

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:*

6. **Consent Agenda:** (5 Minutes)
 - a. Minutes of Meetings
 - i. Regular Board Meeting: January 11, 2023
 - ii. Special Board Meeting: January 23, 2023
 - b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - i. Approval of Bills
 - c. Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
 - i. Goska, Barbarajean, Preschool Teacher, JFK
 - d. Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - i. Superintendent Report
 - ii. WSD-UVMMC Parking Lot Agreement
7. **Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):** (60 minutes)
 - a. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - i. Discussion/Action: Approval of FY22 Audit
 - ii. Discussion/Action: Approval of FY23 Quarter 2 Financial Management Report (FMR)
 - b. Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting

- i. Discussion: FY24 Budget Cycle Reflection

8. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV): (45 Minutes)

- a. Policy Title: 4.1 Governing Style-Superintendent Search Process
 - i. Discussion: Timeline Revision
- b. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - i. Discussion/1st Reading: Tobacco Prohibition
 - ii. Discussion/1st Reading: Communicable Disease Mitigation Measures for Students and Staff

Consent Agenda

- d. Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - ii. WSD-UVMMC Parking Lot Agreement: We were able to negotiate an increase in the charge for parking spaces from \$4800 to \$8000 after searching the cost of spaces in Winooski and Burlington, and given our ongoing parking capacity challenges.

February: School Board Recognition Month

A quality public education is a key that can open doors of opportunity for many students. Providing that education takes a team of committed people from educators and staff to parents and administrators. The members of your local school board are an important part of this team, making informed decisions that direct the course of our public schools.

In February we take time to celebrate and recognize the challenging and vital work they do on behalf of our students, families and community.

As locally elected officials, school board members are invested in their communities. They are our neighbors, friends, local leaders, parents and engaged senior citizens.

During this month of appreciation, please take a moment and show your gratitude for school board members' time, dedication and effort year-round. Boards of education connect the will of the community to the education of its children. The job they do is necessary to ensure our schools remain a pathway to a promising future. Thank them for advocating on behalf of our collective interest, and most importantly, for making the success of our children their priority.

Staffing Update: We continue to have a handful of support staff openings, please activate your networks to support WSD in filling open positions.. [Please click here for all WSD open positions.](#)

Early Learning/PreK: Thanks to the board's approval of the use of fund balance to support an Early Learning teacher to open a preschool classroom that had to close late December, we welcome Barbarajean Goska to our early learning team. Champlain Valley Head Start has been unable to fill this position and this new hire made it possible for us to reopen the classroom and offer 13 preschool students to attend a high quality early education program supporting school readiness development.

FY24 Budget Information

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>More Information</u>
Feb, 7	<u>Annual Report Distribution</u>			https://www.wsdvt.org/school-board/budget/
Tues, Feb 7	<u>Winooski School Budget Presentation Forum- Kamal and Alex</u>	5:25 PM	Available on various platforms	https://www.cctv.org/news/tmd23-schedule

<u>Wed.</u> <u>Feb 8</u>	<u>Regular Board Meeting</u>	<u>6:30 PM</u>	<u>WSD-Shared Gathering Room</u>	
<u>Thurs.</u> <u>Feb 9</u>	<u>City and School Budget Presentation Community Dinner</u>	<u>Dinner at 5:30 PM. WSD Presentation at 6:00 PM</u>	<u>O'Brien Community Center</u>	https://www.winooski.vt.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1161
<u>Mon.</u> <u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Budget Flyer Distribution</u>		<u>Online and mailed to Winooski residents</u>	https://www.wsdvt.org/school-board/budget/
<u>Fri.</u> <u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Early Voting Starts</u>		<u>City Clerks Office</u>	https://winooski.vt.gov/townmeeting
<u>Wed.</u> <u>Feb 22</u>	<u>City and School Virtual Budget Presentation</u>	<u>6:00 PM</u>	<u>Zoom</u>	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84364849328
<u>Mon.</u> <u>Mar 6</u>	<u>Annual Meeting</u>	<u>City at 6:00 PM. WSD at 7:30 PM</u>	<u>WSD- Performing Arts Center</u>	
<u>Tues.</u> <u>Mar 7</u>	<u>Voting</u>	<u>7:00 AM - 7:00 PM</u>	<u>Winooski Senior Center</u>	https://winooski.vt.gov/townmeeting

Goal #1: College & Career Readiness

- **Portrait of a Graduate-** The Great Schools Partnership on behalf of the VT AOE, is supporting school districts in Vermont to reflect on their school's PoG. Writing a PoG is the state's effort to support calibration across school districts and their communities to refine, calibrate, and improve together! We are engaging our stakeholders in this opportunity on February 14th to look over our Graduation Expectations (GXs) and how we can improve the focus and development of our communities values in these transferable skills across all learning experiences here at Winooski. This will be an opportunity to continue our work in being more intentional with our transferrable skills and how to embed them across our curriculum and learning communities. PoGs guide all teaching and learning.
- We will finish our second round of screening assessments (DIBELS and Star) on February and have begun organizing and analyzing the data from those assessments.
- We collected and analyzed perceptual data on the implementation of our core ELA curriculum. Here is a summary:
 - All teachers report their stress levels at moderate to high levels. The stress level has come down since our first check-in.
 - Student engagement levels are high. This is a significant change from the fall when levels were moderate to low.
 - Opinions about student access have consolidated to moderate levels with a slight shift toward believing that students can access the program.
 - The belief that students can do this program has shifted in a positive direction with most teachers thinking students can do the work.
 - 50% of respondents said they are taking 4-6 hours per week to plan and 50% said that it was taking them more than 6 hours a week to plan.
 - The comments were overwhelmingly focused on the need for more planning time. Teacher need an at least an additional two hours of planning time each month to implement this program well.
- We are continuing to gather input from the community on a weekly early release schedule for next year.
- **JanPo** - During the week of January 13th to January 17th, students in grades 9-12, as well as our students who participate in our tech centers, presented their learning in all six Graduate Expectations (GX's). Student work was grounded in artifacts/evidence from their own work, and shared with peers and adults for feedback and support on next steps. For students who did not present work, they learned from other students on how to present work and receive feedback. Additionally, exhibitions provided teachers with rich feedback on how they can continue to support students on their learning journeys.

