

**WINOOSKI BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019  
Learning Media Center**

**MINUTES**

School Board Members Present: Michael Decarreau-President, Alexander Yin-Secretary, Jennifer Corrigan (left at 8:00 pm), Tori Cleiland and Matt MacNeil

School Board Members Absent: Student Representative - Destiny Syharaj, Sophia Do

Administration Present: Sean McMannon-Superintendent, Rebecca Goulet, Finance Manager (left at 8:30 pm)

Others Present: Representative Sarita Austin, Representative Hal Colston (arrived 7:00 pm) and Representative Diana Gonzalez (arrived at 7:28 pm)

1. Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm by Michael Decarreau-President, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Mindfulness with Tori Cleiland.
2. Agenda Review and Adjustments: None.
3. Focus on Learning: Cultural Presentation – Somali and Somali-Bantu - postponed due to school cancellation.
4. Public Comments: None.
5. Consent Agenda:
  - a) Minutes of Meetings: January 9 and January 16, 2019
  - b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
    - Approval of Bills
  - c) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
    - Superintendent Report
    - Update – Policy #5146 – Whole Child and School Wellness

Motion made by Tori Cleiland to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Discussion included: Tori thanked Sean McMannon and Rebecca Goulet for their work on the water line break. Tori recognized the Superintendent Report and the great celebrations. Alexander recognized that Cheyne Reacine was promoted from within as the Facilities Supervisor. Sean gave an update on the principal search. He also shared that the Penguin Plunge has been successful with fundraising. He just got back from Washington, DC with a student, William Perrotte. William did a great job presenting Special Olympics Vermont and advocating for continued federal support from Senator Leahy, Senator Sanders and Rep. Welch in the FYO 20 federal budget. All in favor.

6. Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1):
  - a) Michael recognized Jennifer for her last nine years as a board member. She was presented with a card, a gift card and the Golden Apple engraved with her name and years of service. Board members shared that they have enjoyed her perspective and her sense of community. Jennifer shared that one of her first meetings the teachers were striking and the process at that time was very difficult. So she decided to be part of negotiations in future years and

believes that the negotiations transformed in future years for the better. She recognized Sean for being one of the best things that has happened to this school and has enjoyed working with her fellow board members.

7. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):

a) Policy Title: 4.2.4 Board Job Description

- Meeting with Legislators:

Discussion included: Colchester Representative Sarita Austin shared that she knew Sean McMannon when he was the principal and she was a board member at Champlain Valley Union High School. Board members introduced themselves. Discussion was initiated regarding proficiency-based graduation requirements. Michael believes a proficiency-based learning structure is a difficult task for teachers to meet individual student needs. Alexander firmly believes in proficiency-based learning. Tori believes there is a lot of importance in proficiency-based learning and it should be delved into further at the state level. Representative Austin said it would be great to get testimony at the state level from school personnel. Jennifer also thought testimony from students would be beneficial too. Board members shared their frustration with not receiving needed information from the state level when trying to put together a budget and want to be fair to the taxpayers with accurate information. Representative Austin said this is a shared frustration with other districts too. Representative Gonzalez believes the database has been an issue. Michael asked if the funding formulas are changing. Representative Colston invited board members to come to an appropriations meeting that is taking place in Winooski. Michael mentioned that at one time there was a school construction aid fund and this would be of interest. Martin Lalonde from South Burlington has brought this forward at the state level. Title I monies were discussed and how the monies are being distributed among schools and how this change affected Winooski. Representative Austin recommended speaking with Mark Perrault. Representative Gonzalez suggested having them come in November before a legislative session begins. Board members thanked the representatives for coming to the meeting. Board members congratulated Representative Colston on his election into the legislature.

8. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):

a) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities

- Approve FY18 Audit Report:

Rebecca Goulet, Finance Manager, came to the table to discuss the Audit Report. Michael shared that the finding about the PreK Expansion Grant from the last Audit Report hasn't received an answer from the AOE yet. The current Audit Report did not have any findings that stood out with the exception of bank reconciliations and that has been addressed.

Motion made by Matthew MacNeil to approve the FY18 Audit Report. All in favor.

b) Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting

- Budget Cycle Reflection:

Discussion included getting the numbers down. Alexander suggested to bring back the information that adding positions is an investment and how it will impact the system. A strategy for next year to bring people into the budget presentation was presented. Sean passed around a draft of the Annual Report that is going out to the public.

c) Policy Title: 2.6 Asset Protection

- WSD Capital Project Update:

Discussion included the group tours of the building. Community members are willing to host discussion groups in their homes to speak about the project.

- Water Main Break and Repairs Update:  
Rebecca Goulet, Finance Manager, explained that All Seasons Excavating (ASE) had to come back due to a new water line break. She came to ask board members for the funds from the Capital Reserve Account in the amount of \$14,682.61. The February 1st water line issue does not have a final cost at this time. Rebecca is currently working with the Agency of Education (AOE) to apply for Emergency Construction Aid. This could be 30% of the associated costs with this issue. Motion made by Alexander Yin to use Capital Reserve funds in the amount of \$14,682.61 to pay for the repair to the water pipe break on January 24th. All in favor.
  - Student Information System (SIS) Bid Award:  
Three quotes were received regarding the Student Information System (SIS). Sean recommended accepting the bid from PowerSchoolGroup LLC in the amount of \$37,006. He recommended this bid because he believes this is the best fit for the district. Motion made by Alexander to accept the bid received from PowerSchoolGroup LLC as recommended in the amount of \$37,006. All in favor.
9. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):
- a) Policy Title: 4.1.b Governing Style: Encouragement of a Diversity of Views
    - Student Report to the Board – No report due to school cancellation.
  - b) Policy Title: 4.1.4 Governing Style: Board Development
    - Board Self-Assessment discussion included using the current assessment and bringing it back after the new board member has been at a couple meetings.
  - c) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #6172: Limited English Proficiency Students: Sean shared that the policy has been updated and he suggested that bottom of the second paragraph should be changed from equal to equitable. The board members agreed.
    - Discussion - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #5114c Weapons: Sean believes that the policy is very clear.
  - d) Policy Title: 4.2.4 Board Job Description
    - School Newsletter Topics discussion:  
Jennifer wrote the article for March, Tori will get information in by mid-March for the April newsletter on the Capital Improvement project. Michael will write in mid-April for the May Newsletter with an introduction of the new board member.
  - e) Policy Title: 4.6 Chair's Role
    - Board Monitoring Report:  
The board chair's role in hiring and firing a superintendent is unclear. Board members realize this is the entire board's role. Board members thanked Michael for his current role as chair and how much they appreciate what he does.  
Motion made by Tori Cleiland to accept the 4.6 Board Monitoring Report as presented.  
All in favor.
10. Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1):
- a) Recent community activities by board members - Michael attended the "Wicked Cold Comedy Night" to support Special Olympics.
11. Next Agenda: None.
12. Upcoming Important Dates:
- February 20th there will be a Community Dinner & Budget Informational meeting at the O'Brien Community Center at 6:00 pm.
  - February 25th through March 4th will be Winter Recess with no school.
  - March 4th will be the Annual Informational Meeting, at 7:30 pm in the PAC.

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- March 5th voting is from 7:00 am through 7 pm at the Senior Center.
- March 13th the Regular Board Meeting is at 6:30 pm in the Learning Media Center.

13. Motion made by Matthew MacNeil to enter Executive Session at 8:53 pm to discuss Labor Negotiations.

Out of Executive Session at 9:08 pm

14. Possible Action on Executive Session: None.

15. The Board adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Steady  
Board Recorder