

WINOOSKI BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016
Learning Media Center
Minutes

Board Members Present: Michael Decarreau-President, Jen Corrigan-Clerk, Tori Cleiland, Julian Portilla, Rainbow Chen-Student Representative

Board Members Absent: Abdi Mohamed, Ledania Taylor - Student Representative

Administration Present: Sean McMannon-Superintendent, Leon Wheeler-Principal

Others Present: Melissa Mason, Rebecca Mellen, Sierra Thibodeau, Tom Payeur, Lindsey Cox, Larry Waters, Michael Rogers, Gwen Carmolli, Curt Taylor, Craig Kieny, George Trieb, Amy Minor, Brett Krzynski, Joan Benjamin, Stefanie Hamble and Jason Starr. Sign-in Sheet on file.

1. Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm by Michael Decarreau-President followed with Mindfulness with Tori Cleiland.
2. No changes to the Agenda.
3. **Focus on Learning:** Staff members presented the Math Best Practice Program. The presentation included the benefits of the program. The program is currently on the third year of a three-year cycle. There is a residence teacher that works with the experience of a studio teacher. Changing the mindset of a student that believes that he or she is not a good math student to I am a good math student is the goal of the program. Mathematically productive habits and routines has really changed how teachers work with students. Changing the way a teacher speaks with a student can change the growth mindset when working with them. Student talk can help build a student's independence. Student engagement in the habits is helping a student recognize how to work on math problems. What are the benefits to the student? The teacher gives the student a private reasoning time, partner sharing, students revoice key ideas other students share. Classroom debates, partner debates math is the authority, students justify their thinking, provide evidence in the service of Making Sense of Math! Growth Mindset video is shown to students to give them an understanding that you can work it through and can give a student the confidence they need. A handout was given to Board members on Mathematically Productive Habits and Routines. Teachers structure activities that will support all learners. The three-year cycle includes: Data snaps with math leadership, studio teacher planning with a best practice coach. All math teachers observe the studio teacher and coach focused topic and make lasting commitments. Four new classes will be added next year: Economics, Robotics, Steganography and Low Impact Architecture.

4. Public Comments: None.

5. Consent Agenda:

- a) Minutes of Meetings: April 13, 2016
- b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Approval of Bills
- c) Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
 - Approve Contract Recommendations
 - Spencer, Amanda - MS Guidance Counselor for 16/17 SY
 - Approve Superintendent Monitoring Report-Policy Title 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
- d) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - Superintendent Report
- e) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Board Job Description
 - Adopt Policy #4122 - Substitute Professional Staff Employment
 - Adopt Policy #5123 - Promotion and Retention

Motion by Julian Portilla to accept the Consent Agenda. Discussion included a change in the April 13th minutes. Approved with changes.

6. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):

- a) Policy Title: 4.1.b Governing Style: Encouragement of a Diversity of Views
 - Act 46 Merger Study Committee with discussion

Colchester School District representatives were invited to join the Winooski board members at the table to discuss a merger study. Michael Decarreau welcomed the Colchester School District visitors. He gave some history of how the group came together regarding the Act 46 merger study. Winooski has 846 students just under the 900 that require a study. There have been some significant changes over the last four years. The study is really about the students and the opportunities to them. Michael Rogers (Colchester School Board Chair) shared his thoughts regarding the merger which included bringing the perspective to the parents that the students will become part of the Global Community. Superintendent McMannon met with Superintendent Waters (Colchester School District) to come up with the discussion tonight. Discussion included - What are the strengths each District has to offer? One question asked was - What was the reason to invite Colchester into this merger? Michael explained that there are challenges and this would offer a broader range of opportunities to the student and any financial savings that might come from the merging. Superintendent Waters said that there were conversations as long as seven to eight years ago. Michael Decarreau explained Colchester was chosen over Burlington due mostly to the difference in tax base. Lindsey Cox felt Colchester brings many strengths to the table in ways they support their learners. Discussion also included the per pupil spending and test scores - even though the per pupil spending is less than larger schools, the test scores were competitive.

