

WINOOSKI BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015
Learning Media Center

MINUTES

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

Others Present: Sean McMannon-Superintendent, Diana Gonzalez-State Representative, Clem Bissonnette-State Representative, Kirsten Kollgaard-Director of ELL and Curriculum

1. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Mindfulness:** Meeting called to order by Michael Decarreau-President at 6:35 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mindfulness with Tori Cleiland-Board Member.
2. **Agenda Review and Adjustments:** Teacher nomination – insert in 7B, move 9D after Public Comments
3. **Focus on Learning:** ELL - Director of ELL and Curriculum, Kirsten Kollgaard, presented WSD ELL Program update: Four middle school students read poetry. Each student spoke about their experience in the ELL Program and how much they have learned. Kirsten shared what students are learning in the ELL Program, content based learning, students are taught US culture through a fun fair, background knowledge. Halloween – ELL students went trick or treating. Students work with St. Michael's College students and at the end of the school year students take a field trip to St. Michael's. Math support is also offered to students. High School students are reading SEEDFOLKS. The students learn how a community works together with a shared piece of land. Parents created a book of recipes. Each Board Member received a book of recipes.
4. **Public Comments:** Laban Hill, Chair of Winooski Dollar for Scholars Scholarships, Twenty-three students of forty-three that graduated in 2014 received a scholarship. The Scholarship program has been around 20 years. Looking for the School Board's help to get people involved in the program. A brochure was given to each Board Member with the Scholarships that are given to the graduates. Michael Decarreau thanked Mr. Hill for the work that his group does.
- 9d. **Policy Title: 4.2.4 Advocate for Legislative Change:** Clem Bissonnette, State Representative, spoke about how money moves around in Montpelier. The Education Committee is currently working on a Bill to solve the problem. Diana Gonzalez, State Representative, spoke on consolidation. J. Lambert believes that there is a real benefit to collaborating with other districts. Clem Bissonnette, State Representative, urged the School Board members to use their services. J. Lambert stressed that salary and benefits are a challenge. Michael Decarreau – Unfunded mandates – How are the mandates going to be funded? Diana asked the Board members to let them know when students go to the Montpelier so they can introduce them and take part in committee discussions. S. McMannon to let Clem and Diana know if there will be Winooski students in Montpelier on Friday.
5. **Consent Agenda:**
 - a) Minutes of Meetings: January 14, 2015
 - b) Policy Title 1.0 ENDS
 - Approve College Readiness Interpretation
 - c) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Approval of Bills
 - d) Policy Title: 2.6 Asset Protection
 - Approve Child Care Parking Lot Use Agreement for 2015-16
 - e) Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - Approve 2015-2016 School Year Calendar
 - Approve Release of Contract – Patricia Keough, Elementary Teacher (effective 2/28/15)
 - Superintendent Report

Motion by Jen Corrigan to approve the Consent Agenda, with a second by Tori Cleiland. All present in favor.
6. **Ends Monitoring (Policy Section I):**
 - a) Discussion: Local/Global Engagement – Build Participant List: Michael Decarreau - What would a participant bring to the table locally and globally. Julian Portilla shared his thoughts on a person and what that person would bring to the program. Tori Cleiland – Volunteerism. Jay Lambert – Do we need a participant list? Jen Corrigan suggested business participants. Tori Cleiland asked the student representatives their thoughts. Rainbow Chen – Northeastern come from all over New England. Local engagement, intent, why? Why do we want to make our communities better, successful, problem solving, create jobs, defining the ends very broadly allows the leadership team the flexibility to define something that is different. (Michael) Volunteerism, worldwide business, looking at March to get something defined. Local Government. Needs to be narrowed down, (Michael)
7. **Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):**
 - a) Policy Title: 2.6 Asset Protection
 - Discussion: Superintendent Monitoring Report - Thoughts, comments: Sean – read evidence section – clean up #5 Letter from Rebecca – letter of support. Doesn't have it tonight. Testimonial that all information is accurate. Change - #9 – Interpretation – Superintendent – Language – make it more concise. Close the building – steps involved. J Lambert – only the School Board can close a school per statute? Should this be in the Policy? S. McMannon – add statute in. Monitoring Report – VISBIT– good move.
 - b) Teacher Nomination - Motion by T. Cleiland, to accept the Teacher Nomination as presented, second by Julian. All present in favor.
8. **Board-Management Delegation (Policy Section III):**
 - a) Discussion - Policy Title: 3.3 Delegation to the Superintendent - Michael Decarreau – Position to go forward as they are. Jen Corrigan – typos?

