Winooski School Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 6:00 pm
WSD Library Learning Commons or via Google Meet
Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/szx-gwkh-oee

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: **Wilmer Chavarria**, **Cheyne Racine**, **Matthew Gonzalez**, **Allyssa Ravelin**, **Robert Millar**, **Matt Gile**, **Sarah Haven**, **Krista Parisi**, *Elom Essiba, Kamal Dahal (virtual), Michael Eppolito (virtual).*

1. **Call to Order**: **6:03 pm**
    a. Robert Millar calls meeting to order @ **6:03pm.**

2. **Agenda Review and Adjustments:**
    a. Robert Millar asks if there are any adjustments to the agenda.
        i. *None shared.*

3. **Announcements and Recognitions**
    a. Global Diversity Awareness Month
        i. Robert Millar- Also Indigenous People's Day.
    b. Winooski's Caitlin MacLeod-Bluver named Vermont Teacher of the Year
        i. Robert Millar - Congratulations 2025 Teacher of the Year from Winooski
        ii. Kamal Dahal- Shared his congratulations! He witnessed her students and her teaching and agrees that she is very deserving.
    c. Budget Buddy Recruitment
        i. Robert Millar- The board is still looking for Budget Buddies. He asks board members to try for budget buddy attendance at the next meeting.
        ii. Elom Kpesse- Inquires about paperwork needed for those that wish to participate as a budget buddy. Robert Millar shares that he would appreciate an email to him and Wilmer Chavarria .
    d. Other Announcements and Recognitions

> i. Elom Essiba- Shares recognition of Linda who worked in the kitchen and recently retired.

4. **Public Comments:** This item is reserved for comments and questions on topics that are not included on this agenda. Time for public comment is included by default for each item below.
   a. Robert Millar- Asks if any public has any comments?
      i. ***None given.***

5. **Consent Agenda:** (5 Minutes)
   a. Minutes of Meetings
      i. Regular Board Meeting: September 11, 2024
      ii. Finance Committee Meeting: September 6, 2024
   b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
      i. Approval of Bills:
   c. Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
      i. Approval of Teacher Contracts
         1. Molly Pitkin: Preschool, Teacher
   d. Robert Millar looks for a motion to approve the consent agenda.
   e. The motion passes unanimously.

6. **Policy Title: 4.8 Governance Investment**
   a. Board Learning: Selected Book Case
      i. Robert Millar- I would like to table this, the board is not prepared to do this tonight.
   b. Board Learning: Ends Statement Indicator of Compliance
      i. Wilmer Chavarria asked the board to look for pieces of data that are in line with Our Mission Statement. Using INDICATORS OF COMPLIANCE #3, "School programming is informed by up-to-date evidence and is based on choice, which in turn prepares students for the life they want to live now and into the future." When we look to add a class, are we looking to be sure it is high quality? Does it help students to prepare for the life ahead, the life they want to live? Is our program based on high quality? Is it based on the actual data?
      ii. Kamal Dahal- Are we looking at data that already exists, that we have collected, and that provides evidence for us to present to the community? Or are we thinking about collecting that data to fulfill that indicator of compliance? In other words, are we looking for data about the courses we currently offer our students, and the diversity of the courses that could lead up to the diverse fields that the students want to pursue? That could be one way to get data, the other set of data is learning from the students by conducting a survey or other data collecting and offering courses based on that.
         1. Wilmer Chavarria You asked the question and you also answered it, both of the options you presented are acceptable.
         2. Robert Millar Kamal hit on the choice piece, surveyed students and looked at the schedule. But what data do we have as a board that shows we are meeting what students need for the life they want to live now into the future?

3. Kamal Dahal- We benefit from collecting info from students about future prospects, we also need to know that many of our students may feel very undecided. If we don't have computer science classes, how could someone know if they want to go into computer science? If we have a lack of programming, it could be the reason that they are undecided.

4. Michael Eppolito Data to ensure we are most up-to-date. It is an interesting question. It isn't a data point, what is the evidence base we are drawing from to ensure our programming is up to date. In the Math and ELA core programs, the evidence base we are drawing from is two sources. Although blanking on the name, the organization that assesses programming- assesses to ensure we are in line with national core standards. Is it well-designed and easy to use? The core programs we are picking from are from there. Our intervention programs are coming from a research base, at least in literacy. In math, it is a research base but it's not as deep as literacy. Any intervention we are using in math and literacy comes from a research base that I have okayed. The other piece we don't use as much but I pay attention to is some work out of John Hopkins rating; How well programs address core knowledge of development, that's really around ELA or social studies. For our ED reports rating, we looked at and selected the highest-rated programs. John Hopkins didn't get the highest rating for ELA, it says there are a few gaps and those are areas we will need to think about long term. It is hard to find a core knowledge program that covers all the knowledge, at least that John Hopkins feels we should cover.

