



Winooski School Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 13, 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.

1. **Call to Order:**

- a. Called to order at **6:00 pm.**

2. **Agenda Review and Adjustments:**

- a. Robert Millar asks to move item 9 before the board enters executive sessions.

3. **Announcements and Recognition**

- a. Native American Heritage Month
- b. Budget Buddy Introductions
- c. Other Announcements and Recognitions
 - i. None

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. [Request from students](#) - Barakit Gyi shares that WSD has students interested in volleyball teams and playing regularly. They are presenting to the board tonight because of a funding need for painting lines on the gym floor and additional equipment needed for this ask. Camilla Thomassen-Tai is here in support of this request.
- b. Nicole Mace shares that a written letter has been submitted as well.
- c. Sarah Haven asks about the cost related to this request.
- d. Camilla Thomassen-Tai Shares that the cost of equipment is in the \$4000-\$6000 range and that both she and the students have reached out to Cheyne Racine, Director of Facilities, regarding additional funds needed for line painting.

5. **Consent Agenda:** (5 Minutes)

- a. Minutes of Meetings
 - i. Regular Board Meeting: October 9, 2024

- ii. Finance Committee Meeting: November 4, 2024
- b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - i. Approval of Bills
 - c. Robert Millar asks if there is a motion to accept the consent agenda.**
 - d. Isaiah Donaldson- “So Moved.”**
 - e. Passed Unanimously.**

6. **Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):** (30 minutes)

- a. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Conditions and Activities
 - i. Discussion/Action: Policy 2.3 Monitoring Report
 - 1. Nicole Mace asks for more clarification/definition for the actual versus projected budget. How do we go about rectifying that? It was from the prior administration and the board had been briefed all along about the over-budget spending. We have signed things saying that we wouldn't do that so once we have a whole year of a budget under this administration, I am wondering how we might acknowledge that in a monitoring report. Nothing wrong happened but sometimes budgets don't always go according to plan.
 - 2. Wilmer Chavarria notes that the district is happy to add nuance and length to the interpretation. Right now, they are short, brief, and straightforward interpretations. Whatever is said here is with the assumption that our current processes, procedures, practices, and personnel abide by our policy; Not necessarily saying that we are accountable for the effects of previous decisions that now show us that we were not in compliance. We are speaking about this moment. Do we have the structures, and mechanisms to identify policy violations? Are we in compliance with the continuum over multiple years? Since we get a yearly report of this kind, we will be able to accomplish those tasks. I interpret this report as asking if we have complied over the past 12 months. Are we doing things to ensure we are doing what we are saying? If we cannot add more nuance to the interpretation maybe we should reflect on differences going forward.
 - 3. Robert Millar asks what the board would like to see moving forward.
 - 4. Nicole Mace Not necessarily, just making note of that wasn't what happened reading the report. We were aware the whole time and knew that policies were being followed.
 - 5. Robert Millar looks for a motion to accept Policy 2.3 Monitoring Report, 2024 version.**
 - 6. Isaiah Donaldson- So Moved.**
 - 7. Passes Unanimously.**
 - ii. Finance Committee QFMR and Memo
 - 1. Kamal Dahal reviewed the Q1 finance management report. He noted that it's a little too early to determine if we are going to be in line with our approved budget.

The next two quarters will give more information and a full picture on if we are in line with our budgeted amount.

2. No further questions were noted.

b. Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting

i. Budget Context Presentation

1. Wilmer reviewed a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2026 Budget. This presentation gives a timeline of the Budget Adoption process, reviews our District Budget and education spending including a breakdown of how the final tax liability is calculated, and discusses the Board's role during Budget Adoption. The full presentation can be [viewed here](#). The 2026 Budget Presentation slides can be found [here](#).

2. After the presentation to the board, there were no additional questions/comments from the public.

3. Nicole Mace shares that the formulas shared will make more sense when we have actual numbers.

4. **Robert Millar calls a 5-minute break @ 7:42 am.**

5. **Robert calls the meeting back to order @ 7:50 am.**

ii. Budget Outreach and Communication

1. Robert Millar Shares that he would love to have a board member or two take the lead on the budget.

2. Nicole Mace states that the Board established a good model last year and fully supports the Board repeating the same process.

3. Isaiah Donaldson and Kamal Dahal are both willing to commit to participating in this outreach and will try to find new and different ways to engage the community.

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

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

1. Robert Millar opens the floor for discussion.

2. Nicole Mace states that Congratulations are in order all the way around. She is proud of the great things and educators in the district. She did ask for clarification around the Pre-K Dibels scores and wondered if the district should note that our teachers are working with a wide range of students.

3. Isaiah Donaldson made note of page 8 on the report about the food committee. He noted that there has been positive feedback, students are participating in the meetings and Geunuine is being receptive to the feedback and making changes very quickly.

