

WINOOSKI BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016  
LEARNING MEDIA CENTER

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

Board Members absent: Mohammed Abdi

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

Others Present: See attendance sheet on file

1. Michael Decarreau-President called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Tori Cleiland led the members and audience in Mindfulness.
2. Agenda Review and Adjustments: None
3. Sean McMannon, WSD Superintendent introduced Leon Wheeler, WMHS Principal as the presenter of the Wellbeing Graduate Expectation (GX) presentation. The Wellbeing rubric was developed to show how student progress is measured. A variety of staff members are exploring the use of the rubric and how they are using it with their students. Board members were given a handout to complete by Team Nexus math teacher, Callie Reinker. She explained this is one of the processes used with the students – each student will list something that they do everyday that gets in the way of their own personal wellbeing. Then the challenge is to give this up for a week. As a part of a student’s wellbeing, a physical activity is included in the GX Expectations. Also, students visited a local store to pick out a healthier snack other than chips. Health and Family Consumer science teacher, Vicki Wolinsky continued with the component of how to personally improve in your own life using the Wellness Wheel with a variety of components such as: Spiritual, Emotional, Intellectual, Physical, Social, Environmental and Financial. Physical Education teacher, Sue Messier, has her students complete individual goals as part of their wellbeing. Students are given a rubric to self-assess themselves. Wellness Coordinator, Jaycie Puttlitz met with VSAC personnel to discuss a space for employees to work on mindfulness. Woodstock is very interested in what Winooski is doing with mindfulness. A group of students come together to speak with teachers at the Spartans in Motion (SIM) program. Breakfast in the classroom is working well. Having afternoon snacks is popular with the students. There is a focus on environmental wellbeing – students are being taught to compost. There are a lot of farm-to-school activities going on. There is a greenhouse project being put on site being worked on. Employee wellness is also being worked on with the staff members. Teachers that participated also worked on wellness goals. Wellness Day is an entire day where there are several activities lined up for staff and students to participate in.

4. Public Comments: None

5. Consent Agenda:

- a) Minutes of Meetings: January 13<sup>th</sup> and January 25, 2016
- b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
  - Approval of Bills
- c) Policy Title: 2.6 Asset Protection
  - Approve Child Care Parking Lot Use Agreement for 2016-17
- d) Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
  - Approve Contract Recommendation – Thomas Shearer, Behavior Coach, Grades 6-12
  - Approve Administrations Contracts:
    - Leon Wheeler, WMHS Principal
    - Katherine Grodin, WNHS Assistant Principal
    - Sara Raabe, Elementary Principal
    - Robin Hood, Director of Special Services & Early Learning
    - Rebecca Goulet, Finance Manager
- e) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - Superintendent Report

Julian Portilla moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All present in favor.

6. Ends Monitoring (Policy Section I):

- a) Global Engagement Forum

**Ziad Samaha** Via streamline (Skype) from Beirut, Program Director for West Asia Oceans, **Matt Schleinv** - Vergennes Union High School/Walden Project, **Melissa Mason** - PeaceJam Advisor and Math Teacher, **Libby Houghton** - PeaceJam Advisor and Tutor Coordinator, **Tatum** - High School Student and **Michael Hill Jr** - Spectrum Youth & Family Services joined the school board members for the discussion of Global Engagement. Discussion included that to become globally connected you need to start locally before you start to think globally. Students need to be equipped with the tools to become their own leaders. To become engaged there must be a level of awareness. Libby mentioned that with the current technology she noticed there is not actual globes and maps in the educational setting. In order to care of other people you need to start with yourself. If you can solve small problems, you can solve larger problems. If a student can succeed locally they can walk away with the “I can do anything” perspective. The question then became: Do we need the global piece or should be focus on being locally engaged? You almost need to use the global perspective to show students it is everywhere. It was also discussed that students need to know about finances to be globally engaged. There is awareness that not all students are going to college so it is good that students are being taught perspective in elementary, middle and high school. Michael Decarreau wrapped up the discussion that when a student leaves the doors of Winooski that they are career

and college ready. He thanked Ziad, Matt, Melissa, Libby, Tatum and Michael for coming.

7. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):

a) Policy Title: 2.2 Treatment of Staff

Superintendent Monitoring Report with discussion

Sean started the discussion with Section V. Would the board member like to see more information on grievances? Sean said he does have the last two years since he has been year for data on grievances. He asked if the board members would want more specific data? Discussion included: Is that data enough to see if something is not being done well and needs to be changed? The evidence would need to show if there are any big changes over time. Is the change that is being seen having anything to do with the treatment of staff? The board does not believe that it is the number of grievances. WEA data compare with the schools data. Was this a good year or bad year? The data might be useful with negotiations with the perspective between the parties. Sean will put something together as far as data for the next meeting.

b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities

Accept the Financial Management Questionnaire

Michael began the discussion with - 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? Sean McMannon explained that when he began at Winooski that only certain personnel could perform day-to-day duties and he has now started cross training staff members so that there is more than one person that can do payroll, etc. He believes there has been a lot of progress in the last two years, an example being the recent clean audit. This questionnaire needs to be reviewed and voted upon.

Motion by Tori Cleiland to accept the Financial Management Questionnaire as detailed. All present in favor.

8. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):

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

Students Report to the Board

Rainbow shared details of the Penguin Plunge. Winooski raised over \$12k and over 60 plunged into Lake Champlain. Peace Jam are planning an International Bake Sale and making flags to correspond with the foods. There was an Urban Roots Film Festival on February 6<sup>th</sup>. There was a Winter Ball/Valentines Dance. Music All-States will be in May at MVU. Summer Salad Fundraiser will be tomorrow the 11<sup>th</sup>. WHS students in Upward Bound will represent their schools at the Sheraton. Youth Leadership Institute will have two Winooski Representatives. Ledania shared that the elementary students has a Big Change Round Up and teachers helped by offering to have their hair dyed. Feb 19th there will be an assembly to announce the teacher who will have to dye her hair. Yearbooks are on sale and there is a fundraiser currently is going on. There is a raffle going on for

the NYC trip. Next Thursday three middle school students will travel to Montpelier to advocate for after school activities. The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Winooski Talent Show is coming up April 8<sup>th</sup>. The orchestra and band concert is March 17<sup>th</sup>. Ledania gave an update on the Athletic Events. Baseball meetings are coming up and Track is coming up in March. Rainbow will update on the State Board at the next meeting.

b) Policy Title: 4.1 Governing Style

Accept the Board Monitoring Report 4.1 Governing Style

Michael feels that the board is doing a good job on 4.1.

Motion by Tori Cleiland to accept the interpretation of the Board Monitoring Report 4.1 Governing Style. No further discussion. All present in favor.

David Kirk, a visiting Burlington School District Board member, asked how the policy came to the point of being approved and if there was discussion before tonight. Board members explained that there has been ongoing discussion for months.

Budget Cycle Reflection – Is there anything different that can be done next year?

Board members felt they were proactive in advocating for the district. Board members agreed this year was more productive than last year and the streamline approach was more effective. Education finance and funding reform at the state level for a more forward budget building would be a good focus of advocacy for board members.

c) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies

1<sup>st</sup> reading of Policy #5114a – Student Conduct & Discipline with discussion.

Everything that is in the model is in the local policy. There is some need to clean up some wording along with punctuation. Under student responsibility, pertaining to the handbook is the signature page required to be turned in. As long as there is proof that the handbook was made available, the signature page doesn't necessarily need to be turned in. There was a question regarding concern with equity. Where would Restorative Justice fit in? Would it be policy and/or procedure? Doesn't have to be Restorative Justice but can be Restorative practice or principles? Board members asked Sean to bring back the policy with the Restorative piece in it.

1<sup>st</sup> reading of Policy #6172 – Non English Language Background with discussion.

Limited English Proficiency Student to be changed throughout the document.

d) Policy Title: 4.2.4 Advocate for Legislative Change -  
Discussion – Moved to March Agenda

9. Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1):

- a) Recent Community activities by board members – Michael thanked Julian and Sean with their involvement in the Legislative Budget discussion and the advocacy for the district. Sean and Michael participated in the Penguin Plunge.

10. Next Agenda: Policy Title: 4.2.4 Advocate for Legislative Change with discussion.

11. Upcoming Events:

February 16<sup>th</sup> – Community dinner and Budget presentation at the O’Brien Community Center at 5:30 pm

February 17<sup>th</sup> – Teacher negotiations meeting at 6:00 pm in room 102

February 18<sup>th</sup> – Channel 17 Budget Presentation at 6:00 pm

February 29<sup>h</sup> - Annual Informational meeting at 7:30 pm – PAC

March 1<sup>st</sup> – Voting 7:00 am – 7:00 pm at the Senior Center

March 9<sup>th</sup> – Regular Board of Trustees meeting at 6:30 pm

12. Motion by Tori Cleiland to enter Executive Session at 9:41pm to discuss Labor Negotiations.

13. Out of Executive Session a 10:03pm.

14. No Action

15. Motion by Jen Corrigan to adjourn at 10:04pm. All present in favor.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Steady  
Board Recorder