

**WINOOSKI BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018
Learning Media Center**

MINUTES - CORRECTED 3/14/18

Board Members Present: Michael Decarreau-President, Alexander Yin, Tori Cleiland, Matthew MacNeil, Destiny Syharaj-Student Representative

Board Members Absent: Jen Corrigan-Secretary, Alexander Do-Student Representative

Administration Present: Sean McMannon-Superintendent, Rebecca Goulet-Finance Manager

Others Present: See attendance sheet on file

1. Meeting called to order at 6:36 pm by Michael Decarreau, President, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Mindfulness led by Tori Cleiland.
2. **Agenda Review and Adjustments:** Michael Decarreau, President, requested an addition to the Consent Agenda under approval of the bills section b and moved agenda item - Title: 4.2.4 Board Job Description – Meeting with Legislators from 7c to 4a.
3. **Focus on Learning:** Sean McMannon, Superintendent kicked off the presentation on Wellness. He introduced Jaycie Puttlitz, Wellness Coordinator. The initiatives include the nutrition program, mindfulness & movement, employee wellness, and BC/BS data. The Vermont Foodbank Backpack Program currently has 110 students each week receiving food. The Veggie VanGo provides fruits and vegetables to individuals. Offering breakfast in the classroom is a successful venture. There are fewer students that are utilizing the health office to receive food in the morning. Students have choices of food items and can order ahead. Middle School students have more time together as a class with having breakfast in the classroom. The police officers have a Mindfulness Athletic League after school with students. WIN – What I Need. Spartans in Motion (SIM) is an excellent program to keep middle school students moving in the classroom. Winter games are coming up next week. Open gym is open to high school students in the morning. Employee wellness is an excellent way for employees to lead a healthy life. Employees are offered two weekly yoga classes on site. There is a Winooski Wellness blog link. The staff has a Wellness Day coming up on March 6th. There will be 29 activities offered that will include basketball, workshops, etc. Other initiatives are the school garden, clothing drive and giveaway. This year 95 students directly received winter gear.
4. **Public Comments:** Parents for Youth representatives Zoe Morris shared a handout to board members regarding the update on the winter transportation pilot. To date there are 140 students taking advantage of the bus. The program is running smooth and safe. The students are expressing how happy they are with the bus program. She also invited board members to join the volunteers and students one morning and experience first hand the hard work of the Winooski community. Prashant Mohan Singh shared that his son is taking advantage of the bus and he is very pleased with it. Valerie Visconti is an active volunteer in the morning and said that the community center has opened their

doors to the students and she reads to them and she said that the students are very excited taking the bus.

a) Policy Title: 4.2.4 Board Job Description

- Meeting with Legislators – Liam Danaher, VSAC representative, Clem Bissonnette and Diana Gonzalez, Legislators, joined the board members at the table. Sean McMannon, Superintendent, expressed concern with the proposed legislation regarding overall education funding, special education and preschool along with the portability of VSAC Grant scholarships to support higher education. Concern was expressed about public trust regarding the model change to an income-based tax rate. Special Education funding is a big impact to the budget. Going to a block grant model would pose a serious financial challenge. Diana asked if there is any problem getting special educators? Sean felt that this hasn't been a problem. The biggest challenge is outside of school placements and that there are not a lot of choices. If there is a point where there is a need for outside placement, the costs can become quite steep. Clement expressed the need for state wide teacher contracts. Michael said he has mixed feelings about this issue. Act 66 would force Winooski to make major adjustments to the preschool program. The VSAC grants and scholarships bill would require the education monies to stay in Vermont. Alexander Yin expressed concern about college graduates only getting 30 percent coming back to Vermont to work. Are we getting a good investment for our money? A concern is what jobs are available in Vermont? Michael thanked the legislators and Liam for coming to the meeting.

5. **Consent Agenda:**

- a) Minutes of Meetings: January 10, 2018
- b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Approval of Bills – correction of cover sheet \$33, 700.28
- c) Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
 - Approve Contract Recommendation
 - Deborah George, Long Term Sub for K. Rittenberg, K-5 Special Ed
 - 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
 - Sean McMannon, Superintendent
- d) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
 - Superintendent Report
 - Child Care Parking Lot Agreement

Motion made by Tori Cleiland to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. All in favor.

