



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

To: WSD Board President and Board of Trustees
From: Wilmer Chavarria, WSD Superintendent
Re: **Superintendent's Report for January and February 2025**
Date: 2/12/2025

Dear Members of The Board,

Below please find my report for **January and February 2024** and refer any questions about a given item directly to me during the regularly scheduled board meeting or to the Board President and me if your inquiry is prior to the meeting.

Thank you for your work in advancing the Ends Statement of our district to form students who will "lead healthy, productive and successful lives and engage with their local and global community."

Respectfully Submitted,

Wilmer A. Chavarria, NBCT
Superintendent of Schools
Winooski School District
wchavarria@wsdvt.org



Students listen to instructions for their next activity in the JFK Literacy Lab

GENERAL UPDATES

The new school calendar draft is included in this packet for your approval. There are many things in it that can cause dissatisfaction from different stakeholders, but as usual, a calendar is a series of compromises and problem solving under many guidelines and requirements. A new practice we started last year is the coordination with our region to ensure that most things align, not only the major breaks. This means that in order for Winooski to be allowed to continue recognizing important holidays like Eid or Dashain, we had to be able to also accommodate the calendar needs of neighboring communities. After a long process, the region agreed on a calendar draft that became the basis for ours. I recommend that the board give its approval.

Board members were registered for the “Virtual Forum for Policy Governance® Boards.” You are strongly encouraged to attend as part of your regular revisiting and strengthening of our governance model. Meetings will take place at 6 PM for one hour on the following dates: February 24, March 13, April 10, May 8, and (Tuesday) June 17. “The forum will be facilitated by a nationally certified Policy Governance® trainer. To build a cohort, participants will commit to and do their best to attend all five sessions. Participants may submit a topic or question for discussion prior to each session.”

AN UPDATE FROM THE WINOOSKI ARSC STUDENTS

ARSC stands for Anti-Racism Steering Committee. We are a group of WSD students and allies, including staff, district leaders, and community members. We believe in the power of diversity, equity, student leadership, student voice, and collaboration to solve problems in our community. Our goal is to promote the creation of spaces in our community for BIPOC individuals to thrive, work together, and tell their stories. We achieve this vision through supportive teamwork and engaging in action groups that address challenges and opportunities such as:

- Diversity in WSD staffing
- Building a PreK-12 ethnic studies curriculum
- Hosting educational workshops for the community
- And offering civil rights workshops for students.

One way we are advancing our mission this year is by surveying the middle and high school students with questions about the school environment and safety from their perspectives. Using the data from the survey we plan to organize our next steps to support students the best we can.

In our efforts to uplift and empower students, we are connecting them to mentorship programs around Chittenden County. Additionally, we have been working on establishing a course proposal that integrates ethnic studies for middle and high school, promoting cultural awareness and understanding in our community.

To share our work with more students and staff, we plan to organize a bulletin board featuring updates, upcoming events, and opportunities for involvement. We are in the process of updating our ARSC website which will serve as a resource for those interested in our endeavors. Once our website is updated there will be a survey form available for anyone wishing to share questions or concerns and we will respond accordingly. To stay updated follow our Instagram @wsd_arsc or reach out to us via email at wsdarsc@gmail.com.

With Love and Appreciation,

The ARSC

Immigration Sweep



On Friday, the 5th graders presented their monologues to the rest of the 5th grade and their families. Students were grouped together based on the literary essays they wrote about Esperanza Rising. They had 4 conflicts to choose from, and they rewrote the conflict through the point of view of one of the characters. This was challenging for them as they were creatively writing to give characters thoughts, feelings, and intentions that weren't written in the text. They began learning about what a monologue is the Friday before, then practiced reading their monologues on Friday, 2/7 in the morning and presented to their families that afternoon!

GENERAL AND OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Parking Tags and Plan

Parking passes have been issued to address the school's current parking shortage and curb the habit of parking illegally throughout campus, especially on George Street. The George Street lot was becoming overcrowded with staff, visitors, and parents parking in dangerous ways, making it difficult to see pedestrians walking to and from that lot. We also noticed that many parking spots were being taken by individuals who do not work at the school making it difficult for school staff to find a parking spot on site.

