

**WINOOSKI BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2015  
Learning Media Center**

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Michael Decarreau-President, Jenn Corrigan-Secretary, Julian Portilla, Rainbow Chen-Student Representative, and Ledania Taylor-Student Representative

**Board Members Absent:** Mohamed Abdi, Tori Cleiland

**Administration Present:** Sean McMannon, Superintendent

**Others Present:** See sign-in sheet

1. Meeting called to order at 6:36 pm by Michael Decarreau followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Mindfulness with Sean McMannon.
2. **Agenda Review and Adjustments:** None
3. **Focus on Learning:** Technology Integration: Sean McMannon thanked the School Trustees and Community for supporting technology. The presentation began with each technology team member giving a brief overview of themselves and their individual responsibility. Bryan Thompson, Technology Coordinator, reflected on when he began in the district and how technology has advanced. Matthew Gonzalez, Webmaster/Help Desk answers the help desk phone lines and offers assistance as needed. Carl Affinati, General IT Technician handles work orders, works on computers, manages iPads and Chrome Books and processes insurance claims. Randy Wood, Data Manager, processes data along with teachers regarding graduation expectations and also supports the IT Team as a first responder setting user names, resetting passwords, and helping with printers in the classroom, etc. Drew Blanchard, Technician Specialist has 19 years of teaching background and works with students and adults to use technology effectively. Initiatives include collaboration from the students and Technology in the Classroom. Focus on learning includes the use of Google Apps for education in the district and creating Google sights designed for students to work during the day and outside of the day. They are designed as a learning management system and an online classroom. It is an online component to learning. All assignments are posted and work turned in. It is an interactive classroom environment. Google Docs has offline functionality. Virtual High School is from the KHAN Academy. This fits a very particular learning style and a student must be self disciplined. Salman Khan, an engineer, created this Virtual HS. The student Personalized Learning Plans (PLP) will be coming soon. The Personalized Learning Plans are still being figured out with student and teacher input. The plan is to have district wide email to all students. Teachers can view student data but cannot edit. As students leave the district, the plan is to have them be able to take their documents with them. Board members asked questions that included what happens when the 1-gigabyte fills up and the IT Team answered that there are always upgrades. Discussion included offering parent classes. Randy said he is creating a report to measure data specifically around reading, attendance, and classroom behavior. This year the focus is on the Math Assessment and getting it complete and finalized. The presentation was summed up with Sean McMannon thanking the IT Team for their work.
4. **Public Comments:** None

**5. Consent Agenda:**

- a) Minutes of Meetings: September 16, 2015
- b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
  - Approval of Bills
  - Quarterly Financial Management Report
  - Treasurer's Report - FY '15
- c) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - Accept 2.1 Superintendent Monitoring Report
  - Superintendent Report
  - Adopt Welcoming Week Proclamation
- d) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Board Job Description
  - Adopt Policy #6144(a), Animal Dissection

Julian Portilla moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All present in favor.

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

- a) Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - Act 46 Report presented by Nicole Mace from the State House. Michael Decarreau welcomed Nicole Mace. Nicole passed out handouts to the board members. There are high expectations for our schools to meet the needs of today's students. There are 13 different operating structures in Vermont. There is a tremendous fiscal pressure to fund education. There are growing inequities throughout the different districts. District size is a factor for the ability to absorb costs and meet greater demands. There is a significant leadership turnover and of school board members. Statewide, some communities are experiencing a decline in student enrollment. Staffing hasn't changed significantly with this decline. There are some places that have had strong leadership and haven't seen the decline in student population. The opportunity of Act 46 is "how can partnerships be created and be fiscally responsible to the taxpayer". What is it we want for our students? Are we getting there? How can Act 46 be useful for this district? Act 46 contemplates change. What are the challenges that the board members face? Has the system been set up to endure and thrive? Change can be scary. Discussion included what else do we need and what do we need to be doing different? "How we've always done it" can keep us from finding ways to create a better set of opportunities for students. The goal is to achieve equity and variety of educational opportunities with a preferred Governance Structure by July 1, 2019. The short-term goal is to have a conventional transition to Sustainable Governance structures with Self-Assessment Quality Reviews & a Statewide Plan by July 1, 2016. Path Two: Conventional Transition. There could possibly be a vote to voters by 2018. Sean McMannon also said that school choice has been part of this discussion. Options for Winooski would be to have discussions about partnerships with Burlington and other neighboring schools. Nicole Mace suggested that an exploratory committee be established. The committee could develop a plan. Board members discussed the stability of keeping their teachers. The board members also thanked Nicole Mace for coming and presenting Act 46.

