

WINOOSKI BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017
MINUTES

Board Member Present: Michael Decarreau-President, Jen Corrigan-Clerk, Tori Cleiland, Matthew MacNeil, Julian Portilla, Alexander Do-Student Representative

Board Members Absent: Rainbow Chen-Student Representative

Administration Present: Sean McMannon-Superintendent

Others Present: See Sign-in Sheet

1. Meeting called to order at 6: 35 by Michael Decarreau-President followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Mindfulness led by Tori Cleiland.
2. **Agenda Review and Adjustments:** None.
3. **Focus on Learning:** Sean McMannon began the presentation on “**All Are Welcome**”. He reviewed the Executive Order that went into effect last week. Communication has included an email to staff, letter to New American parents, translated Executive Order FAQ from VRRP. Resources include: VRRP, Senator Sanders’ office and Vermont Legal Aid. Kirsten Kollgaard, Director of ELL and Curriculum, has reached out to the community. She shared some concerns from local families in the community. Dalib Bulle, Home School Liaison, spoke about the process of coming here. He has been working in the district for 13 years. He made it clear that people do not choose to be a refugee. The war in Somalia made middle class people very poor and desperate. The camps are in the middle of nowhere. Life in a refugee camp is unspeakable. To be approved to come to the United States is very hard. Many refugees that have come here work. The future of all refugees is uncertain. Sean encourages everyone to remain hopeful and find the goodness in the situation. Board members shared their perspective on the situation.
4. **Public Comments:** None.
5. **Consent Agenda:**
 - a) Minutes of Meetings: January 4th and 11th, 2017
 - b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Approval of Bills
 - c) Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
 - Approve Contract Recommendation
 - Cindy Day, Long Term Sub for R. Savage, 9-12 ELL
 - Rebecca Baker, Long Term Sub for N. Maley, 9-12 ELL
 - WSD Administrative Contracts
 - Leon Wheeler, WMHS Co-Principal
 - Katherine Grodin, WMHS Co-Principal
 - Sara Raabe, Elementary Principal

- Robin Hood, Director of Special Education & Early Learning
 - Rebecca Goulet, Finance Manager
 - Kirsten Kollgaard, Director of Curriculum & ELL
- d) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
- Superintendent Report
 - Child Care Parking Lot Agreement
- e) Policy Title: 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership
- Action: Accept Board Monitoring Report 4.4

Motion made by Matthew MacNeil to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
All present in favor.

6. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):

- a) Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
- Discussion: Budget Cycle Reflection: Michael Decarreau asked for thoughts on the budget process. Discussion among board members began with the importance of leading with the ENDS. Sean's presentation was helpful. Sean felt that a good system has been created over the years. It was efficient, thorough and meaningful.

7. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):

- a) Policy Title: 4.2.4 Board Job Description
- Meeting with Legislators – Clem Bissonnette and Diana Gonzalez joined the board members at the table. Michael Decarreau asked for the legislators perspective of what they are seeing in Montpelier. Clem feels that Governor Scott's education proposal will go nowhere this year. Diana felt there was a good technical maneuver. There was a study about redoing property taxes and making property tax more equalized. Clem said that having refugee students speaking at the State House is very helpful in getting people to understand what they are going through. Diana shared what is happening with the Primary Health Care Initiative. It hasn't hit the floor yet but it might be an impact. About 80 percent of the school's budget is for salaries and benefits. Appointments for committees haven't taken place yet and who the candidates are. Michael shared his views regarding negotiations each year. It is difficult and the time that is spent on this could be used for other things. Massive changes are extremely disruptive to negotiate each year. The yield each year changes the tax rate when tax bills are sent out after the vote. It is confusing. Julian Portilla spoke on the Allowable Growth provisions of Act 46 and it how it seems unfair to the Winooski District. Diana said that they can reach out to other legislators on other committees. Diana said there is a new Alcohol Commissioner that is really looking at the system. He is looking at compliance checks for tobacco.
- b) Policy Title: 4.1.b Governing Style: Encouragement of a Diversity of Views
- Student Report to the Board: Alexander Do stated that with the new semester, students express concern about the WHS Guidance Counselor being overwhelmed with students schedule changes. The Executive Order has sparked discussion among students about safety and care of each other. This resulted in all the posters around the school - "ALL ARE WELCOME"! All three students that auditioned for All State Music Festival made it! Ines Horozovic and Rainbow

Chen both earned seats in the Orchestra. Key Nguyen not only qualified for chorus but also won a scholarship award when auditioning. On Friday, February 3rd, a few Winooski High School students visited Montpelier High School's Community Based Learning program to learn about the program and the perspective of students who have taken it. It was an interesting and worthwhile experience for the students who attended along with iLab teacher, Will Andrews. Musa Mayange and Rainbow Chen, were the second place and finalist in the Bernie Sanders "State of the Union" Essay Contest.

- "Successful & Productive Lives" portion of ENDS Statement: Michael Decarreau asked who would present this. It was decided to leave as it is. It sums up all the other discussions that have taken place. Jen Corrigan suggested that this be discussed during the summer retreat.

c) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies

- Discussion – 1st Reading, Policy #4116: Harassment of Employees
Tori Cleiland liked the first statement regarding human rights. A lot of the policy is dictated state and federally. WSD is more expansive and might not fit into the model policy.
- Discussion - 1st Reading, Policy #6146: Access to Electronics: Board members expressed concern on whether it still fits the current needs due to being three years old in June. Sean shared there is not a lot of language in the policy and to make the policy more lengthy and minimize the procedures. Michael asked if this should be updated more often than every three years. Julian read number four and wondered if it should be policy or procedure. Sean said there should be another layer below this. Sean will look at this further and bring it back to board.

d) Policy Title: 4.5 Agenda Planning

- Discussion: Board Monitoring Report 4.5 – This is ready for the Consent Agenda. Michael suggested that someone other than the Chair look at number six.

8. Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1):

- a) Discussion: Recent community activities by board members: Michael Decarreau joined the group at the rotary in support of refugees. He also did a reading at the Community Reads.

Sean introduced Rachel Hurwitz, a UVM Student who is working on a report looking at the relationship of the school with the refugee community.

9. Next Agenda:

10. Upcoming Important Dates:

- Sean and Michael presented the budget on Channel 17 today, February 8th.
- Teacher Negotiation Meetings will be held on February 9th, 16th and the 23rd at 6:00 pm in Room 102.
- February 15th the Community Dinner & Budget Information will be held at the O'Brien Community Center at 6:00 pm with city members. Board members would like to highlight what is going on in the school district.
- March 6th will be the Annual Informational Meeting at 7:30 pm in the PAC.
- March 7th voting will be from 7 am - 7 pm at the Senior Center.
- March 8th will be the next regular board meeting at 6:30 pm.

11. Motion made by Julian Portilla to enter Executive Session at 8:32 pm to discuss Labor Negotiations and Student Discipline. All in favor.

12. Possible Action on Executive Session:

13. Motion made by T. Cleiland to adjourn at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Steady
Board Recorder