Passes will be given to individuals who have communicated through a Google form that one is needed. This includes WSD staff and those contracted from outside organizations such as Howard Center and Genuine Foods. We have not opened the form to students because we are working to determine staff needs before we can concretely say how many open spots are available for students. Additionally, passes will not be offered to student teachers due to the parking shortage. They have been asked to park in the lot behind the baseball field or other public parking areas.

Once the district feels confident that all staff needing passes have them, we will start issuing a limited number of passes to student drivers. If we are not able to accommodate student parking in the main lots, they will be asked to park in the lot behind the baseball fields and will not need a pass to do so. We have seen some improvements with parking since asking student teachers to park behind the baseball field. Parking in the George Street lot has also improved with this communication around parking and with the pause in the Main Street project. Parking lots will be monitored weekly by the Facility team. Cars parked illegally will receive a warning as will cars that do not have parking passes.



**"Is this a dagger which I see before me,
Its handle pointing to my hand? Come, let me grasp it."**

These famous lines from Macbeth, spoken by the title character and written by William Shakespeare, were powerfully brought to life by our talented middle schoolers in a wonderful performance at a community meeting in front of their peers and staff.

GENERAL AND OPERATIONAL UPDATES (CONT.)

Our second and last options-based drill took place on Wednesday January 29. These drills are required by state law to take place twice a year but no active monitoring or support has been provided by the state. Winooski has created a comprehensive set of procedures for these drills that comply with the requirements while also being responsive to staff and student feedback. Although not required, additional training is currently being planned for staff (no students) to potentially go into more depth about the options in an active shooter emergency. This training, led by Officer Saja, will potentially require a more intense approach to relaying information and lessons learned from actual incidents around the nation, but staff will be able to opt out if they believe their mental health may be affected by the proposed exercises. More information will be provided to staff once the draft plan has been developed and approved by the Public Safety Committee.

GENERAL AND OPERATIONAL UPDATES (CONT.)

- **Despite President Trump's** January 20, 2025 Executive Order titled 'Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government' the WSD continues to abide by the VSBA 2020 Model Policy, and AOE 2015 Model Policy and Procedures pursuant to both federal Title IX and Vermont's Public Accommodations Act to prohibit and address harassment and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- **Harvard Institute:** Winooski and Burlington were represented at the Harvard's Superintendents Institute on "Leadership through Turbulent Times." This proved to be an exceptionally valuable experience for me especially given the current political context and the unique challenges and fears our community is experiencing. Colleagues from all over the country gathered to strategize ways in which we respond in real time to a fast-changing landscape that aims to sow chaos and dismantle some of the most vital foundations of public education. We engaged in deep discussion, reflection, and peer support, and I feel a great sense of purpose and energy as we head into the unknown. I appreciate that the board supported my ability to attend this institute.

Students engaged in reading and a Socratic seminar style discussion.





STUDENT VOICE

The absence of a snow day on February 6 caused a significant uproar among students, both in person and virtually. Here are a couple of examples of the messages we received:

“Dear Superintendent Wilmer,

I appreciate the careful thought that goes into deciding whether to close school for snow days. However, I want to bring attention to a concern that may not always be considered—students who walk home in extreme winter conditions. Winooski does have buses for students but it does not go to direct houses, which doesn't change the walking conditions.

For those of us who rely on walking, heavy snowfall, icy sidewalks, and freezing temperatures make the journey home difficult and dangerous. Walking several blocks in below-freezing temperatures, strong winds, and poor visibility puts students at risk of frostbite, slipping on ice, or struggling through unplowed paths. While buses and cars may manage in these conditions, students on foot have little protection against the harsh winter weather, especially with how many of us wear Crocs.

I understand that school closures can be difficult for some families, but no parent should be upset if the district prioritizes student safety. Keeping schools open despite hazardous conditions puts many students in a tough position, especially those without another way home besides walking. A delay or early release helps, but it doesn't change the fact that for some, walking home in extreme winter weather is a real safety concern.

I hope future decisions will consider not just road conditions for vehicles, but also the impact on students who have no choice but to walk. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,”

STUDENT VOICE (CONTINUED)

More strongly worded messages came as well. The example below demonstrated a high level of frustration for some:

“FREE WINOOSKI STUDENTS!!!!!!

