

**WINOOSKI BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2016**

**Minutes - Corrected 4/13/16**

School Board Members Present: Michael Decarreau, Jen Corrigan, Mohamed Abdi, Tori Cleiland, Rainbow Chen-Student Representative, Ledania Taylor – Student Representative

School Board Member Absent: Julian Portilla

Administration Present: Sean McMannon-Superintendent

Other Present: See Sign in Sheet

1. Meeting called to order by Sean McMannon at 6:37 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Mindfulness with Tori Cleiland.
2. **Reorganization of Board:**
  - a) Oath of Office administered to Jen Corrigan by Michael O'Brien (former mayor and community member).
  - b) Election of President – Sean McMannon asked for nominations. Nomination from Tori Cleiland for Michael Decarreau. Motion by Jen Corrigan to have Michael Decarreau as President. All present in favor.
  - c) Election of Secretary/Clerk - President Michael Decarreau asked for nominations for Secretary/Clerk. Tori Cleiland nominated Jen Corrigan. Motion by Mohamed Abdi to elect Jen Corrigan to be Clerk. All present in favor.
  - d) Code of Ethics: Board Members' Code of Conduct- Policy 4.7 – Michael asked if any member would like to make changes. Tori Cleiland made a motion to accept the Board Members' Code of Conduct Policy 4.7 to reaffirm to the members. All present in favor.
  - e) Robert's Rules for Small Boards – Board members decided to continue to the single motion – no second needed; continue to meet on the second Wednesday of each month; keep the same designated areas to post meetings; keep the continued chain of communication; and public comments to remain on the Agenda. President Michael Decarreau asked if board members would like to make any additions to the Financial Training Agenda for June.
  - f) Committee Assignments: Communication Committee will remain the same with Michael Decarreau and Julian Portilla. Parent Engagement will remain the same with Mohamed Abdi and Tori Cleiland. Negotiations will remain the same with Jen Corrigan and Michael Decarreau.

3. **Agenda Review and Adjustments:** Move Section 8 under the Consent Agenda
4. **Focus on Learning:** Sean McMannon presented the Food Security presentation along with Rebecca Goulet. If a student isn't eating well, they are not going to be able to learn as well. Rebecca explained the Community Eligibility Program (CEP). Winooski currently has 67% of students directly certified and are offering free breakfast and lunch since August 2014. The numbers for free breakfast increased once JFK students were being fed in the classroom. The Snack/Supper Program numbers are on the rise. Athletes started receiving a bag lunch for their bus trips to away games. The Summer Food Program was run by the city and is now the School District tool over the role with the Abby. The district will apply to have the Summer Program again this year. Meals will be tied with the summer programs. A Grant was written for the elementary students to have an additional snack of fruit and vegetables. About 80 students each week get food to take home in their backpack. Moving forward there will continue to be an increased focus on nutrition, Student Food Service Advisory Council, Hunger Council of Chittenden County, coordination with the local food bank, possible collaboration with a new grocery store, increased Supper Program, Sport Programs, Replacement of the walk-in cooler and freezer. There will be continued collaboration and communication.
5. **Public Comments:** None
6. **Consent Agenda:**
  - a) Minutes of Meetings: February 10, 2016
  - b) Policy Title: 2.2 Treatment of Staff
    - Approve Superintendent Monitoring Report
  - c) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
    - Approval of Bills
  - d) Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
    - Approve Teacher Contracts for 2016/17
  - e) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
    - Superintendent Report
  - f) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Board Job Description
    - Adopt Policy #5114a, Student Conduct & Discipline
    - Adopt Policy #6172, Limited English Proficiency Students

Motion by Jen Corrigan to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Discussion included Michael Decarreau with an adjustment to the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes: Change "Can the Board be comfortable that the activities are being met?" to "Can the Board be comfortable with the fact that we have sufficient cross-training to enable all roles to be covered and that if misconduct is happening in one role , with some time (and time-off) it will be caught?" All present in favor.

Sean McMannon asked for an approval of a Long Term Substitute. Judith Lawson will be filling in for Melissa Richard. Motion by Tori Cleiland to accept the Long Term Substitute nomination of Judith Lawson as presented. All present in favor.

