



Winooski School Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 6:00pm
WSD Library Learning Commons or via Google Meet
Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/szx-gwkh-oe

Policy Title 1.0 Ends Statement: 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.

Attendees: Robert Millar, Isaiah Donaldson, Kamal Dahal, Elom Essiba, Nicole Mace, Sarah Haven, Cheyne Racine, Matt Gonzalez, Krista Parisi, Quinn (Harvard Intern), Duane Sherwood, Margaret Summers, Sam Spigos

1. **Call to Order:** 6:00pm

2. **Agenda Review and Adjustments:**

*No adjustments noted by Board President Robert Millar.

*Kamal Dahal notes that he would like to make an adjustment and add time to recognize past Board member Steven Berbeco for his service on the WSD Board of Trustees after agenda item #3.

3. **Recognition of Asian American, Pacific Islander & Jewish American Heritage Month**

*Board recognizes Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and Jewish Heritage Month. Robert also brings to attention that it is Mental Health Awareness Month.

4. **Recognition of Former WSD Board Member:**

*Kamal thanks Steven for joining tonight's meeting. He makes note and thanks Steven for his help in navigating his new role when he first joined the WSD Board. Kamal speaks to Stevens' calm demeanor and thoughtful approach to board topics as well as his work with the community and desire to engage students. He notes the many ways that Steven's past experiences helped bring perspective to many Board topics.

5. **Public Comments:** None

6. **Consent Agenda:**

a. Minutes of Meetings

i. Regular Board Meeting: April 10, 2024

ii. Scholarship Committee Meeting: May 1, 2024

- b. Field Trip Approval
 - i. WHS French Class to Participate in a Cultural & Linguistic Tour of Montreal
- c. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - i. Approval of Bills: May 2024

**Motion made to accept the consent agenda as presented to the board. Motion passes unanimously.*

7. Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1):

- a. Discussion: Recent Community Activities by Board
 - i. Isaiah spoke about the most recent Anti Racism Steering Committee Meeting that was organized by ARSC youth members. Isaiah noted the success of the event and the attendance by others in the community. It was noted that all board members attended the event.
 - ii. Nicole spoke about her continued involvement with the Champlain Housing Trust and continued work with that group to help provide secure and affordable housing to those living in Winooski and those who have been displaced. She shared the Board Housing Resolution with the group, noted that it was inconclusive but feels it's necessary to continue working on a resolution for this work.
- b. Discussion: Newsletter Assignment
 - i. Robert Millar is the board member assigned to the upcoming Newsletter article. Any board members that have items they would like added should reach out to him directly.
- c. Discussion: Board Community Engagement Planning Document
 - i. The board noted that they would welcome an additional tab in the Board Annual Planning document to keep this topic centralized and easily accessible to all board members. This tab has been created and is labeled Engagement Contacts.
 - ii. Nicole offered to be the board member that will keep this document up to date. She notes that it would be helpful if board members would sign up to communicate with specific groups that are already listed in the document. She will keep an eye on the document to confirm that all board members are signed up to communicate with specific groups.
- d. Discussion: Legislative Update
 - i. Wilmer noted that he has been keeping up with all legislative updates and information. He gave an overview of meetings/amendments that have been taking place and will keep an eye out for the final outcome. Any major information that could affect budgetary needs for the board will be communicated through Wilmer when he learns of it.

8. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):

- a. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - i. Discussion/Action: Quarterly Financial Management Report
 - 1. The committee predicts a deficit for the current fiscal year due to an increase in students' needs, benefits increase and the cost of new hires.
 - 2. On the Revenue side we have \$1million plus in Fund balance for FY24

*Isaiah asks about the current deficit and how it might affect the FY25 budget, should the district project a deficit for FY25 and budget accordingly? Nicole comments on the FY24 budget and that there was not a cushion for that budget, this information was known going into the current fiscal year. The FY25 budget has

been built to withstand any additional budgeting needs that may arise in FY25. For more information please view the WSD Board Meeting linked [here](#).

b. Policy Title: 2.9 Race and Equity

i. Discussion/Action: Internal Monitoring Report

1. This report is a lengthy report and contains samples of data and information provided by the Leadership Team. The full report can be viewed by clicking on [this link](#).

