

Newsletter of the Winooski School District

Winooski School District
60 Normand Street
Winooski, VT 05404

Contact Info for
School Board and
Superintendent

School Board:
Michael Decarreau – 310-4032
Tori Cleiland – 655-7678
Jen Corrigan - 233-7642
Matthew MacNeil- 999-3218
Julian Portilla - 399-0241

Superintendent:
Sean McMannon - 383-6000
smcmannon@wsdschools.org

* DO YOUR PART *
VOTE!
MARCH 7, 2017



ISSUES TO BE VOTED ON

Property Tax Relief

If your adjusted gross household income is less than \$99,000 you are likely to be eligible for a reduction of your education property tax. Please file form HI-144.

If your adjusted gross household income is between \$99,000 and \$141,000 you may be eligible for a reduction of your education property taxes. Please file Form HS-122/Schedule HI-144.

Eligibility for property tax relief is based on your household income, home value, and city school tax rate, and will be applied to your 2016-17 tax bill. Renters may also be eligible. The maximum 2018 Property Tax Adjustment is \$8,000.

Instructions and forms are in the Vermont income tax booklet, which is available in post offices, libraries, city/town halls or from the Vermont Department of Taxes. Forms can be downloaded at <http://tax.vermont.gov/research-and-reports/document-library/tax-forms/individuals>

BALLOT QUESTIONS

ARTICLE I:

Elect a Moderator and Clerk.

ARTICLE II:

Shall the District accept the 2017 Annual Report and all included sub reports?

ARTICLE III:

Shall the Board of School Trustees be authorized to allow appropriate groups and agencies to use school facilities and equipment in accordance with District policies?

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BURLINGTON, VT
PERMIT #361

POSTAL PATRON

*****ECRWSS**

WINOOSKI, VT 05404

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ARTICLES

ARTICLE IV: Shall the District accept and expend the sum of Two million, Eighty-two thousand, and Nine hundred twenty-five dollars (\$2,082,925) or whatever sum is provided by federal programs for the support of compensatory education and special programs? Said sum shall be exclusively federal funds received by the District. *(No local or statewide school property taxes included in these funds.)*

ARTICLE V: Shall the District vote to appropriate the sum of Fifteen million, Nine hundred nine thousand, Five hundred fifty-three dollars (\$15,909,553), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of Thirteen Thousand, Nine-hundred eighty-six dollars (\$13,986) per equalized pupil. The projected spending per equalized pupil is 4.6% higher than spending for the current year.

VOTE on March 7, 2017 at the Senior Center on Barlow Street, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Winooski School District
Budget 2018

Winooski School District 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.

Building Strong Foundations

Three years ago we began investing in creating a PreK-12 systemic approach to supporting student needs and monitoring student progress with positions such as a Wellness Coordinator, Data Manager, Reading Specialists and Home-School Coordinator. Now we can confidently say we have established a strong foundation that provides food security, wellness opportunities, access to technology and a system that can track the attendance, behavior, reading and math levels of every student. As you will see, the FY '18 budget reflects a significant investment in the Winooski Middle School (WMS). In general, middle school is a challenging time as students explore who they are and how they fit



into the world with a tremendous focus on peer relationships and independence. WMS has a talented and dedicated staff that works diligently, patiently and

creatively each day to help shape our WMS students into intelligent, curious and persistent learners. We need to provide the resources to support our staff in meeting the needs of our WMS students. Therefore, this budget reflects investments in WMS in the following areas: Music, ELL, Special Education and Behavioral support. Also, this budget includes funds to support a student transportation

pilot project which will transport students who live over .75 miles away from school to the district each morning from December through March.

The biggest positive contributor to the estimated tax rate is the increase in our student population and Equalized Pupil Count which decreases the tax rate by 2.12%. Expenses rose 6.8% primarily due to salaries and benefits, and special education associated costs. All of these factors result in an estimated tax impact of 2.36%.

WSD continues to be one of the most fiscally responsible school districts in the State. The most recent Per Pupil Spending

rankings (2015) show WSD is 206/282. The Board of Trustees continually works with the administration to invest in the needs of our complex student population, while respecting the increasing issue of affordability.

It's Time to
Learn About the
School Budget!

Voting takes place March 7th, 2017 at the Senior Center on Barlow Street. This piece will help you understand the issues you will be voting on. We hope you will find it informative.

WANT MORE BUDGET
INFORMATION?

Monday, March 6, 2017

Annual Meeting -
Performing Arts Center
Winooski Educational Center
6:00 p.m. - City Budget Presentation
7:30 p.m. - School Budget Presentation

Regular School Operating Budget

	FY 2017	FY 2018	Difference
<u>Budget</u>	\$14,897,284	\$15,909,553	6.80%
<u>Eq. Pupil</u>	951	962	1.15%
<u>Ed. Spending Per Student</u>	\$13,359	\$13,986	4.69%

***Estimated FY18 Tax Impact is 2.36%**

WSD BOTTOM LINE

CATEGORY	% INCREASE	DOLLAR AMOUNT
Salaries & Benefits	4.53%	\$675 000
Professional Services & Tuitions	1.88%	\$280,000
Other	.39%	\$57,000
TOTAL	6.8%	\$1,012,000

Winooski School District Graduate Expectations (GXs)

WHS teachers and students, supported by the Partnership for Change, and with community input, have developed challenging standards for Winooski students to meet. This is one of the initial steps in moving to a personalized and proficiency-based learning environment. The Graduate Expectations (GXs) below will be coupled with essential content standards called Graduate Progressions (GPs) in areas such as Math and Science to become our proficiency-based graduation requirements. It is no longer about seat time. It is VT high schools are required to have a program of proficiency-based graduation in place by 2020.

