to social injustice and shared quotes from historical leaders like Ruby Bridges, Rosa Parks, MLK jr. I am proud of their selflessness and how they want to better our community. The wins on the scoreboard are truly nice but the wins in life are the best results.

These girls may have lost their first round playoff game but as you can see they won in so many ways. I am truly proud of the coaching staff and these young ladies that carried the torch to our new beginnings.

Please help me to congratulate each and everyone of these players and coaches.

WE ARE THE SPARTAN FAMILY

Sam Jackson, Winooski Middle & High School Athletic Director

- Multilingual Learner Intake & Family Engagement Educator, Larkin Brown, coordinated a CDL Licensure Workshop for Winooski parents who are interested in pursuing a CDL license to drive school buses for the district in the future. Several interested parents attended and the workshop was interpreted in three languages.

Goal #3: Local & Global Community Engagement

- JFK is participating in the WOKO Big Change RoundUp for the 6th year. We were unable to participate last year due to the pandemic. This year staff joined together to create teams. The team that raises the most money for UVM's Children's Hospital gets to wear [the costume of their choice](#) for the day.
- What business would you start for \$100? That was the challenge for Winooski High School Entrepreneurship students. Now several micro businesses are starting in class and expanding through our school community. In a few weeks students will have started a thrift store as well as businesses that create custom jewelry, phone cases, and clothing. Students are utilizing critical thinking skills, creativity and persistence as they put their ideas into action, creating products and marketing them through social media and in person conversations.
- Students in the MS Multilingual Academy have become engineers who are designing, building, and testing a model of chicken coop to minimize thermal energy transfer, which aligns with the modeling dimension of the scientific reasoning GP and an [NGSS performance expectation](#). Their client is a local community member who keeps backyard chickens and wants to make sure their chickens stay warm this winter! Students are learning the purpose of building a model (testing different insulators so we can keep the chickens warm), how to problem-solve when building a model, and developing metacognition of how they solve problems.
- WSD Educators Tul Niroula, Bhutanese Nepali Multilingual Liaison, and Kirsten Kollgaard, Director of Multilingual Learner Programs, testified before the Senate Education Committee in support of adjusting the ELL pupil weights as part of the state education funding formula.

- Come support our students at the **WMHS Concert on March 16th at 6:00pm in the gym**. Thank you all for your support! The video [linked here](#) provides you with a short preview from our middle schoolers on what's to come!
- WMHS Family Conferences will return to be in person on March 17th & 18th!
- Varsity Boys Basketball team makes it to the Quarterfinals Playoff!

Finance/Operations

At the end of February, we are predicting a favorable balance of \$316,292 or 1.59% 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 \$320,817. There are no outstanding obligations for this account.
- The audited fund balance as of June 30, 2021 is \$2,951,953.
- The budget for Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) for FY22 is \$508,015. We have expended \$160,282, or 32% of the budget.