****Motion made to accept Policy 2.9 Race and Equity Internal Monitoring Report. Motion passes unanimously.***

c. Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board

i. Discussion/Action: May Superintendent's Report to the Board

1. The Board remarked on the thoroughness of this report.
2. Nicole thanked Wilmer for information around the

****Motion made to accept the May Superintendent's Report to the Board. Motion passes unanimously.***

9. **Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):** (45 Minutes)

a. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies

i. Discussion: Safe Schools Resolution

*Margaret Summers and Sam Spigos addressed the board as representatives of Moms Demand Action, a grassroots organization around gun safety. Margaret and Sam spoke with the board around safe gun ownership/secure storage of arms to prevent firearm death among children. Moms Demand Action feels that passing the resolution, [a sample document can be read here](#), would be impactful to all in the community and would work to end gun violence. The group is currently working with both Patrice Lumumba and Mohamed Diop to get this information to **all** members of our community.

*Isaiah notes the importance of this work and inquires about the group, meeting dates and attendance by community members. At this time the largest participants are from Chittenden County but the group is welcoming to all that wish to join and learn more about combating gun violence. It is noted that the group is a non political and non for profit group.

*Wilmer notes that he has approved to have the Wellness Director start to work with this group but passing a resolution does fall directly to the board. Discussion around this resolution, adoption by this board and how it might impact board work did come up. Wilmer noted that this discussion has valid points and brings to light the lack of a Policy around Board involvement in adopting Resolutions from outside groups.

ii. Discussion/Action: Policy Third Read and Approval for Adoption

1. C21 Search and Seizure of Students by School Personnel

*Policy C21 was discussed by the Board, Superintendent and Quinn (Harvard Intern) with any additions, changes and corrections color coded on the document.

****Motion was made to approve Policy C21 for adoption. Motion passes unanimously.***

iii. Discussion/Action: Policy Second Read and Approval for Adoption

1. F22 Electronic Communications Use and Retention

*Policy F22 was discussed by the Board and Superintendent. It was noted that gender neutral language was added to the Policy.

****Motion was made to approve Policy F22 for adoption. Motion passes unanimously.***

iv. Discussion/Action: Policy First Read

1. A21 Public Participation at Board Meetings

*Existing policy that has been brought to the board because of a newer version that was recently added by the VSBA. Wilmer notes that the existing policy is extremely similar but he did make some adjustments as the current Policy references a procedure that we no longer have.

b. Policy Title: 4.2.9 Negotiate Union Contracts

i. Action: Ratify Union Contract Support Staff Unit

1. The Board confirmed that the salary increase for Support Staff falls within the budget. It was also noted that the WSD payscale is one of the best in the county at this time, extremely competitive and well within the WSD budget.

****Motion was made to ratify the Union Contract - Support Staff Unit. Motion passes unanimously.***

ii. Discussion/Action: Ratify Side Letter Regarding Start Time Adaptations

1. The Superintendent recommends that the board approve the side letter based on the presentation and information that was shared with the board during an earlier meeting. This information can be viewed [here](#) and the previous meeting can be viewed [here](#).

***Motion was made to ratify the side letter regarding Start Time Adaptations and empower Board President Robert Millar to sign the agreement. Motion passes unanimously.**

c. Policy Title: 4.8.1 Governance Investment

i. Take Board Photo

1. Board photo was taken and can be viewed on the [WSD Board](#) webpage.

d. Policy Title: 4.9 Board Committee Principles

i. Discussion: Scholarship Committee Report Out

1. The Committee gave an overview of the information learned at the first Board Scholarship Committee meeting. They noted the current amount given to recipients of the scholarship as well as criteria that needs to be met to be considered for this scholarship. After discussion the Board noted that they would like to find a way to increase the funds given for this scholarship. They recognized that this may not be possible in the current FY but would like to make it a priority moving forward.

10. **Next Agenda:** (5 Minutes)

11. **Upcoming Important Dates:**

- a. 5/16: K-12 Early Release at 12:15pm, No Preschool
- b. 5/17: Veggie VanGo
- c. 5/26: WHS Prom
- d. 5/27: No School, PreK-12
- e. 6/6: WMHS Orchestra, Chorus & Band Concert
- f. 6/7: Middle School Camp Abnaki Trip
- g. 6/12: Regular School Board Meeting

- h. 6/13: Last Student Day, Early Release at 12:15pm
- i. 6/15: Graduation

12. **Adjourn:** 7:49pm