- **UPDATE on NEASC-** The high school faculty have been spending time since November in 5 self reflection standards committees evaluating evidence and students, parent and faculty survey results for our NEASC Accreditation. NEASC is a respected, effective, and time-tested methodology for school improvement and growth. It is not a single event, but rather an ongoing, voluntary cycle of comprehensive internal and external assessments, short- and long-term strategic planning, and periodic reporting sustained by professional partnership and support. It is intended to serve as a framework for schools to meet their own unique goals for student learning while maintaining alignment with research-based Standards for Accreditation that define the characteristics of high quality, effective learning communities. It also serves to assess the systems in place for ongoing institutional self-reflection and a school's commitment to and capacity for continuous growth and/or transformation. On March 29th & 30th, Winooski High School will be hosting an Accreditation Collaborative Conference Visit to discuss the report that will be submitted in early March in advance of the visit.
- During the EL JFK walkthroughs in January we saw strong literacy instruction:
 - Strong instructional routines, transitions, and predictable, safe learning environments kept students focused on learning.
 - Students were enthusiastically engaged in discussions about the books they were reading.
 - Strong visual supports anchor charts, word walls, images, and the use of interactive TV to display texts or images.

Goal #2: Healthy, Productive & Successful Lives

- **Coaches vs Cancer Basketball Games** - The WHS Spartan Basketball program hosted a Coaches vs. Cancer night on January 27th. With triple-header games at 4:30, 6:00, and 7:30, the night was dedicated to cancer awareness. On top of playing in honor of cancer awareness, the night included opportunities to share stories and honor survivors and those lost. Help them reach their goal of raising \$1,500 to fund cancer research, patient support, and advocacy by following this [link!](#)
- The third grade students are learning to cross country ski again this year. This is the second year that the third graders have worked with the Catamount Trail Association to teach all third graders how to cross country ski.

- **LGBTQ+: Reported Concerns from some of our Community Members**

Some of our Winooski community members had concerns after hearing about a school-based meeting in Minnesota addressing LGBTQ+ curriculum in schools, and an article in the New York Times.

[“Fears over LGBTQ school policies overflow at jammed meeting of Somali parents in Burnsville, Minnesota”](#)

In response to their concerns, our MLL Department (Multilingual Liaisons) in collaboration with school administrators, guidance counselors, health educator, Flexible Pathways & Work-based Learning Coordinator, and one of our school nurses held an event on Saturday, January 21st from 10:30-12:30 pm at our school's Performing Arts Center. The event was well attended, with about 50 or so of our Multilingual families (mainly Somali and Arabic speaking community members) attending the event. We were able to address the misunderstanding they had about LGBTQ+ curriculum in our school district. They were concerned because they were under the impression that we required all students to attend LGBTQ+ classes, and that this was happening without their consent, as it is a violation of their culture and religious beliefs. We clarified that we do not have a mandatory LGBTQ+ class and it is not included in our curriculum. We do, however, offer a Pride Club where anyone who identifies as a member of the LGBTQ+ community or anyone who supports these individuals is welcome and feels safe.

Our main message to them was, and remains, that the Winooski School District (WSD) is a welcoming school which functions under the State of Vermont's laws, policies and regulations around education.

WSD does not discriminate against anyone in various protected categories. We welcome and make space for anyone in our district and hope for continued collaboration between our community members and school staff for a better school community.

Goal #3: Local & Global Community Engagement

- **Stop School Violence Posters-** To encourage safety across the Winooski School District (WSD), the district's Public Safety Committee recently published a [series of posters urging staff, students, and visitors to report threats of school violence](#). The posters, which direct users to an anonymous reporting system will be hung throughout the building and distributed widely. In summary, the Public Safety Committee wants the WSD community to be vigilant and take responsibility under the motto *Hear Something, See Something? Say Something?* The Public Safety Committee will be printing these posters and hanging them in shared spaces around the building.
- WMHS Celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with Restorative Justice circles in advisory and presentations on King's legacy by Jolivette Anderson-Douoning who is a Winooski parent and is the Edmundite Scholar in Residence for History at St. Michael's College.
- 2nd grade is participating in ECHO's STEM Teachers Institute. This is great, year long professional development for our teachers. It also provides hands-on learning experiences for the 2nd grade students connected to the curriculum.

Finance/Operations

FY 23 Budget: As laid out in the 2nd quarter FMR for Fiscal Year 2023, we are predicting an unfavorable balance of -\$12,926 or -0.06% of the approved budget. Last quarter we were projecting a much larger deficit, in part due to the Board reinstating two positions that were budgeted to be eliminated and much higher than expected tuition and professional services expenses in the special education department. This quarter, the projected deficit has been narrowed substantially due to the final terms of the USDA loan that closed in October 2022. Under the repayment schedule approved at closing, in FY 23 the WSD owes an interest-only payment of \$618,750, rather than the \$1.4m payment originally modeled and budgeted for.