Why are we the only schools still open when the weather is unsafe LOOK OUTSIDE it's not just cold, it's dangerous! If the safety of students is truly important, then why are we being sent to school in these bad weather Every other district is closing so why do we have to be the exception? It's frustrating that the concern over our safety isn't reflected in the decisions being made for our schooling If the concern is truly about making up for lost time, why not push those extra hours into the summer At least then we wouldn't have to risk our safety during a dangerous winter storm just to sit in a classroom.

We deserve better. Our safety is worth more than any schedule or policy. It's time for the school board to rethink its approach and fix this well-being. We shouldn't have to choose between our safety and our education. Please, FIX THIS and do what's right for all of us—FREE WINOOSKI STUDENTS!!!”

I responded within one hour of the final announcement and offered the following message, although nothing can completely assuage student disappointment:

“Dear students,

Let me begin by saying that I want a snow day too. It would be nice to have a moment of rest these days. But there is more to the story, and my position is one that unfortunately has to take responsibility for unpopular decisions.

Please know that weather-related closure decisions are made extremely carefully. When a school is closed, we receive substantial push back from families because it disrupts their plans, especially for parents and caregivers who have jobs that do not allow them the flexibility to leave and pick up their students or care for younger children during unplanned times.

On the other hand, the safety of students and staff forces us sometimes to have to close the schools when it is likely that the conditions will be hazardous within the travel time.

(continued on the column to the right)

(Continued)

This puts a superintendent in a difficult position, and no matter the decision, someone will be upset. If we close, many parents will send us upset emails because some may not believe there was a true emergency. If we stay open, on the other hand, students and staff will likely be upset. I understand. So, my decision ultimately is made independent of this pushback and based purely on information from NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), our local crews, and collaboration with neighboring districts.

Superintendents meet several times starting at 4 AM and monitor the weather before making a decision. We also receive real-time updates from the authorities. While some districts with dirt roads and mountains decided to close today, Winooski and neighbors (like Colchester, Burlington, and Milton) opted for remaining open after carefully reviewing the forecast. We decided to announce earlier the possibility of an early release just so that families would have some degree of advance notice if it came to it.

No matter the angle you see it, there is never a "right" decision. We just make it with the best information at our disposal. If there is a silver lining, we will not need to be in school for longer in the summer, since snow days would have to be made up at the end of the year.

I hope that this gives you a little more context, but please continue to provide feedback for how we can improve on this and all areas.



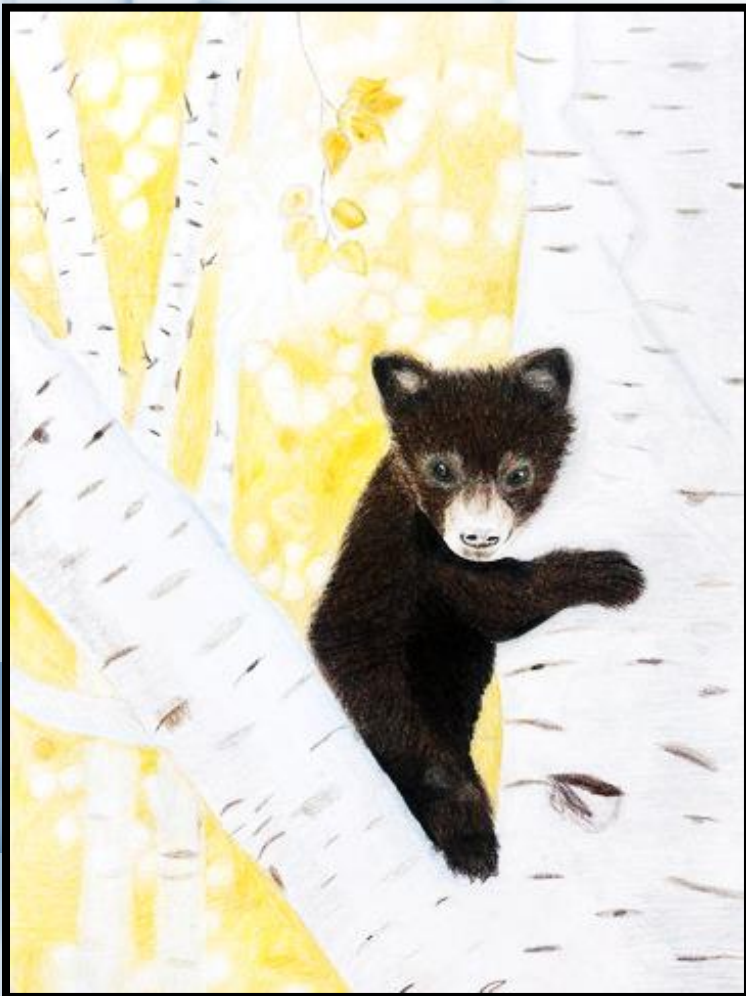
Middle schoolers working in a small group activity.