6. **Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):**

- a) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
 - Approve FY 17 Audit Report: Rebecca Goulet, Finance Manager, joined the board members at the table. Rebecca let the board know that the budget ran tight and it

shows that the monies are really needed. She is pleased with the auditors, Fothergill, Segale & Valley and that they were very accessible. Michael read the Preschool Development Expansion Grant. Discussion included if the grant monies spent was in accordance with the grant. Sean explained that this was all part of a broader flooding of preschool dollars. The monies came quickly and there was a lot of pressure to take advantage of these dollars. This was an opportunity to get the education to students in need. There was little guidance coming from the Agency on how to use the grant monies. The grant monies should have been put out to bid. If this had actually been done, the time constraints would have been a problem. Rebecca Goulet, Finance Director, explained that the agency sent out a letter that the grants were not being used as they were supposed to be. Guidance is needed to move forward due to getting the services out to the students. Sean shared this has been very stressful and it is still being worked out and that everything the school officials did was with proper intent. Michael asked if this had gone out to bid would there have been anyone besides the Winooski Family Center that would bid. **Rebecca said that there would likely be no one else that would have bid.** The Winooski Family Center representatives are well aware that no monies can be reimbursed at this time. Rebecca said there needs to be more guidance from the Agency of Education (AOE).

Motion made by Matthew MacNeil to accept the Audit Report. All in favor.

- b) Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
 - Budget Cycle Reflection: Board members shared their thoughts on the process. Overall it went well but it would have been good to have more community members and student involvement. Sean gave each board member a copy of the 119th Annual Report and a copy of the school newsletter to review. Community members will receive copies of these before the budget vote.

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 – Destiny shared that the Penguin Plunge raised over \$8,000 for Special Olympics. Two high school students won the Bernie Sanders Essay Contest. The new report card seems to be hard to understand and Destiny suggested that parents get help with it.
- b) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - 1st Reading, Policy #5146: Whole Child and School Wellness: The biggest change is the goals for school based activities around medical home and dental home. Making sure that families are connected to primary care physicians and dental care. Fundraisers are allowed with food. Should there be a letter in the report annually to show compliance. All changes will be updated.
 - 1st Reading, Policy #6151: Course Offerings and Class Size: The school policy and the model are very similar. In second grade there are four classes with 12, 13, 14 and 15. Right now class sizes are in compliance.
- c) Policy Title: 4.2.4 Board Job Description
 - Meeting with Legislators – Moved to 4a.
- d) Policy Title: 4.3 Handling of Operational Complaints
 - Approve Board Monitoring Report: The adjustment would be when people complain to the board members directly that they be given the right direction to go to get answers. Board members decided to leave 4.33 as written.

Motion by Tori Cleiland to accept policy 4.3 Handling of Operational Complaints with adjustments. All in favor.

- e) Policy Title: 4.8 Governance Investment
- Discuss & Review Board Monitoring Report: This policy seems straight forward. Board members decided to eliminate the first sentence in the second paragraph under Data.

8. Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1):

- a) Recent community activities by board members
- b) Community Engagement Forums: Tori Cleiland and Alex Yin spent two days with 57 middle and high school students. Each board member received a handout of what was shared with the students. Students were given the opportunity to share what they feel needs improvement. They will speak with PTO members in March about community engagement. Moving forward they want to broaden getting people involved and invited other board members to get involved. They want to make sure teachers know their input is important.
- c) WSD Capital Project Committee (CPC) update: Sean shared that the Visioning meeting had about 40 people participate and they did some creative thinking about the future of learning. The programming meetings will have a variety of groups that will speak about space needs. This spring there should be some actual dreams being put into design.

9. Next Agenda: No additions.

10. Upcoming Important Dates:

- February 19th, Channel 17, Budget Presentation from 5:25-5:55 pm
- February 21st, Community Dinner & Budget Information at the O'Brien Community Center at 6:00 pm
- February 26th-March 6th, Winter Recess - No School
- February 28th, FY19 Budget Presentation at the Senior Center from 11:30 am-1:00 pm
- March 5, Annual Informational Meeting, 7:30 p.m., PAC
- March 6th, Voting from 7:00 am -7:00 pm at the Senior Center
- March 14th, Regular Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

11. Executive Session: None needed.

12. Possible Action on Executive Session: N/A

13. Motion made by Tori Cleiland to adjourn at 9:36 pm. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Steady
Board Recorder