

Winooski School District Budget 2017

Winooski School District ENDS Statement All students will graduate from the Winooski School District (WSD) college and career ready at a cost supported by a majority of the Winooski community. WSD students will lead healthy, productive and successful lives and engage with their local and global community.

Our Learning Community

The WSD Ends Statement above clearly states the high expectations we have for our students. This past November, December and January the WSD administration worked with the Board of School Trustees to tackle the complicated task of determining the proposed budgetary investment in our school for the 2016-17 school year based on the WSD Ends Statement. Board members Mike Decarreau, Tori Cleiland, Jen Corrigan, Mohamed Abdi and Julian Portilla brought student-centered and forward-thinking leadership to the budget process. In addition, we



were fortunate that community members Jim Read, Jay Lambert and Sam Russo joined the process.

The budget cycle started with statutorily-required news from Department of Taxes Commissioner Peterson in her November 2015 memo outlined a \$0.02 increase in the base homestead property tax rate which adds 2% to the tax rate. In addition, Winooski's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) decreased from 98.34% to 93.65%. This change in CLA means your property is estimated to be worth

more but increases the school tax rate by 4.77%. The biggest positive contributor to the estimated tax rate is the increase in our Equalized Pupil Count which decreases the tax rate by 2.7%. Expenses rose 6.24% primarily due to salaries and benefits, and special education associated costs. All of these factors result in an estimated tax impact of 5.36%.

WSD continues to be one of the most fiscally responsible school districts in the State. The most recent Per Pupil Spending rankings (2015) show WSD is 206/282. The Board of Trustees continually works with the administration to invest in the needs of our complex student population, while respecting the increasing issue of affordability.

Regular School Operating Budget

| | FY 2016 | FY 2017 | Difference |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Budget | \$14,022,224 | \$14,897,284 | 6.24% |
| Eq. Pupil | 925 | 950 | 2.70% |
| Ed. Spending Per Student | \$12,906 | \$13,368 | 3.65% |

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WSD BOTTOM LINE

| CATEGORY | % INCREASE | DOLLAR AMOUNT |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Salaries & Benefits | 4.61% | \$647 000 |
| Professional Service & Tuitions | 1.43% | \$200,000 |
| Other | .20% | \$28,000 |
| TOTAL | 6.24% | \$875,000 |

It's Time to Learn About the School Budget!

Voting takes place March 1st, 2016 at the Senior Center on Barlow Street. This piece will help you understand the issues you will be voting on. We hope you will find it informative.

WANT MORE BUDGET INFORMATION?

Monday, February 29, 2016

Annual Meeting -
Performing Arts Center,
Winooski Educational Center
6:00 p.m. - City Budget Presentation
7:30 p.m. - School Budget Presentation

Winooski School District Graduate Expectations (GXs)

The Winooski and Burlington School Districts are innovative, collaborative, and equitable learning organizations that inspire all learners to lead their communities to a dynamic and sustainable future.

The five levels of this vision are:

- Personalized & Proficiency-Based Learning
- Teaching & Learning Environments
- Community-Based Learning
- Youth Engagement & Leadership, and
- Family & School Partnerships

WHS teachers and students, supported by the Partnership for Change, and with community input, have developed challenging standards for Winooski students to meet. This is one of the initial steps in moving to a personalized and proficiency-based learning environment. The Graduate Expectations (GXs) below will be coupled with essential content standards in areas such as Math and Science to become our proficiency-based graduation requirements. It is no longer about seat time. It is about students demonstrating their learning in a variety of ways to meet rigorous standards.

Here are the GXs:

- Critical Thinking
- Well-Being
- Communication
- Creativity
- Persistence
- Culture and Community



COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

WMHS students and staff continue to develop our Graduate Expectations (GXs). Specifically, they have been working on Critical Thinking, Communication and Wellbeing. Each day a student is selected by teachers for excellence in one of these transferable skills and earns the title of “GX Champ of the Day”! Next year WMHS will continue with these two GXs and add Persistence to the mix. In addition, all WMHS students will be demonstrating their growth and presenting their best work on these GXs during our Expo Weeks in January and June. Also, our JFK teachers have been working on Responsive Classroom practices such as “Morning Meeting” this year and will continue to grow this important work so all students can learn important skills for the future.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WSD has made great strides in community engagement! Students, staff, parents and local businesses have raised over \$36,000 for VT Special Olympics by jumping into icy Lake Champlain for the Penguin Plunge. A portion of this money comes back to WSD to support our Unified Sports program. WHS students organized “Make A Difference Day” this year and contributed to our community through a food drive and pumpkin-carving.

Also, WSD has been using our new translation equipment so non-English speakers can actively engage in school events.





HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL LIVES

WSD continues to focus on improving student's readiness to learn through multiple aspects of wellness. Mindfulness practice continues at JFK and is growing at WMHS. The Mindful City Project, through a second year of grant funding from the Vermont Community Foundation, helps all community members realize the benefits from this practice. WMS continues to grow the Spartans-In-Motion movement program which incorporates the latest neuroscience into student learning. WSD has enrolled in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) which allows ALL students to eat breakfast, snack and lunch for free. The Abbey Group has helped institute "Breakfast in the Classroom" this year so we can ensure all JFK students start the day properly fueled for learning!