GENERAL AND OPERATIONAL UPDATED (CONTD.)

- **Rapid Response Team**, Civil Rights Workshops, Home Visits, School Information Center, and several other new initiatives are beginning to take shape in response to the call from students and community to establish ways to better support those who may face situations of immigration-related crises. While the board considers a policy, the other parts of the system are being polished so that we may be better prepared to respond to incidents. A daily 10-day check in is currently taking place as we monitor our local reality against the national backdrop. Our team is currently directly supporting two families who are facing an immediate crisis.
- **Honoring Spartan Legends**: We mourn the loss of two Spartan greats: Billy Mead, our cherished super fan whose spirit uplifted the community, and Kenny Atkins, our trailblazing first 1,000-point scorer whose excellence inspires generations. Their legacies remind us of the values and pride of Spartan Nation.
- **Invitation from Coach Jackson's Cancer Awareness Recognition Night**: Join us on February 11th for a special triple-header event at Spartan gym: Boys JV at 4:30 PM, Girls Varsity at 6:00 PM, and Boys Varsity at 7:30 PM. This important evening honors families impacted by cancer and celebrates the strength of our community. If you have a personal cancer story to share, please bring it forward. Let's unite as Spartans to celebrate, remember, and support. We invite all board members to attend this significant evening on February 11th. Celebrate Spartan achievements, cheer on our teams, and connect with the community as we honor the fight against cancer.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATION

While I am required to report to the board "significant" incidental information, it can be a subjective exercise to know with anticipation whether something will significantly impact the board's work, how something will be received by the public, and whether something requires your immediate attention (i.e. cannot wait until the regularly scheduled board meeting or my monthly report). Other than the policy monitoring reports, incidental information is provided to you through this report, and additional communication is normally ongoing between the superintendent and the board president. In order to be supportive to your current needs, however, moving forward I will be directing our Director of Communications to keep you informed of known media coverage that involves the school district. The relevance of this coverage may vary, but we will provide you with what we think may be of interest to you with a lower degree of selectivity than we would have otherwise used. We will also continue to directly notify the board president when a media organization requests direct communication with the board. Finally, please keep in mind that we cannot control how the media behave, but we can continue to be accessible to them and nurture a positive working relationship.



- **In recent art units**, Winooski's 7th and 8th grade artists have been exploring & celebrating the beauty of nature! Visual Arts classes recently practiced skills in drawing & painting realistic wildlife artwork, in which students depicted Vermont wildlife species in their habitats. This unit was followed by exercises in landscape painting with watercolors; our young artists layering colors and manipulating them with water and brushstrokes to create a sense of depth and texture development as well as register age-eligible children for preschool next year.
- **Dahlia Michoma**, sophomore at Winooski High School, recently auditioned for the 2024-2025 Vermont District III Choral Music Festival Scholarship and received an honorable mention. Dahlia performed her solo, "Letter to my 13 Year Old Self" by Laufey, on Friday, February 7th at Champlain Valley Union High School, where she excelled. Congratulations Dahlia.



Getting ready for an upcoming show.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READY

- **Expo Week took place in January** at Winooski High School! Expo Week celebrated and publicly showcased learning that concludes semester 1. Students displayed their growth, creativity, and accomplishments while demonstrating real-world skills such as presenting, giving feedback, performing, reflecting, and discussing. Capstone Presentations were a key feature of Expo Week. These presentations highlighted how students met and exceeded GXs (Graduation Expectations), which represent transferable skills vital for success beyond high school. Students are required to complete three Capstones to graduate, making this a meaningful milestone in their educational journey. Expo Week also gave younger students the opportunity to learn about and practice GXs in a supportive environment with their peers and teachers.
- **Thank you GlobalFoundries and UVM College of Engineering & Mathematical Sciences** for supporting WMHS in launching a new robotics team. Science teacher Dave McNally will be joining Jess Handrik in coaching the team. They will be meeting on Mondays afterschool, starting January 6 leading up to the competition at UVM on Saturday, Feb. 8.
- **Tech Centers Visits & Applications** are underway for high school students. Representatives from Burlington Technical Center and Center for Technology/Essex visited the school in December to answer student questions about their programs and application processes. Visits to these technical centers will take place this month.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READY

