

WINOOSKI BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2015
MINUTES
(Revised based on 12/9/15 Minutes)

Board Members Present: Michael Decarreau-President, Tori Cleiland-Secretary, Mohamed Abdi via online from Tanzania, Jenn Corrigan, Julian Portilla, Rainbow Chen-Student Representative, Ledania Taylor-Student Representative

Administration Present: Sean McMannon-Superintendent, Robin Hood-Director of Support Services and Early Learning

1. Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by Michael Decarreau-President followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Mindfulness with Tori Cleiland.
2. **Agenda Review and Adjustments:** None.
3. **Focus on Learning:** Robin Hood, Director of Support Services and Early Learning presented on Early Learning and Act 166. Three and four year olds – what is new? Robin explained her shift in leadership responsibilities. She is currently serving on the Building Bright Futures Council and Steering Committee. Professional Development training each month with Headstart. The Kindergarten start date changed from December 31st to September 1st. The State is requiring districts pay a rate of \$3,000 for 10 hours of high-quality prekindergarten experience for 35 weeks for three and four year old children. Act 166 requires background checks, early payments, transportation time on bus, and a shortened day at ELC. There are currently 119 students that are being served. A big achievement is that Winooski Early Childhood Program is a five star program. Opportunities for these students include talking, playing, singing, reading and eating healthy. Robin gave an overview of what the collaborative meetings cover each month. The afternoon teacher has been selected by Headstart to be part of a public service announcement on a commercial. Michael Decarreau shared that he took a tour of the preschool and it was nice seeing the students have applesauce that the students had made themselves the day before. Jenn Corrigan expressed how nice it is seeing the play-based learning. Julian asked if there are children not using this service? Robin said there is and most is due to parents' choice. Tori said there is not enough that can be said regarding early childhood education. Jenn asked if the ESQ is being used to detect a learning disability. Robin said she sees it being used more at a doctor's office. Michael asked Robin to thank the staff.
4. **Public Comments:** none
5. **Consent Agenda:**
 - a) Minutes of Meetings: October 13, 2015
 - b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Approval of Bills
 - c) Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
 - Approve Contract Recommendations:
Richard Lewis, Long Term Sub for W. Andrews
 - d) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - Superintendent Report
 - e) Policy Title 4.2.2 Board Job Description
 - Repeal Policy #4116a - Harassment of Students
 - Repeal Policy #4116b - Prevention of Student Bullying
 - Repeal Policy #4117 - Hazing
 - Adopt Policy #5111 - Prevention of Harassment, Hazing and Bullying of Students
 - Adopt Policy #3545 - Transportation

Julian Portilla made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. No further discussion. All present in favor.

6. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):

- a) Policy Title 2.4 Financial Planning and budgeting
- Review of Budget Parameters

Board members received a handout – Allowable Growth in Education spending for Fiscal years 2017 and 2018. The district will need to decrease the base line the budget by \$280k. This provision of Act 46 is a percent increase on the current spending. Sean McMannon shared that there is a great deal of advocacy happening around the state with various groups recommending an immediate change in this provision.

- b) Policy Title 2.5 Emergency Superintendent Succession

- Superintendent Monitoring Report - Review and Discussion

Sean McMannon didn't think document needed significant changes besides #5 - #8 regarding the change in leadership roles.

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 wished everyone a Happy Veteran's Day and happy no school day. The Prom Committee is still keeping the theme and location under wraps. The Yankee Fundraiser raised over \$700 and the next fundraiser planned is snowflake grams. A few students went to the conference. On the 29th the High School Accounting class carved pumpkins with kindergarten students. The high school students walked the kindergarten students to the round-about to display their pumpkins. She announced there is a new typing game and it is the talk of school and there may be a tournament. Four students from band participated in the district's band including herself and Ledania. There was a school assembly on November 6th and students watched Snow White and the 10 Dwarfs. The guest speaker at the Rowland Conference quoted Rainbow on equity and test scores on how test scores are demoralizing and can make students not do their best. On Monday students from the school went to Dartmouth College with the Upward Bound Program. Rainbow also said she participated in the Vermont Creative Summit Conference at Montpelier. Rainbow moderated a panel talking about Act 77 (PLPs) that featured students from SB's Big Picture, Montpelier's SOAR, WHS's iLab, and Cabot School. The conference focused on the Impact of Personalized Learning Plans. Ledania shared that the orchestra/band concert is November 19th. The PTO Craft Fair is November 21st. STEM was held on October 29th and it went well. Miss Vermont attended with other STEM Representatives. Miss Vermont plans on coming free to work with middle school science classes. Ledania gave an overview of the final fall sports wrap up. She said that the Basketball season is starting. Middle school students will be reading buddies to the younger students. The ilab Share It Nights was held on November 9th. There was \$1,000 donated to the Library by the author of the Captain Underpants series. There have been a lot of young adults in the elementary lately. The Lumberjacks hockey team has come back to work with 3rd grade. St. Mike's Freshman are working with 1st grade ELL students, and UVM juniors are scattered throughout classrooms. Money from the book fair was divided up between classes. Each class has \$90 to spend on books. Parent/Teacher Conferences are coming up.

- Report on VSBA Annual Meeting

Sean McMannon and Michael Decarreau attended the VSBA Annual Meeting. Michael said there was a good representation. The session included Policy Governance and changes in the schools. The challenge is staying ahead of the curve. Michael said he attended the portion that covered Board Chair 101 information. Discussion included Superintendent Evaluations. Sean said that board members should be very proud regarding their role in policy governance. No matter how good board members think they are doing there is always more to be done. The goal is to keep moving forward in a positive direction. Sean suggested a Saturday morning meeting for further discussion.

- Review Board Monitoring Report Policy Title 4.1-Governing Style

How do we look at we do and be true to what we are doing. Jenn Corrigan felt that the box area can be scratched. Her recommendation is to do review the policy as a group. Always moving forward to improve what we are doing and not break the law. Data that shows that the board members are in compliance. Michael - Make sure there are checks and balances that can be continued as the board members change. Michael would like to review each section. Format is key. Tori – the format - Sean – 1- 6 more of the actions of the board. Make a plan and timeline. Interpretation? Results on each of the six or 4.1 as a whole. Board members decided to review and bring back each individual interpretation. Each six elements. Make sure that as members change over time that the policy works. Focus on 4.1. Process and format. By next meeting.

8. Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1):

- a) Discussion: Recent community activities by board members – Jenn Corrigan, Tori Cleiland and Michael Decarreau had an opportunity to walk through during STEM. Julian Portilla attended the Community Halloween Party. He feels that committed town members can make change.

9. Next Agenda: Future agenda will include Budget and in the spring data on discipline.

10. Upcoming Important Dates: Michael Decarreau shared upcoming events.

- PTO Craft Fair is November 21st
- Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 23rd
- Thanksgiving Recess and School Closure will be November 23rd the 27th
- Budget Meetings are December 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and January 6th
- Dollars for Scholars Annual Train Show on December 5th
- Regular Board Meeting scheduled for December 9th

11. Motion by Tori Cleiland to enter Executive Session at 8:25 pm. Items to be discussed include Contract Negotiations and a Personnel Issue. All present in favor.

12. The Board returned to open session and is was motioned by Julian Portilla to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. All present in favor

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Steady
Board Recorder