MARCH 1, 2016

Equalized Student Spending and Tax Impact

As you can see from the table at right, our Equalized Student Spending has moved further away from the Vermont average in the past 7 years. **The Winooski School District remains one of the lowest spending districts per equalized pupil in the state.** Each budget cycle we work hard to allocate resources to those areas in the school system that need the most attention to allow us to continue to improve our outcomes for students.

WSD vs. VT State

| WSD Ed. Spending | VT Avg. | +/- | WSD Rank |
|------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| FY 15- \$12,736 | \$13,770 | -\$1,034 | 206/282 |
| FY 14- \$11,911 | \$13,436 | -\$1,525 | 225/282 |
| FY 13- \$11,572 | \$12,577 | -\$1,005 | 215/286 |
| FY 12- \$10,717 | \$12,012 | -\$1,295 | 231/286 |
| FY 11- \$11,053 | \$11,890 | -\$837 | 216/286 |
| FY 10- \$11,022 | \$11,736 | -\$714 | 211/286 |
| FY 09- \$10,943 | \$11,233 | -\$290 | 193/289 |

Due to the complex state-wide funding formula for education, the answer to the question: How will this affect my taxes can only accurately be answered with "It depends".

The two main dependencies are household income and house value. As you can see from the two tables below, if your household income is under \$99,000 for the year, then your taxes are based on a percentage of income: this year 2.42% which is 0.03% lower than last year. If your household income is above \$99,000 for the year, then taxes become based on house value. Hopefully the continuum in the table gets close to your value and you can extrapolate from there.

Tax Impact (Household Income below \$99K)

| Household Income | 2016 2.45% | 2017 2.42% | Diff. |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| \$90,000 | \$2,205 | \$2,178 | -\$27 |
| \$80,000 | \$1,960 | \$1,936 | -\$24 |
| \$70,000 | \$1,715 | \$1,694 | -\$21 |
| \$60,000 | \$1,470 | \$1,452 | -\$18 |
| \$50,000 | \$1,225 | \$1,210 | -\$15 |
| \$40,000 | \$ 980 | \$ 968 | -\$12 |

< Tax impact if
your income is
below \$99,000:
LOWER taxes

Tax Impact (Household Income above \$99K)

| House Value | 2016 | 2017 (Est.) | Monthly Diff. |
|-------------|---------|-------------|---------------|
| \$150,000 | \$2,059 | \$2,169 | \$ 110 |
| \$175,000 | \$2,402 | \$2,530 | \$ 128 |
| \$200,000 | \$2,745 | \$2,892 | \$ 147 |
| \$225,000 | \$3,088 | \$3,253 | \$ 165 |
| \$250,000 | \$3,431 | \$3,615 | \$ 184 |
| \$275,000 | \$3,774 | \$3,977 | \$ 203 |
| \$300,000 | \$4,117 | \$4,338 | \$ 221 |

Tax impact if
your income is
above \$99,000:
HIGHER taxes
(based on
home value)

Newsletter of the Winooski School District

Winooski School District
60 Normand Street
Winooski, VT 05404

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smcmannon@wsdschools.org

POSTAL PATRON

*****ECRWSS**

WINOOSKI, VT 05404

Details You Need To Know

ISSUES TO BE VOTED ON

Property Tax Relief

If your adjusted gross household income is less than \$99,000 you are likely to be eligible for a reduction of your education property tax.

Eligibility for property tax relief is based on your household income, home value, and city school tax rate, and will be applied to your 2016-17 tax bill. Renters may also be eligible. The maximum 2017 Property Tax Adjustment is \$8,000.

Instructions and forms are in the Vermont income tax booklet, which is available in post offices, libraries, city/town halls or from the Vermont Department of Taxes. Forms can be downloaded at <http://www.state.vt.us/tax/formsincome.shtml>

BALLOT QUESTIONS

ARTICLE I:

Elect a Moderator and Clerk.

ARTICLE II:

Shall the District accept the 2016 Annual Report and all included sub reports?

ARTICLE III:

Shall the Board of School Trustees be authorized to allow appropriate groups and agencies to use school facilities and equipment in accordance with District policies?

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ARTICLES

ARTICLE IV: Shall the District accept and expend the sum of One million, Eight hundred fifty-two thousand, and Five hundred seven dollars (\$1,852,507) or whatever sum is provided by federal programs for the support of compensatory education and special programs? Said sum shall be exclusively federal funds received by the District. **(No local or statewide school property taxes included in these funds.)**

ARTICLE V: Shall the District vote to appropriate the sum of Fourteen million, Eight hundred ninety-seven thousand, Two hundred eighty-four dollars (\$14,897,284), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of Thirteen Thousand, Three-hundred sixty-eight dollars (\$13,368) per equalized pupil. The projected spending per equalized pupil is 3.65% higher than spending for the current year

VOTE on March 1, 2016 at the Senior Center on Barlow Street, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.