

WINOOSKI BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015

MINUTES

Members Present: Michael Decarreau-President, Jay Lambert-Secretary, Tori Cleiland-Member, Julian Portilla-Member, Rainbow Chen-Student Representative, Ledania Taylor-Student Representative

Absent: Jen Corrigan-Board member

Others Present: Sean McMannon-Superintendent, Rebecca Goulet-Finance Manager, Meg Cline-Community Organizer, Sheila Valley-Auditor, Harry Frank-VSBA Director of Board Development & Policy Governance Network, Leon Wheeler-WMHS Principal, Kirsten Kollgaard-Director of ELL & Curriculum, Matt Webb-teacher, Infinite Culcleasure-Community Organizer. See sign in sheet for community members/parents in attendance.

1. Meeting called to order by M Decarreau at 6:35 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance – Mindfulness with T. Cleiland
2. **Agenda Review and adjustments:** None
3. **Focus on Learning and Parent Involvement:** Presentation by Kirsten Kollgaard, Director of ELL, Leon Wheeler, WMHS Principal, Ways in which parent involvement in the School District is accomplished - Community Events begin with a barbeque and STEM Fair. Parents are encouraged to attend music performances, Spring Into the Arts, students invite their parents and community members to share their learning experiences. PACTS – Builds relationships with parents – two new projects this year are a storytelling piece (stories on video of how families came here) and a Community Talent Show. Parents as Educational Partners (PEP) focuses on literacy skills. Technology integration now includes Smart boards. Parents have more confidence about their students in the district. Learning walks are offered to build partnerships with parents. Parent Meet-Up Groups allows parents to talk to each other. Translation equipment with headsets helps involve parents more. An Arabic-speaking liaison has been hired to help support students and families. Dollars for Scholars, Boosters and PTO are organizations that help to support the efforts of the school community. Plans for the future include technology classes for parents and additional ELL family nights to familiarize ELL parents with the US School System. M. Decarreau gave a HATS OFF to the Dollars for Scholars, PTO and Boosters for what they do for

the school district. He is also looking forward to the storytelling piece of how families came to Winooski, PEP another additional program.

4. **Public Comments:** Infinite - kicked off the presentation of parents/community members regarding the need for transportation and the demand for it. Ten parents/community members stood before the board and presented several reasons why the school needs to provide transportation to get students to and from school. Concerns include safety, cold weather, and the financial hardship of having to purchase a car for teenage children to drive to school, and parents being late for work or having to leave work early. M. Webb, a teacher in the district has seen an increase in the cars parked in the parking lot since his tenure with the district. He believes it might be due to more students driving to school. M. Cline extended a thank you to everyone who came to speak. M. Decarreau made all in attendance aware of a Transportation Study that is being planned for April. S. McMannon let the board know he will keep them informed on the study.

5. **Consent Agenda:**

- **Minutes of December 3, 2014, December 15, 2014 and January 7, 2015**
- **Approval of bills**
- **Quarterly Financial Management Report**
- **Approval of WHS School Choice Capacities for 2015-2016**
- **Approval announced tuition for 2015-2016**

Motioned by J. Lambert, second by J. Portilla to approve the Consent Agenda.  
No discussion - All present approved.

6. **Ends Monitoring (Policy Section I):** Harry Frank, VSBA Director of Board Development and Policy Governance Network came to field questions in relation to the **College Readiness Interpretation**. All present felt there needs to be a clear assessment plan in place on all grade levels. It was agreed that data is essential to show evidence of a student's progress and if the student is on schedule to graduate even if it is not in the four year window. Also, discussion took place about the need to update the Graduation Policy moving forward.

7. **Executive Limitations: (Policy Section II)**

- **Action FY' 14 Audit Report** – Shelia Valley, Auditor, presented her findings and gave an overview of the reason behind the audit. J. Lambert asked about carrying a large amount of Medicaid monies. R. Goulet explained these funds are being used for social workers and the board will start to see the balance going down. Guidelines of how to use the funds are followed carefully. J Lambert questioned Special Education monies being over \$200K in tuition and expressed concern about future budgets and that it only takes a couple students to go in the red. S. McMannon explained that there are also revenues received. R. Goulet explained that monthly reports will answer these questions. Continued discussion

included having the audit done early due to accuracy. The Capital Plan was also discussed and with a plan to continue to be fiscally responsible.

Motion by J. Lambert to accept the Auditors Report as is, with a second by T. Cleiland. No discussion. All present in favor.

• **Action Adoption of 2015-2016 WHS School Budget**

Discussion included how monies move from the fund balance. Equalized pupils figures are all set. CLA is a huge piece. Houses in Winooski are currently selling for more than the assessed value which causes a positive impact on the CLA. This year's budget increase is mostly due to staff salaries and preschool dollars.

Motion by, J. Lambert to adopt the 2015-2016 School Budget with a second by T. Cleiland. No further discussion. All present in favor.

• **Action approval of 2015-2016 Budget Warnings**

Motion by J. Lambert to approve the 2015-2016 Budget Warnings with a second by T. Cleiland. No further discussion. All present in favor.

M. Decarreau questioned the wording of Article VI as it pertains to "Without effect upon the district tax level". T. Cleiland - Could the language be worded to be more helpful to a voter when they are in the booth voting. M Decarreau would like to see something sent out to help the voter understand it. S. McMannon and R. Goulet will check with counsel and neighboring districts.

J. Lambert made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 Budget Warning, with a second by T. Cleiland. No further discussion. All present in favor.

8. **Governance Processes (Policy Section IV)**

• **Students report to board:** Rainbow Chen – Students are back from break. This is exam week. Fifth graders will be involved in Star Base, a National Science program. The students have an opportunity to learn about science and physics. Pictures are on school twitter. The Student Council is working on the Winter Ball. Boston fundraising is taking place for 30 students. The students are selling raffle tickets as a fundraiser. Students are going to Pittsfield, NH February 10<sup>th</sup> and February 11<sup>th</sup>. The new semester is offering new classes to include Board Games. Ledania – The Prom committee is having a T-shirt contest and summer salad sale to fundraise. The Penguin Plunge has 50 students signed up and have raised \$7,200. She also gave an update on winter sports.

• **Midyear Board progress Update:** M Decarreau said communication is already taking place. The next mission is the budget flyer.

- **Plan February meeting with legislators:** M Decarreau suggested a ten-minute discussion so that there are questions to prime the conversations. J. Lambert felt that education finance and school district consolidation should be discussed. J Lambert thought it would be helpful to the legislators to get a copy of the Consolidation Study before the meeting. M Decarreau felt this would be a great idea due to the depth and foundation of what went into the study. He will get an invite out to them.

9. **Community Engagement – Policy 4.2.1**

- **Recent community activities by board members:** J. Portilla updated the board members about the Opiates Group. The group meets again on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm in Learning Media Center. M. Decarreau informed the board members that the Mindfulness Meetings are every Thursday from 6:30-7:30 pm at the O'Brien Community Center with nine weeks left. Community member Ray Coffey also said that childcare is being provided for the wellness meetings.

- **Discussion of Annual Report to Voters** – S. McMannon stated it is a matter of updating with photographs and new audit information.

10. **Next Agenda**

11. **Upcoming meeting dates:**

- Martin Luther King's Birthday – School Closed
- JFK Concert – January 29<sup>th</sup>
- Regular Board Meeting – February 11, 2015.

M. Decarreau welcomed Brenda Steady as the new Board Recorder.

12. Motion by J. Lambert to adjourn at 9:30 pm with a second by T. Cleiland. No discussion. All present in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Steady  
Board Recorder