

**WINOOSKI BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2016**  
**Regular Board Meeting**

**MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Decarreau-President via cell phone, Julian Portilla, Jen Corrigan-Clerk, Matthew MacNeil, Tori Cleiland, Rainbow Chen-Student Representative and Alexander Do-Student Representative

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Sean McMannon-Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT: See attendance sheet

1. Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Mindfulness led by Tori Cleiland.
2. **Agenda Review and Adjustments:** Addition to Executive Session-add Negotiations Update.
3. **Public Comments:** Infinite Culcleasure gave statistics of student absences and stated that kindergarten students are missing more days than other grades. Lydia Mongeon expressed concerns about parents waiting in line at the office for a tardy slip for their child, students not being able to bring home their Chromebooks which she paid a deposit for and concerned about why American students cannot celebrate their own culture while other cultures are allowed to celebrate their cultures. It does not seem fair that working parents are told they should not buy schools supplies for their children due to other students not being able to afford items. Why do some students miss many school days and still move to the next grade? Also, she feels her child is not safe and is being physically bullied.
4. **Consent Agenda:**
  - a) Minutes of Meetings: October 12, 2016
  - b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
    - Approval of Bills
    - Approval of Superintendent Monitoring Report: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
  - c) Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
    - Approve Contract Recommendation
    - Thomas Jacobs, Long Term sub for A. Schlatter (Gr. 2)
  - d) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
    - Superintendent Report
  - e) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Board Job Description
    - Adopt Policy #4127, Volunteers, Work Study Students and Student Teachers

Motion made by Tori Cleiland to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Discussion: Michael Decarreau felt the sentence from the

Minutes of October 12<sup>th</sup>, “The data is showing absences and tardiness due to transportation challenges” should be amended to state:

“Data on absences and tardies were shared. The question was raised about whether the prevalence of absences and tardies was linked to poor transportation options.” All present in favor.

**5. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):**

a) Policy Title: 4.1.b Governing Style: Encouragement of a Diversity of Views

- Healthy Lives Forum

Representatives from various health groups joined the board members: Tom Beaudoin-Department of Health, Jerry Ford-Marathon Health, Kate Nugent-WCSPC, Kyle Dodson-YMCA, Andrea Green-UVM Pediatrics, Jaycie Puttlitz-Wellness Coordinator for the Winooski School District. Julian Portilla asked everyone to share thoughts on opportunities and challenges facing students. The group modeling is very important. This would include good behavior, values, and inviting children to share their feelings and working with each child with their individual challenges. There is no scale for wellness like there is for academics. What a student brings from home for snack time. Another factor is getting enough sleep. Modeling is also being able to value everyone’s opinions. Media literacy is important too. Policy doesn’t always touch on individual needs. The new title of the policy is now “Whole Child and School Wellness”. Kyle Dodson applauded what the personnel has done in the Winooski School District. The teacher needs to be in control of their own well being to be able to model to the students. Community meetings are a wonderful opportunity to bring people together. Find the child in the classroom that can be nurtured to be a model. Charging people to watch sports can be hard for people that cannot afford it where the event can be an opportunity to bring community together. Anxiety, depression and stress is growing at a rapid rate and students may be going home and dealing with this. Play is important for adults and children. Homework can cause stress at home and take away from play time at home. Julian Portilla moved on to how to justify the financial investment to the community? With technology, the individual students do not interact with each other as they should like they did before the computer and cell phone age. They need to be given the skills on how to turn things off. Wellness and academic success are related. If people are given another way to cope, they might be more apt not to turn to substance abuse.

- Student Report to the Board

Alexander Do-Student Representative updated the board members on the half day events. Pre SAT tests were given. Math seemed to be the difficult part of the test. Concerned about the Tardy Policy and that sometimes there are reasons for a tardiness beyond the student’s control. Rainbow Chen-Student Representative said students wore black and gold to show respect for the students that lost their lives in a car accident from Harwood. Students attended the Rowland Conference at UVM. Monday there were visitors from Otter Valley School. There was a half day today that began with a pancake breakfast that was served by the

teachers then students participated in trivia and other fun activities. Workshops were also available. High school students worked on album covers about they are for their Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs).

b) Policy Title: 4.2 Board Job Description

- Board Monitoring Report 4.2: Review and discussion included a couple of typing errors. This will come back for approval at the next meeting.

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

a) Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting

- FY18 Budget Timetable

In the packet there is a timetable. Sean gave an overview of the timetable. There will presentations from various departments. All meetings will be at 6:30 pm. The timetable is listed below under "Upcoming Important Dates". It would be helpful if board members can find someone in the community to attend the meetings so information can be shared with other community members.

- Superintendent Monitoring Report 2.4:

There is no need for any significant changes. Will come before the board members next month for approval.

b) Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board

- Accept Anonymous Donation

Sean McMannon gave an overview of the donation. He was contacted because of public knowledge of good things going on in Winooski. They visited the school and a donation was made in the amount of \$10,000.

The donors wanted to remain anonymous.

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

a) Recent activities that board members attended:

Jen Corrigan attended the Promise Community meeting. Rainbow Chen participated in the food sale at the elections.

Julian Portilla asked how to handle the information that was shared by the parent that spoke during public comments and expressed concern about not being able to speak directly to her. Sean McMannon suggested that a board member send Michael Decarrean an email that this should be a topic for a future agenda. Julian Portilla also suggested funds be set aside for projects that involve community and/or staff. The funds would be used to find ways to engage the community. Tori Cleiland suggested this also be a future agenda item. Tori Cleiland suggested bringing the Wellness Policy back to the table for review. The board members requested to to add the Wellness Policy to a future agenda.

**8. Next Agenda: No additions**

**9. Upcoming Important Dates:**

- Budget Meetings (Tentative)
  - November 30th
  - December 7th
  - December 14th
  - December 21st
  - January 4th
  - January 11th
- Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for November 21<sup>st</sup>.
- No School on November 22<sup>nd</sup> through November 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Dollars for Scholars Train Show is scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Upcoming regular Board Meetings will be December 14th and January 11<sup>th</sup>.

**10.** Motion made by Matthew MacNeil to enter Executive Session at 9:13 pm to discuss a student discipline matter and negotiations update. All present in favor.

**11.** Out of Executive Session at 9:35 pm.

**12.** The Board adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Steady  
Board Recorder