**7. Board-Management Delegation (Policy Section III):**

- a) Policy Title: 3.4 Monitoring Superintendent Performance
- Action: Approve Superintendent Evaluation Summary  
Michael Decarreau – added a tracking report to help accomplish the Board policies. Accepting the work that Sean has done.  
Jenn Corrigan moved to approve the Superintendent Evaluation Summary as it stands. All present in favor.

**8. 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 reported various school events: Homecoming was the last week of September and there was a Pep Rally on that Friday where sport team players were recognized and a dance was put on. All varsity teams did lose their games but student spirits were still high. On September 26<sup>th</sup> the High School and Middle School Band traveled to the Big E with other bands from Vermont. October 7<sup>th</sup> was walk to school day and band students played to boost moral on the walk to school. The Prom Committee has started working on fundraisers. Fundraisers include a candle fundraiser, summer salad sale, Papa Franks and more. The Prom Theme is unknown to the public. PSAT's will be in October. There will be a STEM Night with different science classes that will present and there will be a demo on the 3D printer and along with a dinner. Ledania Taylor reported that four students were accepted into the music districts. Through Partnership for Change Winooski and Burlington students are currently in NYC to establish new ideas and will return on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. The new Three D printer is up and running and available to students. She gave an update of sports. She announced that Rainbow's birthday is Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. Sean McMannon added that with Ledania graduating this school year that there is currently discussions about a student to become a Student Representative to the Board for the 2016-2017 school year.
  - Report on VSBA Regional Meeting and VEHI Fall Forum  
No one attended the VSBA Regional Meeting. It was basically on Act 46 that Nicole Mace presented tonight. VEHI (Insurance Plan) is due to terminate. Sean McMannon, Jenn Corrigan and Michael Decarreau attended the forum on insurance. Insurance continues to be a challenge. Not sure what this will mean to the upcoming budget. VSBA Conference is coming up.
  - Review Board Monitoring Report Policy Title 4.1-Governing Style  
Reflection on Governing Style – Jenn Corrigan suggested waiting until Tori Cleiland and Mohamed Abdi are available for discussion of this policy. It was decided to put this item on the November Agenda. Jenn Corrigan will write up an interpretation for board members.
- b) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
- Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #3545 – Transportation  
Recommendations handout was passed out. Discussion regarding the handout in regards to I and II. After discussion, it was decided that the

policy will reflect that the Winooski School District will provide transportation in certain cases as determined using procedures attached to Policy #3545.

- Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #4116a - Prevention of Harassment of Students

Michael Decarreau suggested having a combined policy instead of separate policies. Strike 4116b and 4117 and rename 4116a to Policy of Prevention of Bullying, Hazing and Harassment of Students. Michael Decarreau expressed concern that he did not read where there is a section where parents can bring forward a complaint. Jenn Corrigan did find a section in the documentation where parents can report bullying on Page 3 of the Model Policy.

**9. Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1):**

- a) Discussion: Recent community activities by board members:

Michael Decarreau recognized Julian Portilla for receiving an award. Julian Portilla said that the Community Building Black Award was received for his work on the Opiate Program. He received theater tickets and chocolate. Michael Decarreau also mentioned that he knows a person that has given his time to work with students and suggested the Golden Apple Award. Sean McMannon said he has a few Golden Apples in his office. Board members decided to write up recommendations for the Golden Apple Awards to anyone deserving and give them to Sean McMannon. Sean McMannon also said that Michael Decarreau was recognized for his role as a Board member in the VSBA Fall Newsletter.

- 10. Next Agenda:** During the Next Agenda discussion, board members decided to move the First Reading of the Discipline Policy from May to February.

- 11.** Michael Decarreau reviewed the upcoming events:

- Teacher Negotiation Meeting - October 15
- VSA/VSBA Conference - October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Next Regular Board Meeting – November 11<sup>th</sup>

- 12.** Julian Portilla moved to adjourn at 9:25 pm. With no other comments the board member's voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Steady  
Board Recorder