

WINOOSKI BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017
MINUTES

Board Members Present: Michael Decarreau-President, Jennifer Corrigan-Secretary, Matthew MacNeil, Alexander Yin, Tori Cleiland, Alexander Do and Destiny Syharaj – Student Representatives

Board Members Absent: None

Administration Present: Sean McMannon – Superintendent, Leon Wheeler – Co-Principal, Rebecca Goulet – Finance Director

Others Present: Attendance Sheet on file

1. Meeting called to order by Michael Decarreau-President at 6:35 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and mindfulness led by Tori Cleiland.
2. Board President Michael Decarreau recognized the Winooski High School Varsity Boys Soccer Team for their achievements during the fall season. He recognized individual accomplishments from both the varsity girl's and boy's teams.
3. **Agenda Review and Adjustments:** None.
4. **Focus on Learning:** Sean McMannon, Superintendent opened the WSD Systems of Support - Tier 3 presentation by reviewing Tier 1 and 2. Added supports the past four years. Kari Rittenburg, JFK Special Educator, continued with Tier 3 examples; After a student's Asset Action Plan is revisited by the CHAT team one of the following determinations are made: Continue with Tier 2, targeted interventions, refer the student for the Tier 3 intervention and the process of creating the IEP plan for a student. Interventions includes direct instruction by a special educator in small group or 1:1 format using researched based programs often with the classroom setting. Individualized Behavior Crisis Management plans, Support from Instructional Assistant, Consultation services with Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy or other providers, Access to the Sensory Room and development of programming to address sensory integration needs. These services are provided through special education. Grace Holcomb, elementary guidance counselor explained non-medical 504 plans for students that have been diagnosed with an impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. These plans are reviewed every year. Thomas Steele, WHS Special Educator, spoke about WMHS Academic Supports including special educator "Push-In" model of instruction. Academic support can be provided by instructional assistants, and there are also behavior supports in place. There is a daily check-in with students in need, in-school counseling sessions, individual crisis management and behavior plans, and a social work team coordinator. Outside services such as speech language, physical therapy, transport, etc. are provided. WMHS therapeutic classrooms have 8 students in each program, with a low student to staff ratio, Therapeutic Crisis Intervention with trained staff, group therapy sessions, a highly modified and accommodated curriculum, trauma informed practice and extensive needs, and based work to support healthy choice making. Alexander Yin asked what each speaker found

rewarding about the systems of support. The group shared the successes of the students. Michael Decarreau asked about the out of district placements. Thomas Steele shared that some students need alternative placement. Michael asked if there is a noticeable change when students that are placed outside of district placement. Thomas and Sean explained there is a two-fold benefit to having a student placed outside of the district for both the student being placed outside and the impact on the general climate of the school.

5. **Public Comments:** None

6. **Consent Agenda:**

- a) Minutes of Meetings: November 8th, November 29th and December 6, 2017
- b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Approval of Bills
- c) Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
 - Approve Contract Recommendation:
 - Haiduck, Sheryl - Long-Term Substitute for the 9th-12th grade - iLab
 - Rimal, Ghana - Long-Term Substitute for the 9th-12th grade - Math
- d) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - Superintendent Report

Motion made by Alex Yin to accept the consent agenda as presented. All 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: Alexander Do and Destiny Syharaj, Student Representatives, updated the board members on student happenings. Elementary school students started an iPad code to move a robot. The elementary students had their winter music performance. The Spartan's Circus presentation took place. The middle school students performed a circus for elementary school students. Middle school students have agreed on a social contract. The high school Student Advisory was in charge of the Winter Ball. A student set up a photo booth in the library for students. Students had an opportunity to discuss Health Careers in the library. State Representative, Dianna Gonzalez, came to the school to discuss climate change. A lunch time speaker series is taking place each month with a different speaker to speak with students. Canned foods were collected for the food bank. The Scholars Bowl team has increased compared to past years.
- b) Policy Title: 4.1.c.4 Governing Style: Board Development/Education
 - Vermont School Board Association's, Susan Holson, Director of Education Services, presented the discussion on Vermont Education Funding. Every district is co-dependent when it comes to funding. 1. Context, 2. The Education Fund (Sources, Uses, Trends), 3. Property Tax Calculations, 4. Local Implications (Homestead, Income Sensitive). Sources of funds, such as; net Homestead Education Tax, General Fund Transfer, Non-Homestead Education Tax and other (Lottery, Purchase & Use Tax, Sales & Use Tax). Board members received the document, Vermont Legislative Joint Fiscal Office draft. The nine cents that is being discussed is based on assumptions. Education funding is very complicated. Education Spending, Equalized Pupils (base rate is based on the elementary school student costing less, high school student's costing more along with ELL

and students in poverty), Yield (for every \$1 of property tax that pays for a student-each year this number changes) and Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) (ratio of town's listed property versus State's listed value based on a three year average of actual real estate sales data) are important terms to keep in mind. Reviewed a spreadsheet with estimated expenditures, local revenues, education spending, equalized pupils, education spending, poverty yield, equalized homestead tax rate and common level of appraisal. Susan concluded with a couple scenarios on –Why does my tax rate go up even though the school district budget is flat? This is based on the student count and per pupil spending. She left board members a document of the presentation along with a current letter to the Vermont State House from the State of Vermont Department of Taxes, Kaj Samsom, Commissioner, regarding Education Fund Operating.

8. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):

- a) Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning & Budgeting
 - FY 19 Budget Work Session – Rebecca Goulet, Finance Director, joined the board members for the budget discussion. Each board member received two handouts with updated figures from the last budget discussions (December 6, 2017 +\$794K or 4.99% and December 13, 2017 +\$716K or 4.5%). Discussion included possible reductions along with possible investments. Hopefully, the Equalized Pupil numbers will increase and we are still waiting for the state revenue numbers. The current projected tuition reduction for out-placed students is already taking a risk.
- b) Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - Superintendent Monitoring Report – Motion made by Tori Cleiland to accept the Superintendent Monitoring Report. All in favor.

9. Board-Management Delegation (Section III):

- a) Policy Title: 3.4 Monitoring Superintendent Performance
 - Superintendent survey – 1a to read Vision and Ends instead of Vision and Mission. Tori Cleiland also asked about student voice. Alexander Yin asked if the Superintendent report is shared with students.

10. Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1):

- a) Recent community activities by board members: Tori Cleiland attended the music concert last night.
- b) Community Engagement Forums: Michael asked board members how they believe the best way is to get the word out. Tori Cleiland and Alexander Yin plan to meet with students first. They want to connect with the PTO at their next meeting on January 17, 2018 and are asking for the PTO to give them some good connections to make. They are looking at March or April 2018 to get to as many community members as possible on board. They are thinking that this would be a good February agenda item. Alexander offered to be the facilitator and asked if this should be put into a Newsletter.

11. Next Agenda: No new additions at this time.

12. Upcoming Important Dates:

- Budget Meetings: December 20th (if needed) and January 3rd at 6:30 pm in the Library Learning Commons (LLC)

- JFK Winter Performance will be held on December 14th at 6:30pm in the Gymnasium
- No school during the winter recess from December 25–January 2, 2018

13. Executive Session:

- a) Labor Negotiations
Motion made by Tori Cleiland to enter Executive Session at 9:33 pm to discuss Labor Negotiations. All in favor.

14. Possible Action on Executive Session:

15. Motion made by Matt MacNeil to adjourn at 9:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Steady
Board Recorder