5. Wilmer Chavarria Using INDICATORS OF COMPLIANCE #4 "Students and families are nurtured and supported, and know how to access the resources available to them as they build lifelong habits of health and well being." What kind of data do you need to know if we are complying with this indicator?

6. Robert Millar - I see things on the list –Family Climate Survey, Youth trainer, health office visits.

7. Kamal Dahal- For nurturing, our meal service program and extracurricular activities. Having a survey of our multicultural families about their experience at our school, accessing resources, and navigating the system can be helpful. We are invested in that too. Data like the youth risk behavior survey.

8. Elom Essiba– Necessity Store. Parent-Family attendance, conference.

9. Wilmer Chavarria- #5 "The curricular design ensures options for students to connect their learning to their local and global context, and to engage in service and leadership." What are students exposed to in classes and co-curriculars? Anything students are exposed to here allows them to make connections locally and globally and to engage in service and leadership. How do we know that's the case? What kind of date would you need to see?

10. Robert Millar Setting aside the curriculum piece, what sort of extracurricular options are being made available to students and how are they being made available? Are they being available in a way that is accessible for students to access?

11. Kamal Dahal– Getting data on any students participating in any of the organizations that are outside of the school that came off the school curriculum. In social studies class, the student is interested in joining Model UN.
12. Robert Millar- So probably survey data again. On the curricular side, we are probably looking for data similar to #3, some kind of proof that we are providing basic needs but connecting their learning.

7. **Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1):**
    a. Discussion: Recent Community Activities by Board
        i. Robert Millar – Asks for any community activities from the board. Reminds the board and community about Halloween in Winooski.
            1. None Provided.
    b. Discussion: Newsletter School Board Update
        i. Robert Millar – I am up this month and will submit by Monday.

8. **Executive Limitations (Policy Section II)**:
    a. Policy Title: 2.2 Treatment of Staff
        i. Discussion/Action: Policy 2.2 Monitoring Report
            1. Wilmer Chavarria This is the second time it has been presented. Progress has been made. Emergency Situations and Written Personnel rules had the most changes. The language didn't change, maybe a couple of grammatical errors. Compliance reports were not done for all items.
            2. There was a discussion about how updated policies and procedures are shared with the staff and community. Wilmer noted that all approved policies and procedures are on the WSD website under Board information. Wilmer also noted that policies/procedures that directly affect specific staff members or groups are shared with them in a more deliberate manner.
            3. **Robert Millar Looks for a motion to accept the Policy 2.2 Monitoring Report**
            4. *Passe*s **Unanimously.**
    b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
        i. Budget Adoption Timeline
            1. Robert Millar shares the adoption timeline and the board discusses the list of potential meetings. This list can viewed here. Robert asks the board if November 27th works for everyone because it is the day before a holiday.
            2. The District Office will share a Doodle Poll with the Board and additional staff members to determine the dates that will work best for the second Board Budget meeting. An additional poll may be needed for the January 2nd meeting listed on the current Budget Timeline.
        ii. Budget Context Presentation Part 1
            1. Wilmer Chavarria – Shares the PowerPoint for FY 26. This document can be viewed here and the discussion around Budget Context can be found here.
            2. Sarah Haven- Discusses a pie chart from FY 25 of where the Investments by Object are allocated.

3. Wilmer Chavarria - Education Spending is the 34 million dollars that we spent this year. As budget season moves forward we will discuss our weighted funding per pupil. The Role of the Board this budget season is to pay attention to the numbers that are being shared, request information, and be sure that the budget is within our End Statement. The End Statement is equivalent to a Mission Statement. We are governed by Policy governance, we don't have a Mission Statement, we have an End Statement. We must comply. It is divided, not officially, by categories. [College and Career Ready, Heath, Productive and Successful, and Community.] To hear the discussion and see the PowerPoint, please view WSD School Board Meeting 10/09/24

*Robert Millar asks for a 5 minute break at 7:43 pm
* Robert calls the meeting back to order at 7:48 pm

    c. Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
       i. Discussion/Action: October Superintendent's Report to the Board
          1. Wilmer Chavarria It is just a general update. There are a couple of things that are required, like the Winooski use of federal grant funds. We are required to publicize this periodically, Michael Eppolito put this together. We also received the official letter from Matt Francis resigning as Treasurer which is shared in the October Report.
          2. Robert Millar– Any questions for Wilmer?
             a. None provided.
          3. Robert Millar looks for a motion to approve the October Superintendent's Report to the Board
          4. Passes Unanimously.

