

Newsletter of the Winooski School District

Winooski School District
60 Normand Street
Winooski, VT 05404

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School Board and
Superintendent

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BALLOT QUESTIONS

ARTICLE I:
Elect a Moderator and Clerk.

ARTICLE II:
Shall the District accept the 2019 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 Two million, Four hundred Fifty-three thousand, and Seven hundred and eight dollars (\$2,453,708) 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 Seventeen million, Nine hundred ninety-six thousand, Two hundred sixty-three dollars (\$17,996,263), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing school year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of Fifteen thousand, Three-hundred four dollars (\$15,304) per equalized pupil. The projected spending per equalized pupil is 11% higher than spending for the current year.

POSTAL PATRON
*****ECRWSS**
WINOOSKI, VT 05404

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AVAILABLE

If your adjusted gross household income is less than \$136,500 you may be eligible for a reduction of your education property taxes. Please file Form HS-122/Schedule HI-144.

Eligibility for property tax relief is based on your household income, home value, and city school tax rate, and will be applied to your 2018-19 tax bill. Renters with household income of \$47,000 or less may also be eligible. The maximum 2020 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://tax.vermont.gov/research-and-reports/document-library/tax-forms/individuals>

VOTE on March 5, 2019 at the Senior Center on Barlow Street, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

* DO YOUR PART *

VOTE!

MARCH 5, 2019

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Winooski School District
Budget 2020



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

Five years ago we began investing in creating a PreK-12 systemic approach to supporting student needs and monitoring student progress with positions such as Wellness Coordinator, Data Manager, Director of English Language Learning & Curriculum, and Reading, ELL and Special Education specialists. Now we can confidently say we have established a strong foundation that provides food security, wellness opportunities, access to technology and a system that can monitor the attendance, behavior, reading and math levels of every student while providing literacy, math and behavioral supports needed to help students grow. Also, we were an early investor in Pre-Kindergarten with four half-day programs on campus so we can begin to engage students and parents as soon as possible.

JFK Elementary is making wonderful progress with Responsive Classroom, Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBiS), our School Wide Expectations (HEART), and Project-Based Learning (PBL). WMS has made tremendous strides this year through their Social Contract, cell phone policy, the 6th Grade Academy and the exciting Expeditionary Learning (EL) approach. WMS 6th graders had a fabulous learning experience working with Circus Smirkus on a four-week residency entitled “Jitters and Joy” which resulted in a WMS student-led circus for our JFK students and WMS parents. WHS continues moving toward meeting Vermont law of

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.*

providing proficiency-based graduation requirements by 2020 through the growth of our Graduate Expectations (GXs), Graduate Proficiencies (GPs) and the iLab.

The Winooski School District (WSD) School Board would like to present to you the FY20 School budget details. As they have for the past five years the WSD Leadership Team has developed a budget focused heavily on the “whole child” approach with the target of increasing student readiness to learn. We have invested in our teachers, who have the greatest impact on learning each day and over the course of a student’s school journey. WSD teachers have continued professional development on literacy, proficiency-based learning and implicit bias.

As shown below, salaries and benefits drive all of the year-to-year spending increase with a nearly 12% increase in the cost of health benefits being a major factor. The FY20 budget reflects investments in the following areas: PreK and Elementary Special Education, Elementary English Language Learning (ELL) and a Communications and Development position. The JFK ELL teacher will reduce our current 50:1 student-to-teacher ratio to 25:1 and a Communications and Development position will fundraise for our capital project and increase school communications with parents and the broader community.

And it includes funds to continue supporting the student transportation



pilot project which will transport students who live over .75 miles away from school to the district each morning from December through March.

The bottom line shows a spending increase of 6.88%. Our Equalized Pupil Count has declined slightly and the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) has dropped from 91.43% to 88.51% which is good for homeowners but increases education taxes. The most recent Per Pupil Spending rankings (2017) show WSD is 197/266 or in the bottom quarter compared to school districts across the state. 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.

Time to Learn about
the School Budget!

Voting takes place March 5th, 2019 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, March 4, 2019

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

WSD BOTTOM LINE		
CATEGORY	% INCREASE	DOLLAR AMOUNT
Salaries & Benefits	4.6%	\$777,000
Professional Services & Tuitions (Special Education)	2.9%	\$495,000
Other	.62%	-\$113,000
TOTAL	6.88%	\$1,159,000

Winooski School District Graduate Expectations (GXs) and Graduate Proficiencies (GPs)

“What do our students need to succeed?” The answers to that question were distilled into our six GXs:

- Critical Thinking
- Wellbeing
- Communication
- Creativity
- Persistence
- Culture and Community

Currently, students demonstrate the first two GXs in order to graduate, with all required by 2022. Each is assessed through a multi-stage performance-based assessment and final demonstration of learning during our Expo Weeks in January and June. Students are also assessed for graduation in 19 academic proficiency areas and through skill tests in reading and mathematics.