- b) Discussion - Policy Title: 3.4.6 Monitoring Superintendent Performance - Go forward as is. Michael – thoughts on formal evaluation as it pertains to performance – annual evaluation. Monitoring reports and accepting them – is that enough to call an evaluation? T. Cleiland – using the reports as the evaluation. Michael – survey – will compile a summary. Important piece from the staff perspective. Data will be a key piece. J. Lambert – first couple years need to give slack as the reigns are taken, model of continuous improvement. After data is compiled are we improving? Something specifically in place for continuous improvement. Are we improving – are we not improving. Sean - #2 – Internal – External inspection - J. Lambert - An external audit – also shows how to improve. Michael – climate. Leave as is.
9. **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 – February – Penguin Plunge \$14,000 – 25 student plungers. Most of them were middle school students. Pictures on Twitter. Community meetings to share events and announcements. Band played Thriller. Other music students performed. Middle – HS teacher nominates GX Champ of the day. Winner gets to wear a belt. Ledania won – Prom Committee fundraisers. Fundraising is continuing for the Boston Trip. Peace Jam is fundraising for their conference. Elementary School is still searching for a principal. Ledania – Aspirations Day is coming up – future career. Everyone gets a T-shirt. Auditions for Talent Show are coming up. March 19th – Band and Chorus concert. Shared upcoming sporting events.
- b) Policy Title: 4.1 Governing Style
- Budget Cycle Reflection - Michael – Reflections on this year’s cycle. J. Lambert - The budget went well with this Board by allowing the Administration to develop a budget within the guidelines. Michael – cycle itself – two budgets – one level funded and one that with guidance to come up with a percentage. J. Lambert – should be a multi-year budget – didn’t see something this year. Negotiating contract makes it tough. Should be able to draft a multi-year budget. Jen – demonstrated in the one to one computing. Slowly implementing in budget items. J. Lambert – Two or three year for site. Michael – short negotiation cycles. Hopefully there will be some stabilization coming from Montpelier. Tori – brainstormed proceeding with the budget next year and getting community input.
- c) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
- Discussion – 1st Reading, Policy #4132, Professional Development - First Reading – No longer a required policy. Michael – Do we want to move it forward. Jen agrees no longer need to be a policy, J. Lambert agreed.
 - Discussion – 1st Reading, Policy #5118, Participation of Home Study Students in School Programs - Home Study students – two models – current and state. Michael -1st #5118 – Believes that the Policy #5118 is written better than the State VSBA model. Sean – Some cross-reference items are out of date. Needs some updating.
10. **Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1):** (10 Minutes)
- a) Discussion: Recent community activities by board members - Recent community Board member activities: Basketball, Julian - Opiate conversation, United Way, March 5, 4:00 pm – here. Neighborhood Theme – Michael – reading to a class – mindfulness thought. Officer – a few words got all of the student’s attention. Powerful. Police Officers visited Middle school and practiced Mindfulness. Julian has there been an – SRO – Tori asked how the community is doing with Mindfulness
- b) Recognition of Jay Lambert’s Service on the School Board - 108 board meetings. Only missed one in 10 years. School Board hat at school events. Thankful for facilities work, long term plan, prioritized, thank you, after four years Michael couldn’t believe how he knew – learned a lot from him. Thank you personally and from the Board. Will see him at school events. Would likely see you at city events. Honor of your service – Golden Apple Award presented to Jay Lambert inscribed “In dedication for your service from March 2005 – February 2015”. Invited him to come in March to swear in the new members. J. Lambert – leaving with words of how does this help the students in the district. This is an accomplishment that helps the taxpayers of Winooski Children – Well-educated children will make more money for the economy. Children first and local taxpayer. You can never go wrong by putting children first.
11. **Next Agenda:**
12. **Upcoming Meeting Dates:**
- February 16, Channel 17 Budget Presentation, 5:25 p.m.
 - February 18, Community Dinner, Budget Information @ O’Brien Community Ctr., 6 p.m.
 - March 2, Annual Informational Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
 - March 3, Voting, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
 - March 11, Regular Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
13. **Executive Session:** Motion by Jen to enter Executive Session at 8:42 pm with a second by Tori to discuss Personnel/Labor Relations and contract negotiations.
14. **Possible Action on Executive Session:** None.
15. **Adjourn:** Motion by J. Lambert to adjourn at 9:02 pm, seconded by J. Corrigan. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Steady
Board Recorder