

**WINOOSKI BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2013
Learning Media Center**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Decarreau, President
J. Lambert, Secretary
J. Corrigan, Member
J. Lambert, Member
J. Portilla, Member

OTHERS PRESENT: S. McMannon, Superintendent S. Metivier, Board Secretary
J. Reid, Citizen B. Corrigan, Citizen
R. Hood, Director of Special Services R. Goulet, Finance Mgr.

1. Call to Order: Mike Decarreau called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. The Pledge was recited.
2. FY '15 BUDGET WORKSESSION: Superintendent McMannon noted that he e-mailed all documents to board members that will be reviewed this evening. All information will be posted on the web. Documents reviewed included: the ENDS Statement, the Mission Statement, graduate expectations, goals developed through Green Mountain Stars (GMS) plans, enrollment projections, current staffing, budget drivers, education spending per equalized pupil, and notes from the state. It was noted that Winooski should be proud that they have kept costs down compared to other districts. The state is expecting to add 5 cents to the base education tax rate, which will be in addition to whatever increase the board may come up with.

Special Education/ELL: R. Hood said that we are required by law to provide an education to special needs students in the least restrictive environment, and sometimes that cannot be done within the district. Out of district placements can be very costly and we don't always know what our costs will be as students come and go. We also have three special classes in each school – Grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 – that deal with emotional behavior issues. Our special ed. caseload is around 18% of the student population, while the state averages about 10% less. Although the caseload over the years has remained about the same, the severity of the disabilities has increased. Special education is reimbursed at 56% up to \$50,000 and at 90% over \$50,000. Our ELL population has remained somewhat stable over the last few years, but can change at any time. The ELL population is 36% of our student population. All new students are tested for their English language ability and placement. Students are tested using WIDA to see how they are progressing.

IT/Fiscal/Operations: R. Goulet reviewed IT noting that the increase in the budget is the recoding of the Webmaster position and \$8,000 to increase the Bandwidth. Our E-rate reimbursement is 83% Increases in fiscal services include recoding of the accounting software from the superintendent's line to fiscal services, \$2,500 to set up a FLEX account as required by the negotiated agreement and an increase for audit services. Operations have increased mainly because of benefits due to staffing changes; we have added money for summer custodial help and for repairs to the security camera system. The front lobby position has been increased to full time, year round for more security coverage. The reserve account currently has a balance of \$666,907, which can be used to offset expenses in the budget or for capital expenses. We will have to go to the voters to ask if we wish to use any fund balance for capital improvements. Some projects to consider, but are not in the budget are: replacements pumps for the sewer system, finishing the unit ventilator replacement and other replacement of major equipment to keep the building in shape. Supt. McMannon said that he is looking for ways to connect with parents other than through the phone and has started getting e-mail addresses as another means of communication.

Supt. McMannon stated that we would continue to adjust the budget as we get more information. Decarreau asked for a list of budget cut scenarios for the next meeting.

3. Adjourn: MOTIONED by J. Lambert, second by J. Corrigan to adjourn at 8:54 p.m. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Metivier
Board Secretary