- **All students eligible for special education** aged 16 years and older are required to have a transition plan. This transition plan requires student input and voice so that it is an authentic plan of what the student would like to do as they work towards graduation and beyond. As of December 1st, 2024, Winooski has approximately 33 student transition plans with identified goals in the areas of education and employment. These students are also offered the opportunity to work with HireAbility which helps Vermonters with disabilities in finding and maintaining employment.
- **Isabella (Bella) Sances is a music therapist** who provides sessions to select students and groups within the Winooski School District. Bella states, "I use an integrative approach with a strength-based, client-centered, humanistic, psychodynamic, music-centered, play-based, trauma-focused, and developmental view. I adapt the session based on the client's needs and moods in the moment. I demonstrate verbal and non-verbal listening and observation skills while also accepting, reflecting, and incorporating feedback into sessions. As a dual-degree music therapist, I can use creative and music-based interventions to tap into inner creativity/self, and as the container in my sessions when clients are open to it. My goal is to create a warm, encouraging, validating, and inviting space to work on goals, find innate strengths, and see what makes the client shine. I am here to collaborate and guide the client in innovative and creative ways, and find the path towards acceptance that life is messy."

Student athletes having fun representing Winooski.





- **Winooski High School Technology and Research Skills**, a multilingual class for newer students taught by Ms. Annie, is collaborating with the local nonprofit Technology for Tomorrow. Technology trainers from Technology for Tomorrow are working with learners on their tech skills and training them to teach others the skills they are learning. In the spring, the class will create workshops for Winooski parents to learn technology from students. Our collaboration started in December 2024, and our first visit was held on December 11, 2024, with a lesson about using Zoom from the Tech for Tomorrow team. Our students were engaged and interested and learned how to help their parents learn Zoom. We are excited to be working with this fantastic nonprofit to help advance technology education for our entire community.
- **Federal law mandates** that all students identified as English Learners in K-12 public schools must take the state's annual English language proficiency assessment. This assessment is essential for tracking their progress in acquiring academic English. Vermont participates in the WIDA consortium, a group of states collaborating to fulfill the standards and assessment requirements established by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The WIDA Access Testing window for the current school year is open from January 6 to March 14, 2025.
- **Second graders in Ms. Beland's class** have been diving into the world of paleontology and fossils! They welcomed a paleobotanist who brought along real fossils—some over 100 million years old! Using magnifying glasses, students got an up-close look, fueling their curiosity and excitement about ancient life.



Middle school students engaging in text-based discussions.

HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL LIVES

- **JFK Ski Adventure:** Third graders in Ms. Demore's class had a fun-filled cross-country skiing adventure. After a week of cold, wind, and snow, they made the most of the fresh powder. For many, it was their first time on skis, and they had an absolute blast gliding through the winter wonderland.
- **Winooski School District is participating** in the Burton CHILL Foundation's free snowboarding program at Stowe Mountain Resort starting Thursday, January 9th. This program is being offered to a select number of students with disabilities for six Thursdays in January and February. The CHILL program offers more than just snowboarding lessons—it is designed to help students grow socially and emotionally through outdoor adventure and teamwork. At no cost to families, the program provides everything your student needs, including equipment, lessons, and transportation to and from Stowe Mountain Resort. This program helps bridge the gap between school and extracurricular life by promoting student engagement outside the classroom. Research shows that experiences like these improve attendance, academic performance, and overall well-being. By encouraging students to push past their comfort zones in a fun, supportive way, we're also helping them build stronger connections to school and their community.