Here are the GXs:

- Critical Thinking
- Well-Being
- Communication
- Creativity
- Persistence
- Culture and Community

Winooski Has...

Honest
Engaged
Appropriate
Responsible
Timely



COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

WMS students who said “Teachers really care and give lots of encouragement” increased from 53% to 65% from 2011 to 2015 and WHS students who said “Teachers really care and give lots of encouragement” increased from 59% to 77% from 2011 to 2015. This is very important because the teacher-student relationship is integral to student learning and preparing our students for the future.

JFK teachers have been working on Responsive Classroom practices, Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) through our schoolwide expectations—HEART—to create a safe and welcoming learning environment.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WSD continues to support our community by raising over \$45,000 in the past four years for VT Special Olympics by jumping into icy Lake Champlain for the Penguin Plunge and over \$3,000 for the UVM Children's Hospital.

Also, according to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), WMS students who “Feel like they matter to people in the community” increased from 37% to 54% from 2011 to 2015 and WHS students who “Feel like they matter to people in the community” increased from 42% to 51% from 2011 to 2015. Kudos to you, the community!



HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL LIVES

WSD continues to focus on improving student's readiness to learn through multiple aspects of wellness. We partnered with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. (VYCC) to construct a school garden on campus that produced vegetables for our cafeteria.

Mindfulness practice continues at JFK and is growing at WMHS. The Mindful City Project, through a third year of grant funding from the Vermont Community Foundation, helps all community members realize the benefits from this practice, for free.

Lastly, WSD is incredibly fortunate to have received an anonymous grant from a generous donor for the basic needs of our students. We were able to supply a ton of winter clothing to our students this year!



* DO YOUR PART *

VOTE!

MARCH 7, 2017



Equalized Student Spending and Tax Impact

As you can see from the table at right, our equalized pupil population has grown significantly over the past 9 years. **The Winooski School District remains one of the lowest spending districts per equalized pupil in the state.** Each budget cycle we work hard to allocate resources to those areas in the school system that need the most attention to allow us to continue to improve our outcomes for students.

WSD vs. VT State

Equalized Pupils	WSD Education Spending	VT Avg.	±/-	WSD Rank
951.02	FY 17- \$13,359	TBD	TBD	TBD
925.03	FY 16- \$12,897	\$14,141	-\$1,244	211/278
895.50	FY 15- \$12,736	\$13,770	-\$1,034	206/282
924.88	FY 14- \$11,911	\$13,436	-\$1,525	225/282
938.70	FY 13- \$11,572	\$12,577	-\$1,005	215/286
937.63	FY 12- \$10,717	\$12,012	-\$1,295	231/286
890.76	FY 11- \$11,053	\$11,890	-\$837	216/286
844.95	FY 10- \$11,022	\$11,736	-\$714	211/286
808.27	FY 09- \$10,943	\$11,233	-\$290	193/289

Due to the complex state-wide funding formula for education, the answer to the question ‘How will this affect my taxes?’ can only accurately be answered with “It depends.”

The two main dependencies are adjusted gross household income and house value. As you can see from the two tables below, if your household income is under \$99,000 for the year, then your taxes are based on a percentage of income. If your adjusted gross household income is above \$99,000 for the year, then taxes become based on house value with some degree of income sensitivity up to income of \$141,000. Hopefully the continuum in the table gets close to your value and you can extrapolate from there.

The values listed below are based on current data which can shift in either direction right up to the close of the current legislative session.

Tax Impact (Household Income below \$99K)

Household Income	2017	2018 (Est.)	Annual Diff.
\$90,000	2.46%	2.36%	-\$90
\$80,000	\$2,214	\$1,888	-\$80
\$70,000	\$1,968	\$1,652	-\$70
\$60,000	\$1,722	\$1,416	-\$60
\$50,000	\$1,476	\$1,180	-\$50
\$40,000	\$1,230	\$944	-\$40

Tax Impact (Household Income above \$99K)

House Value	2017	2018 (Est.)	Annual Diff.
\$150,000	\$2,206	\$2,258	\$ 52
\$175,000	\$2,573	\$2,635	\$ 62
\$200,000	\$2,941	\$3,011	\$ 70
\$225,000	\$3,309	\$3,387	\$ 78
\$250,000	\$3,676	\$3,764	\$ 88
\$275,000	\$4,044	\$4,140	\$ 96
\$300,000	\$4,411	\$4,517	\$ 106

*Potential Property Tax Relief for people with Adjusted Gross Household Income in the \$99K-\$141K range