## **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 – Ledania-Student Representative said that a Lip Sync Battle is coming up. The elementary students did a great job with the Mary Poppins play. High school students are mentoring elementary school students. Rainbow and Tatum represented the school at the State House. A student was interviewed for his work on the SSTA bus passes. Auditions for the Winooski Got Talent Show will be taking place in April. The annual JFK Fun Fair is coming up for the students and their families. Rainbow- Student Representative continued with the NYC trip - the plans are being finalized. Winooski students will be going to Montpelier with 10 other schools from all over Vermont to participate in how well they know their Financial Literacy. Prom update – The theme is the roaring 20's. Pre-Prom tickets will be \$15 for singles and \$25 per couple. Music department updates included the Youth Orchestra will be performing at the Flynn. Middle School will have a concert coming up. Sports update was given. Rainbow updated the board on her position as Student Representative to the VT State Board of Education.
- Discussion and Possible Action: Act 46
  - Supt. McMannon met with other Superintendents regarding Act 46 and it makes sense to have Colchester and Winooski merge and keep South Burlington and Burlington in the loop and part of the committee. They felt this is a better match due to the demographics and current tax rates. A conventional merger was discussed with an official Study Committee to be formed. Hire a facilitator to work with the different stakeholders. The facilitator would work with the committee to consider options. Another option would be not to do any of this and respond to the State Board of Education and remain a single district. At some point a decision needs to be brought to the State Board of Education by July 17<sup>th</sup>. The reasoning is not meeting the 900-student threshold. The members present decided to move forward and do the study. Motion made by Tori Cleiland to convene a committee to study a conventional, voluntary merger with the Colchester School District (CSD). All present in favor.

**CORRECTION:** Motion made by Tori Cleiland to accept the Consent Agenda. Discussion included correcting the minutes of March 9th - Section 7 - Act 46 to read "For Colchester School District (CSD) and Winooski School District (WSD) to conduct a conventional merger study . . ." Also, the bullet point says July 17<sup>th</sup>, but should read July 2017.

### b) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies

- Discussion – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #5114c- Weapons – Sean spoke with the VSBA regarding why the policy only has firearms in it and was told that some boards have covered beyond firearms through a Weapons and/or Student Conduct Policy. Sean recommended moving forward with the Weapons

Policy and using some language from the VSBA policy to clean up some language. He also asked Board members in some circumstances if the wording should be shall or may for the flexibility of the Board Members. Discussion continued that any student that brings a firearm to school shall be brought to the Board. Then the expulsion is determined on a case-by-case basis. Shall be suspended for ten days will read may be suspended for 10 days. Also, discussed was a student with a disability and how the policy may apply.

c) Policy Title: 4.2.4 Legislative Update

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

Approve Vendor for Operable Partition Walls – Moved to under the Consent Agenda. Rebecca Goulet joined the Board Members for discussion. Sean explained the bid process and that the partitions will be in the High School on the second floor for more flexible spacing. This will be in preparation of the House Model. Michael asked about the additional expenses for the electrical, etc. Rebecca explained that this was not part of the bid for the partitions. In-house staff will be able to do some of the work. Sean also said an important piece to add is the \$560K available that might be coming up in the future for the Walk-in Cooler and maybe updating bathrooms. Motion made by Jen Corrigan to approve the vendor for the partition walls. All Present in favor.

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

a) Discussion: Recent community activities by board members – the Annual Meeting that Michael attended said that Michael Mahoney suggested it would be good public relations if board members reached out to new families that have moved into the community. Board members decided this would be a May Agenda topic.

**10. Next Agenda:** No changes

**11. Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

- Regular Board Meeting – April 13th

**12. Executive Session:**

- Motion made by Tori Cleiland to enter Executive Session at 8:17 pm to discuss Labor Negotiations. All present in favor.

**13. Possible Action on Executive Session:**

**14.** Motion made by Jen Corrigan to adjourn at 8:37pm. All present in favor.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Steady  
Board Recorder