4th Grade Holiday Project: The 4th-grade holiday project is a collaboration between the ELA and ML teachers, Meghan Dieterle and Amy Racicot. This project began last year and continued into this school year. This project allows students to learn about what other people celebrate at different times of the year. Students choose from a list of holidays celebrated by many people in our school and worldwide. They are then placed together into small groups based on their choice. They are given questions to research and time to speak with one another who celebrate the holiday. Students create a book from the information they have researched and pictures they have made and found while researching. After they complete the book, the class celebrates with a presentation of all the groups in each class. The JFK families are invited to celebrate with us.

HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE AND SUCESSFUL LIVES

- Every year, Winooski School District's clinical psychologist, MaryAnn Donnelly Debay, provides clinical supervision to one mental health intern. Katie Taylor is the mental health counseling intern in the Winooski School District for the 2024-25 school year and is completing the final year of her master's program in clinical mental health counseling at the University of Vermont. Katie currently provides individual or group counseling to more than 15 students, primarily focused in JFK Elementary, who need support in areas like emotional regulation, navigating interpersonal relationships, managing anxiety, and dealing with complex trauma. Katie engages student clients with warmth, creativity, and playfulness. Her approach is rooted in play therapy and the growing research that connects therapeutic play to positive neurobiological changes in children who have suffered trauma and attachment disorders. After graduating in May 2025, Katie will run a private play therapy practice based principally in JFK Elementary to offer accessible counseling services to Winooski students.



- **Our third Food Committee** meeting took place in January. This meeting focused on reviewing feedback and suggestions received from previous discussions, exploring actionable steps for improving the food program, and planning next steps. Patrice Lumumba, co-host of the meeting, would like to remind the us that “we value everyone's input and look forward to collaborating to enhance the dining experience for our community.”
- **The Building Wellness Leaders** and Patrice attend two wellness conferences annually. This past month, they attended their second wellness conference of the year held in Stowe on Wednesday January 22,2025.
- **Yoga sessions** are offered free of charge for all WSD students and staff. Sessions occur weekly on Tuesdays in the yoga room from 11am to 12pm.

- **Each year, public schools are required** to perform vision and hearing screenings on students in grades Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th and 12th. Each year, our health office frequently notices a high number of students with abnormal screening results that require further assessment by an ophthalmologist or optometrist in the community. Oftentimes we find that there are barriers to students accessing this higher level of assessment. This year, our health office partnered with Dr Sujata Singh, UVMC Pediatric Ophthalmologist to bring the advanced assessment to the students in Winooski. On December 11, 2024, Dr Singh and her team came to the health office and in the course of one day were able to provide advanced assessments to 20 students in grades Kindergarten and 1st grade. Of these 20 students, 11 were found to need corrective lenses. Prescriptions were provided so that families could obtain corrective lenses for their children. Dr Singh plans to come again in early spring to provide another round of advanced assessments for students in grades 3 and 5.
- **Our third Food Committee** meeting took place in January. This meeting focused on reviewing feedback and suggestions received from previous discussions, exploring actionable steps for improving the food program, and planning next steps. Patrice Lumumba, co-host of the meeting, would like to remind the us that “we value everyone's input and look forward to collaborating to enhance the dining experience for



LOCAL AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

- **There are multiple students** that are engaging in leadership opportunities in the 21C Afterschool Program. HS Leader Campbell commented, “Working with JFK students has been wonderful so far. It means a lot to me, as someone who has been playing violin for so long, to see these younger students share the same excitement and love for music and the arts that I did at that age. I love being able to teach them everything I’ve learned over the years, and watch them grow as I did.” MS students are also stepping up and being positive leaders during the 21C afterschool Trading Cards and Chess Club. It is wonderful to see JFK students working collaboratively with MS students. MS student leader Ricky said, “It is nice to be able to teach the young’uns how to play cards.” MS student leader Aiden shared, “It is a fun way to get new people into playing Chess.”
- **Ms. Poquette's high school accounting** class celebrated the end of their projects with the Accounting Olympics. The event featured exciting games, trivia challenges, and a chance to earn 1,000 points for reciting and recording the Accounting Cheer. This engaging activity was the perfect way to unwind and recharge before the excitement of Expo Week.