Our innovations include the iLab for fully personalized learning, a self-paced Math Lab for students at all levels, integration of technology in language learning, and numerous student-driven core courses.

We also invest in student voice and leadership training, which is integrated with our expanded advisory curriculum. With support from the Rowland and Barr Foundations, Winooski is currently mapping and engaging with a wide variety of community-based partners to provide flexible pathways to graduation.



COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

WHS students and teachers have partnered with VT Folklife Center, Physician’s Computer Company (PCC), City of Winooski, The Generator and UVM Rubenstein Lab at ECHO Lake Aquarium to create proficiency and community-based learning projects to meet graduation requirements.

Two WHS students received educational awards from Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF) for their submission to the 2nd Annual Payback Challenge: Michaela Parris received \$500 for honorable mention; and Khellmar (OJ) Daring received \$5,000 for being a National Grand Prize winner!! What an amazing honor for both of these 2nd year students!



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WMS 6th graders had a wonderful fall Expedition called Jitters & Joy: What is the relationship between courage and happiness? that began at the Vermont Comedy Club where they participated in a workshop with local actors.

WMS 7th & 8th graders launched Government Comes Alive!: How to Make Change in My Community by meeting Winooski City Manager Jessie Baker and developing ideas to improve our community.

Lastly, WSD continues to support our community by raising over \$65,000 in the past six years for VT Special Olympics by jumping into icy Lake Champlain for the Penguin Plunge and over \$4,000 for the UVM Children’s Hospital.



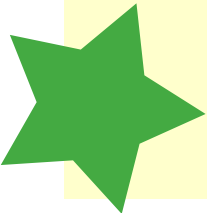
HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL LIVES

WSD continues to focus on improving student’s readiness to learn through multiple aspects of wellness. JFK Elementary earned the “VT Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) Exemplar Award” this year for their fantastic work in building a system based on data that has had a positive impact on academic and behavioral outcomes.

WMHS has worked diligently to establish a fabulous Advisory Program so all students are known well by at least one adult and have a trusting small community of their peers within our Middle/High School.



* DO YOUR PART *
VOTE!
MARCH 5, 2019



Historical Education Spending and Tax Rates

As you can see from the table at right, the school board has worked hard over the past eleven years to limit tax impact to an average of 2.2% annually while our student population has continued to increase. The Winooski School District remains one of the lowest spending districts per equalized pupil in the state. The most recent Per Pupil Spending rankings (2017) show WSD is 197/266. 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.

Budget Year	Budget Amount	% Change Expense	% Change Tax
FY20	\$17,996,263	6.88%	9.56%
FY19	\$16,837,357	5.83%	-0.92%
FY18	\$15,909,553	6.79%	1.42%
FY17	\$14,897,284	6.24%	7.13%
FY16	\$14,022,224	4.49%	10.74%
FY15	\$13,419,758	6.26%	1.31%
FY14	\$12,629,200	1.70%	3.62%
FY13	\$12,417,616	7.48%	8.19%
FY12	\$11,553,509	3.55%	-2.79%
FY11	\$11,157,035	2.37%	0.17%
FY10	\$10,899,211	4.12%	1.09%
FY09	\$10,467,953	1.95%	-5.57%
11 Year Avg		4.62%	2.22%



How Will It Affect My Taxes?

This depends on Household Income:

- If below \$99,000 it is based on a Flat Rate
 - **2.23%** in FY19 & **2.34%** in FY20
- If between \$99,000 & \$136,500 it is based on House Value with some degree of Income Sensitivity
- If above \$136,500 it is solely based on House Value



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Due to the complex statewide 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 adjusted gross 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. If your adjusted gross household income is above \$99,000 for the year, then taxes become based on house value with some degree of income sensitivity up to income of \$136,500.

Hopefully the continuum in the table gets close to your value and you can extrapolate from there. The values listed below are based on current data which can shift in either direction right up to the close of the current legislative session.

Tax Impact (Household Income Below \$99K)			
Household	2019	2020 (Est.)	Annual Diff
	2.23%	2.34%	
\$90,000	\$2,007	\$2,106	\$99
\$80,000	\$1,784	\$1,872	\$88
\$70,000	\$1,561	\$1,638	\$77
\$60,000	\$1,338	\$1,404	\$66
\$50,000	\$1,115	\$1,170	\$55
\$40,000	\$ 892	\$ 936	\$44



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Tax Impact (Household Income Above \$136K)			
Household	2019	2020 (Est.)	Annual
\$150,000	\$2,211	\$2,432	\$215
\$175,000	\$2,585	\$2,837	\$252
\$200,000	\$2,955	\$3,242	\$287
\$225,000	\$3,325	\$3,647	\$322
\$250,000	\$3,694	\$4,053	\$359
\$300,000	\$4,433	\$4,863	\$430

Potential Property Tax Relief with Adjusted Gross Household Income between \$99K-\$136K