4. **Nicole makes a motion to approve the November Superintendent's Report to the Board**

5. **Motion passes Unanimously**

7. [Governance Processes \(Policy Section IV\)](#): (45 Minutes)

a. Policy Title: 4.8 Governance Investment

i. Discussion: Report on VSBA Annual Meeting

1. Board members spoke about how great our students did when presenting at the conference. They highlighted the bravery of those who participated and that it was an honor to be present for the presentations.
- ii. Discussion: Annual Board Self Assessment
 1. Robert Millar made a note that the Board is not looking at charts today. An email was shared with the board and he is asking them to respond to that email ASAP.
- b. Policy Title: 4.2 Board Job Description
 - i. Discussion: Recent Community Activities by Board
 1. Elom Essiba participated in the Karivu Fashion Show at CVOEO to raise money for asylum seekers.
 2. Isaiah Donaldson mentioned the Winter Market from 10 am - 2 pm at the Winooski Senior Center. He mentioned that the Halloween event was fantastic and focused on the community. He noted the Joint City Meeting.
 3. Nicole gave an update on the Commission for the Future of Public Education that she is currently serving on as the VSBA's representative. She is currently serving on the finance committee and steering group. The finance committee meets every other week and is working on a report that needs to be filed by December 15th with findings of things they hope to implement in the FY'26 budget. She viewed a presentation by Larry Pikus about his report on how money could be saved if we delivered education very differently and noted that she had the opportunity to ask him questions about why he concluded that our weights for multilingual learners would be so low. This information can be viewed by following [this link](#). Nicole notes that the meetings are relatively well attended, primarily by educators in the districts where the meetings are being held. In December Nicole should be able to share any recommendations the commission is trying to push for.
 - ii. Discussion/Action: City Council Letter to Legislators
 1. Robert reviews the letter that the City presented at the joint meeting on 11/4. The City meeting Minutes can be [viewed here](#). He asks the Board for feedback and thoughts on whether they want to sign with the City Council.
 2. Isaiah supports signing and would like to send it out ASAP.
 3. Nicole supports signing
 4. ***Isaiah Donaldson make a motion to to allow Board President Robert Millar to sign the letter barring any major changes.***
 5. ***Motion passes unanimously***
 - iii. Discussion: Meeting with Local Legislators
 1. The Board discussed the need to pick a meeting to invite our legislators to a budget meeting. Robert suggests sending a Doodle Poll to the Legislatures to determine which meeting would be best for them to attend.
- c. Policy Title: 4.1 Governing Style
 - i. Discussion/Action: Policy 4.4 Board Monitoring Report
 1. The report notes partial compliance in some areas and full compliance in others. Robert notes that the Board has some work to do and appreciates the depth of the report.

2. ***Robert asks for a motion to approve the Board Monitoring Report.***
3. ***The motion passes Unanimously.***
- d. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - i. Action: Public Hearing and Adoption of Policies
 1. D3 Responsible Use of Technology
 2. E20 Community Use of School Facilities
 3. PG 3.4 Monitoring Superintendent Performance
 4. E21 Distribution of Non-School Sponsored Literature in Schools
 5. B5 - Employee Unlawful Harassment
 - a. ***Robert asks for a motion to accept the Public Hearing and Adoption of Policies: D3, E20, PG 3.4, E21 & B5***
 - b. ***Motion Passes Unanimously***
 - ii. Discussion/Action: Policy Second Read and Approval for Adoption
 1. D21 Educational Support System
 - a. Wilmer notes that there are no changes to this Policy.
 - b. ***Robert asks for a motion to approve D21 Educational Support System for Adoption***
 - c. ***Motion passes Unanimously***
 - iii. Discussion/Action: Policy First Read
 1. F24 Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Procurement
 - a. Wilmer notes that according to the VSPA, there were no significant changes to this one other than formatting.
 - b. There was a discussion about if this policy was adopted in 2018 and why it was not posted on the website.
 - c. Isaiah asks a question about the monetary value and the relevance of that number. Wilmer notes that the value was chosen by the previous board but is not aware of the history or reason for the value that was decided on. This discussion can be viewed by going to [this link](#).
 - d. Robert will research the policy and asked for additional questions for the second read.
 - i. ***None provided***

****A Motion is made by Elom Essiba to enter into Executive Session. Sarah Haven, Wilmer Chavarria, Union Representative Matt Gile, and Shannon Fountain are invited to join the session.***

****Board Enters Executive Session at 8:41 pm***

8. Executive Session: (30 minutes)

- a. Premature Public Knowledge
 - i. Grievance Step 3
 - ii. Superintendent Evaluation Conference

****Board Returns from Executive Session at 9:30 pm***

9. Next Agenda:

- a. ***Nothing Provided***

10. **Upcoming Important Dates:**

- a. Friday, November 8th and Tuesday, November 12th: Student Flu Shot Clinic, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Winooski School District School Based Health Center
- b. Thursday, November 14th: Fall Concert, 7:00 PM, WSD PAC
- c. Friday, November 15th: Veggie VanGo
- d. Thursday, November 21st and Friday, November 22nd: Early Release, JFK Family - Teacher Conferences
- e. Saturday, November 23rd: PTO Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Winooski School District
- f. Monday, November 24 - Friday, November 29: Fall Break - No School

11. **Adjourn:**

- a. *Meeting adjourned at 9:32 pm*