LOCAL AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

- **Our schools recently hosted** Books and Beginnings, a family literacy event aimed at fostering a love of reading and early learning in our youngest learners. This event brought PreK families together to explore creative ways to support literacy development at home, including using wordless for making reading a meaningful part of family life. Thanks to Title I funds from the AOE, we were also able to send families home with new books to continue their reading journey together. Events like this highlight our commitment to engaging families as partners in education and building strong foundations for lifelong learning. We are grateful for our dedicated staff and community members who made this opportunity possible for our families.
- **The Winooski School District** participated in the 2025 Penguin Plunge to support Special Olympics Vermont! ♻️ ❄️ The plunge took place on February 8, 2025, and each participant raised \$150 in donations to take the icy dive.



OTHER UPDATES

- **Signs have been placed around the district** facilities to designate classrooms as “Private Learning Areas” and other areas within the premises as “Sensitive Zones” where only authorized teachers and staff are allowed to enter and work with students. This is an additional measure in preparation for the unlikely event of immigration enforcement in inside the building. While these signs do not prevent them from entering spaces, they make our expectation clear, visible, and unambiguous.
- **Child Find Information:** The Winooski School District is required by federal law to locate, identify and evaluate all children with disabilities. The process of locating, identifying, and evaluating children with disabilities is known as Child Find. The Winooski School District conducts a Kindergarten Screening every spring, but parents may call to make an appointment to discuss their concerns at any time. As the school district of residence, we have the responsibility to identify and provide services to any child with special needs who may require special education and related services in order to access and benefit from public education.



THIS ROOM IS DESIGNATED A

**PRIVATE
LEARNING
SPACE**

WHO MAY ENTER: AUTHORIZED TEACHERS, STAFF, ENROLLED STUDENTS, CAREGIVERS, AND PROPERLY WSD-AUTHORIZED VISITORS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES.



THIS AREA IS DESIGNATED A

**SENSITIVE
ZONE**

WHO MAY ENTER: AUTHORIZED TEACHERS, STAFF, ENROLLED STUDENTS, CAREGIVERS, SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND PROPERLY WSD-AUTHORIZED VISITORS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL OR OFFICIAL PURPOSES.



ADMINISTRATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- 2/10: I attended “Straight Talk,” a local TV show, where I shared some highlights from our district and provided a brief message about funding.
- 2/10: I am attending the weekly legislative debrief meetings with the Vermont Superintendents Association.
- 2/3-2/14: I am convening a daily 10-day check in with any interested staff to kick off the implementation of our new immigrant student procedure.
- 1/30-2/1: I attended the Harvard’s Superintendent’s Institute with a focus on “Leading During Turbulent Times”
- 1/27: Met with the city for collaborative planning.
- 1/27: Attended the ARSC meeting and supported the board at Town Meeting TV.
- 1/23: Attended the VSA All members meeting in Montpelier and met with the Secretary of Education.
- 1/18 Attended the Nepali community celebration in the PAC.
- 1/10: Met with the Champlain Valley Superintendents Association

KEY DATES

- Thursday, February 13: WHMS Winter Concert, PAC at 7 PM
- Friday, February 14: Veggie VanGo
- Thursday, February 20: Early Release at 11 AM; MHS Teacher - Family Conferences
- Friday, February 21: Early Release at 11 AM; MHS Teacher - Family Conferences
- Monday, February 22 - Tuesday, March 4th: No School - Winter Break
- Wednesday, March 5th; Early Release at 11 AM, JFK Teacher - Family Conferences

ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Below are a few items the board assigned to management along with a status update.

| Item | Board Direction | Status |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Licensed Staff Incentives | The board approved the Attrition Incentive Plan for licensed staff. | Approved incentives have been announced, and it is likely that they will be offered to up to three people. These positions will help us ease the impact of planned reductions. |
| Adopted Budget | The board was provided a budget with 1990 weighted pupil assumption. | Updated: our final figure came to be 2005, which is an improvement and yields a probable tax rate that is one cent lower. The board moved ahead with amending the projection. |
| FERPA Procedures | The board would like to see protections for immigrant students in important areas other than the proposed policy, especially FERPA if applicable. | The FERPA policy and procedures are being offered to the board for a first read. While the policy remains virtually the same, the procedures have changed in key areas, particularly in the directory information section. |
| Legal Counsel | The board would like to have legal counsel during the next board meeting so that members can ask questions directly from the lawyer regarding the L1 proposed policy. | Pietro Lynn will be available in person for executive session during the upcoming board meeting. |