

WINOOSKI BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017
MINUTES

Board Member Present: Michael Decarreau-President, Jen Corrigan-Secretary, Julian Portilla, Matthew MacNeil, Rainbow Chen-Student Representative, Alexander Do-Student Representative

Board Members Absent: Tori Cleiland

Administration Present: Sean McMannon-Superintendent, Rebecca Goulet-Finance Director, Sara Raabe-K-5 Principal

Others Present: Attendance Sheet On-file

1. Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm by Michael Decarreau-President followed with the Pledge of Allegiance and Mindfulness led by Sean McMannon.
2. **Agenda Review and Adjustments:** None.
3. **Focus on Learning:** Sean McMannon started off the presentation on **One Half Day Early Dismissals**. This is the first year there is a monthly early dismissal districtwide. Sara Raabe continued with the opportunities that are being offered to students. Walking field trips, yoga basketball, read aloud, cooking strategy and team building games are offered to students in grades 1-5. Rainbow Chen gave an example of one of the half day events. There was a pancake breakfast which broke out into various workshops after. Sara continued with the professional development that is being offered to the teachers. They have partnered with 2Revolutions. Sean continued with the teacher learning on GP Progressions. The middle school teachers are working on the Gateway Expectations. There is a group of middle school teachers working on school climate. Board member questions included: Are teachers on board with this? It has improved since it began with students signing up, etc. which has made it easier on the teachers to participate. What is the parent impact. This, too, has improved.
4. **Public Comments:** Deo Sharma, a parent of a first grader, expressed concern with not having transportation. Infinite Culcleasure added that it is notable that members of the community that have been involved with the budget are proactive for transportation.

5. Consent Agenda:

- a) Minutes of Meetings: December 14, 2016
- b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Approval of Bills
- c) Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
 - Approve Contract Recommendation: Long Term Substitute, Elementary ELL Teacher - Annie Schneider
- d) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - Superintendent Report
 - Approval of WHS School Choice Capacities (Act 129) for 2017-2018
 - Approval of Announced Tuition for 2017-2018

Motion made by Matthew MacNeil to approve the Consent Agenda. No discussion. All present approved.

6. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):

- a) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Quarterly Financial Management Report – Michael Decarreau thanked Rebecca Goulet, Finance Director, for a job well done. Discussion included: Fund balance and what to do with these funds? As we move forward, it is good to keep a fund balance for rainy day type monies. The last few years there have been different amounts of monies left over from the budget which is okay to use as long as it is under one percent. There is still a need for board approval for large amounts of money. If a student comes into the district with special needs, then that would not have to go to the board for approval due to being state mandated. Once monies are in a Capital Reserve Fund then it has to be used for building maintenance.
 - Action: FY '16 Auditor's Report
Julian moved to accept the Auditor's Report for 2016. All present in favor.
Action: Request to Award Audit Contract
The recommendation from Sean and Rebecca would be to stay with the same auditor.
Motion made by Jen Corrigan to award the auditor contract to Fothergill Segale & Valley. All present in favor.
- b) Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
 - Action: Adoption of 2017-2018 Winooski School District Budget
Motion made by Jen Corrigan to adopt the 2017-2018 Winooski School district Budget. All present in favor.
 - Action: Adoption of 2017-2018 Budget Warnings
Sean McMannon reviewed the Articles with the board members.
Motion made by Matt MacNeil to adopt the 2017-2018 Budget Warnings. All present in favor.
 - Discussion: Review Annual Report to Voters
The Annual Report includes required information along with school highlights and pictures.

7. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):

- a) Policy Title: 4.1.b Governing Style: Encouragement of a Diversity of Views
- Student Report to the Board:
Rainbow Chen-Student Representative gave an update on JanPo week. New this year is that seniors were allowed to present their Senior Project. There have been a growing number of confident speakers. Alexander Do-Student Representative said that students got to experience new things that were offered on the half day dismissal, like rock climbing and roller skating which they would not usually be able to.
- b) Policy Title: 4.1.6 Governing Style: Board Performance
- Discussion: Mid-Year Progress Update
Outcome of the Board Retreat: Imaj will be doing some training around communication. Michael Decarreau suggested having a community dinner to discuss the budget and the communication piece along with negotiations update.
- c) Policy Title: 4.2.4 Board Job Description
- Plan Meeting with Legislators
Michael will extend an invite to the Legislators to speak at a board meeting. Julian Portilla would like an update on the change in administration at the state level, taxes and education financing.
- d) Policy Title: 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership
- Review and Discussion on the Board Monitoring Report:
Each board member received a hard copy of Policy Title: 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership. Board members shared their thoughts. Jen Corrigan suggested a survey. Julian said this is a good way to fit in the communication piece. Board members decided to get a small group together and bring back some ideas to the other members on the March Agenda. The goal would be to come up with a three year plan.
 - Review and Discussion of Policy #8312 Public Participation at Board Meeting:
Michael reviewed the policy. Discussion included: Board members need to decide if the public can participate in the discussion that is on the agenda. The concern would be that policy governance be derailed but do not want the person voicing their opinion not to feel recognized. So far there has not been engagement. There currently isn't anything in the policy that would prevent engagement at this time. A concern would be not to make a decision on the fly. It is important that a board meeting not be the first stop and that the public meet the protocol of going to the teacher, administration, etc. depending on the situation. The Board should listen to the community member but direct them to the appropriate person, if needed.
 - Discussion: Participatory Budgeting
The concept of Participatory Budgeting is putting up an amount of money in the budget and gets input on how to spend that dollar amount that has been put in a line item in the budget. Julian would like to see students

have the discussion of what they feel the school needs and then open it up for a conversation. How would a student distinguish between a need or a want? Rainbow expressed concern on how it would benefit all students and not one group of students advocating for their own class. The focus would be around school pride. Ideally it would continue every year. The challenge was accepted by the student board members to move forward. Board member, Julian Portilla, will move forward with involved school parties.

8. Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1):

- a) Discussion: Recent community activities by board members
Jen Corrigan attended a class about redirecting and language.

9. Next Agenda: Update on Participatory Budgeting

10. Upcoming Important Dates:

- Martin Luther King's Birthday January 16th school will be closed.
- JFK Concert on January 26th at 6:30 pm.
- Support Staff Negotiations Meeting on January 11th at 6 pm in Room 102.
- Teacher Negotiations Meetings on the following dates: January 12th, 19th, 26th, Feb 2nd, 9th at 6 pm in Room 102.
- Next Regular Board Meeting on February 8th at 6:30 pm.

11. Motion by Matt MacNeil to enter executive session at 8:42 pm to discuss labor negotiations. All present in favor.

12. Possible Action on Executive Session: None.

13. The board adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Steady
Board Recorder