The Student Representative for the Colchester School District expressed concern with school pride and how students might feel this would be lost if districts are combined. The Winooski School District representative voiced that the diversity in Winooski is a huge advantage to the rest of Vermont. She doesn't feel the Colchester school pride would not be harmed due to the difference in the school systems. There could be a concern due to the diversity but feels it is still possible to merge. Special Education dollars were discussed. Curt Taylor (CSD) expressed concern with the cost of the study and shared some feedback from Colchester community members. Superintendent Waters expressed some of the professional development opportunities. Lindsey Cox (CSD) said that she believes the whole point of the study is to get answers and this is an opportunity to find out any cost savings and getting answers. This is the next step to give answers to the voters. Rainbow Chen said that test scores are low due to the diversity in the district. Tori Cleiland agreed that the tests are not fair due to the different backgrounds. Julian Portilla agreed that the \$25K is a lot of money from the taxpayers around the state but believes the merger really needs to be done to be able to have these talks. Jen Corrigan believes it will be interesting to see if the merger talks about the services offered. Julian Portilla mentioned the population being a driving factor. Do people really envision students going to the different schools. Superintendent Waters (CSD) mentioned that busing could work. Rainbow Chen mentioned the times of classes might be a problem. Michael Rogers (CSD) feels that sports would be a driving force. Tori Cleiland feels the study would answer all of these questions. Gwen Carmolli (CSD) expressed concern about traditional learning and there are many amazing things going on in both schools. Both districts have been recognized. Creating many opportunities is moving practice and instructional practice. Blended practice and strengths involved. Lindsey Cox (CSD) believes the logistics will not phase the student. Curt Taylor (CSD) feels the study will be informative even if there wasn't a merger. This study is important to get questions answered and to be able to answer questions from the community and what is coming down the road from the state. Sean opened up the meeting to final questions. Rainbow Chen asked if there would be an opportunity to have a tour of Colchester and vice versa? Michael Rogers (CSD) said further discussion will continue at the next board retreat. Also discussed was the potential to the voters. How long is the incentive for the study on the table? The study money is on the table for about one more year. What is the culture in Winooski with the budget? Michael Decarreau shared that he has seen more success in the budgets passing the last eight years. Jen Corrigan explained that there is a lot of communication in the within the community and Tori Cleiland explained that the community is very involved in the schools. Jason (Colchester Sun) asked about the study and merger. Michael Decarreau shared there could be potential opportunities. Michael Decarreau thanked the visitors for coming.

- Student Report to the Board - Rainbow Chen updated the board members on the following school events: With May - "May I have this dance". Updated on the Prom. The middle school art teacher has an online auction and has raised \$133 to date. The after school percussion group has had professional musicians work with them. The high school students have been mentoring elementary students. The Youth Leadership Conference at Burlington College had 10-20 students participate. The National Honor Society inducted 12 juniors. The Allstate Music Festival had two Winooski students. Spring into the Arts will be at the O'Brien Center. Last Pops Concert of the year and a Memorial Day Parade is coming up. Prom is coming up quick on May 20th. Seniors will be presenting their critical thinking projects. WSD Program of Studies. Senior Expo day is May 20th. Update on spring sports. Graduation updates. Rainbow shared that she will represent Winooski in Arkansas at a three day summit and is excited about representing Winooski and Vermont.
 - b) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - 1st Reading, #5114b - Student Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Discussion included the difference between the VSBA model and our model. Most items after definitions can go under procedures. Paraphernalia needs to be in the policy. Keep the philosophy piece in the policy and take some of the language and move it. Have a reference for flexibility. Discussion included Beatle Nut and how it can cause cancer and a rapid heartbeat. Information has been passed out to local stores regarding the effects of Beatle Nut. In the future should this be incorporated into the policy, Beatle Nut would actually fall under the Tobacco policy. Beatle Nut can cause disruption to the educational environment. There has been some suspensions. Discussion also included the 10-day suspension on Page 5. Procedures should give some discretion regarding the 10-day suspension.
 - 1st Reading, #5125 - Student Educational Records (FERPA)
Discussion included going to the VSBA model.
 - c) Policy Title: 4.2.5 Board Job Description
 - Appoint External Auditor - 2nd of 3 year Contract
No action needs to be taken.
 - d) Policy Title: 4.3 Handling of Operational Complaints - Discussion included ensuring that any actions that are taken by the board have gone through the proper channels before they come to the board. Section 4.3.3 - Will the open-ended loop and 4.3.6 be covered. Accept in the next Consent Agenda with the different verbiage.
7. **Board-Management Delegation (Policy Section III):**
- a) Policy Title: 3.2 Accountability of the Superintendent
 - Board Monitoring Report - moved to the June Agenda

8. Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1):

- a) Discussion: Recent community activities by board members
Tori Cleiland went to Mt Able for the Middle School Track event. Jen Corrigan participated in Green-up Day. Julian Portilla attended the Skate Park event. Sean has put together a couple of soccer clubs for boys under 14 years of age.

9. Next Agenda: No additions.

10. Upcoming Important Dates:

VSA/VCSEA Spring Conference will be held May 19th and 20th
Spring Into the Arts will be May 23rd through the 27th
WM/HS Pops Concert is May 24th
JFK Concert/Empty Bowls is May 26th
The next Regular Board Meeting is June 8th

11. Motion by Jen Corrigan to enter Executive Session at 9:16 pm to discuss Labor Negotiations. All in favor.

Out of Executive Session at 9:31 p.m.

12. Results of Executive Session:

- a) Approve 2016/17 Teacher Negotiated Agreement - Motioned to approve/ratify the negotiated agreement. All in favor.

13. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Brenda Steady
Board Recorder