9. **Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):**
    a. Policy Title: 4.1 Governing Style
       i. Discussion/Action: Policy 4.2 Board Monitoring Report
      ii. Robert Millar– Looks for a motion to accept the Board Monitoring Report.
      iii. Passes Unanimously.
       iv. Discussion: VSBA Annual Meeting Resolutions
          1. Robert Millar– Asked if board members attended the webinar on the resolutions and reminded all that Iaiah Donaldson was appointed to be our voting member at the business meeting. Robert updated those in attendance that there are fewer resolutions this year. The first one was there last year which is calling on the legislature to pass a law that would raise the non-residential tax rate in any town where it wasn't the same as the homestead rate. That makes more sense in other towns than it does for Winooski. Other than that I think we should just go along with the recommendations for the resolutions.
          2. Kamal Dahal shares that the AI resolution is important. Robert Millar asks his thoughts on a resolution requiring a policy on AI. Kamal notes that it is important

to have a policy for this topic because it is becoming a part of our life in general, and the District should have some guardrails for that.

b. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
    i. Discussion/Action: Policy Second Read and Approval for Adoption
       1. D3 Responsible Use of Technology
       2. E20 Community Use of School Facilities
       3. PG 3.4 Monitoring Superintendent Performance
       4. Robert Millar– These three policies are up for a second read and approval for adoption. Would anyone like to make a motion for D3, E20 and PG 3.4?
       5. Kamal Dahal makes a motion to accept D3 Responsible Use of Technology, E20 Community Use of School Facilities, PG 3.4 Monitoring Superintendent Performance
       6. **Motion Passes Unanimously.**
    ii. Discussion/Action: Policy First Read
       1. D21 Educational Support System
          a. Wilmer Chavarria- Much of this is our response to the State Board of Education Rules. I am not sure why it isn't mentioned, but Act 173 is the law that says education support systems and the education support teams will be one of the main levels to make the new special education funding system mechanism work in Vermont. I just noticed Act 173 isn't here and I wonder why. The policy you are seeing here is from the VSBA and I recommend approval when the time comes.
          b. Kamal Dahal– Under implementation #2, it says the school board may approve or disapprove the procedure proposed by the superintendent or principal. Does this mean that all of the procedures you create you have to run by us for approval/disapproval?
          c. Wilmer Chavarria notes that the board does not typically approve each procedure but can make that change if they choose to. Robert Millar states that under policy governance he does not feel the board needs to approve all procedures.

c. Policy Title 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership
    i. Discussion: Preparation for 11/4 Joint Board-Council Meeting
       1. Robert Millar reminds the board of the joint meeting with the City Council at City Hall. He asks board members to share items they might like to see on the agenda and makes note that the MOU between the City and the School will be reviewed during this meeting.
       2. Robert Millar noted that working with the City as a joint group for items we want to be brought up to our legislatures may be a better option than approaching as separate groups as we have done in the past.
       3. Wilmer Chavarria reminded the Board that they did a presentation for last years joint meeting.
       4.

10. **Next Agenda:**
    a. Robert Millar asks if there is anything to put on the agenda for the next meeting.
    b. ***Nothing provided.***

11. **Upcoming Important Dates:**
    a. Wednesday, 10/9: Early Release, 11 am, MHS Parent Teacher Conferences
    b. Thursday, 10/10: No school Prek-12, MHS Parent Teacher Conferences
    c. Friday, 10/11: No School Prek-12 (Yom Kippur/Dashain)
    d. Friday, 10/18: Veggie VanGo
    e. Monday, 10/21: Lions Club Vision Screening - JFK
    f. Wednesday, 10/23: Lions Club Vision Screening - WMHS
    g. Friday, 11/1: No School Prek

12. **Adjourn: 8:10 PM**
    a. Robert Millar asks for a motion to adjourn this meeting.
    b. **Kamal Dahal makes a motion to adjourn.**
    c. **Motion Passes Unanimously.**