

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

**MINUTES**

Board Members Present: Michael Decarreau, Margaret Bass, Alexander Yin, Matthew MacNeil, Tori Cleiland, Sophia Do - Student Representative

Board Members Absent: Desiny Syharaj - Student Representative

Administration Present: Sean McMannon, Superintendent, Kirsten Kollagard, ELL and Curriculum Director, Jean Berthiaume, Co-Principal elect.

Others Present: See sign-in sheet on file

1. Meeting called to order by Sean McMannon at 6:33 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Mindfulness with Tori Cleiland.
2. **Reorganization of Board:**
  - a) Robert Millar, District Clerk, gave the Oath of Office to newly elected board member Margaret Bass, and returning member Matthew MacNeil.
  - b) Election of President:  
Sean McMannon asked for nominations for President. Tori Cleiland nominated Michael Decarreau for president. No other nominations were brought forward. Second by Alexander Yin. All in favor.
  - c) Election of Secretary:  
Michael Decarreau, President asked for nominations for Secretary. Tori Cleiland nominated Alexander Yin for Secretary. No other nominations were brought forward. All in favor.
  - d) Code of Ethics: Board Members' Code of Conduct- Policy 4.7  
Michael Decarreau reviewed the Code of Ethics with everyone present.
  - e) Robert's Rules for Small Boards - Michael handed out a hard copy of Robert's Rules for small boards.
  - f) Committee Assignments - Board members discussed the involvement and duties of the committees.  
Communications - Tori Cleiland and Margaret Bass  
Parent Engagement - Tori Cleiland and Margaret Bass  
Negotiations - Michael Decarreau and Matthew MacNeil
  - g) Board photo - Taken at the end of the meeting.
3. **Agenda Review and Adjustments:**
  - Add appointment of voting delegate for statewide health insurance to 8.0
  - WMHS Co-Principal Introduction to 7a, move current 7a to 7b and 7c
  - Modify 7b Water Main Break Repair expenses from "Action" to "Discussion"
  - Remove Approval of School calendar for 2019-20 SY; will be on April agenda
  - Add "Fun Fair Update" to 7c 2.8

4. **Focus on learning:** Kirsten Kollgaard introduced Dalib Bulle who will speak on Somali and Somali-Bantu Culture. He gave his background as a liaison at the school. Since the war moving on and shaping lives brought him here today. He shared that he struggled with what he was going to present today. His presentation included the geographic location of Somali. In Somali there are two groups which drives two main languages. In the 1970's the Somali government decided there would be one language. Before the war education was similar to the USA educational system. There were both private and public schools. Quran was taught. The Somali people help each other and do not have the help of Section 8, Medicare, social security and food stamps. Historically, there are Five Pillars of Faith and Six Articles of Faith. Major holidays are the birth of a child, marriage, circumcision, harvest time and New Year. Radan is the ninth month of the lunar system. Eidul Fitr occurs at the end of Ramadan. Eidul Adha honors Abraham. Dating is permitted in some cases, but parents need to approve. There are two types of marriage that include eloping and arranged. Pregnancy and childbirth starts immediately after marriage. An average family size is seven to ten children. In Somali men go to work while the women raise the children. Traditional medical practices differ in the Somali culture. Somalis believe that you only go to the hospital for an acute illness. Healthcare decisions are usually made by the father. The common belief is that only God knows when you are going to die. Somalis culturally inherit their parents' property when their parents pass away. Challenges in the USA is the weather, home sickness, way of life, racial profiling and stereotyping. In Somali drinking alcohol is forbidden along with drugs, pot, pork products and arguing. Alexander asked how can the Winooski community make Somalis feel more welcome. Dalib would like to see a bridge between the people. He suggested a dinner or a public setting. Board members agreed that community dinners have been tried. Board members asked what time would work? Dalib suggested around the prayer time. Currently prayer time is 6:50 pm. Matthew asked if fasting applies for all ages or just adults. Dalib said that everyone needs to fast except a young woman on her menstrual cycle but she will have to make it up. An elderly person or pregnant woman do not need to fast. Dalib believes the school district is doing a good job working with the Somali student population. Board members agreed that a community get together would be a good idea.

5. **Public Comments:** None.

6. **Consent Agenda:**

- a) Minutes of Meetings: February 13, 2019
- b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
  - Approval of Bills
- c) Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
  - Approve Administrator Contracts for 2019/21
  - Approve Teacher Contracts for 2019/20
  - Approve Long-Term Substitute Contracts
    - Sandra Lynch, .20 FTE for Shannon Bundy (WHS Science)
    - Gabrielle Trahan, .60 for Shannon Bundy (WMS Science)
    - Kate Anderson, 1.0, .1.0 for Gina Krol (WHS Science)
- d) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - Superintendent Report
  - Parking Lot Agreement
- e) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
  - Adopt Policy #6172 – Limited English Proficiency Students
  - Adopt Policy #5114c – Weapons

Motion made by Tori Cleiland to accept the consent agenda as presented. All in favor.

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

- a) Co-principal Introduction: Sean introduced the new Co-Principal, Jean Berthiaume, as the new co-principal for Grades 6-12. Jean shared that he is excited about his new position with the school. He thanked the board members for this opportunity. Michael shared that the predecessor, Leon Wheeler, brought the school into a great direction and he is looking forward to seeing this continue.
- b) Policy Title: 2.6 Asset Protection
  - Superintendent Monitoring Report - Alexander asked about five on page two, Making Purchases, and wonders if there should be a clause for an emergency situation. Michael suggested bringing the policy back for interpretation and discussion. Motion made by Alexander Yin to accept the Superintendent Monitoring Report. All in favor
  - WSD Capital Project Update: Sean shared the dates for the Facility Tour and Community Breakfast and Dinner and the key representatives that are attending. The media footage will be March 25th. Liaison's from the district will bring in their own groups for tours.
  - A board meeting to adopt the ballot language for the proposed project will be Wednesday, April 3rd. The reasoning behind this is that the next regular board meeting does not meet the 30 to 40 days' date that is required. Matthew will be out of town and will try to join remotely. Motion made by Tori Cleiland to approve a special board meeting on April 3rd to adopt ballot language for the bond. All in favor.
  - Sean gave an update on the latest water main break. The bill has not been finalized at this time. The state will be funding up to 30% on the second water line main break.
- c) Fun Fair Update: The educational side of this has proven to be good timing. Dr. Marissa Coleman worked with staff. Sean shared that he learned a lot from this experience and people were very supportive. There has been some communication on social media and the cake walk has been the title of the event for many years. He appreciates the board member support and the staff has taken this as an educational opportunity.

8. **Board-Management Delegation (Policy Section III):**

- a) Add a delegate to state wide insurance negotiations with the VSBA (Vermont School Board Association) - Michael Decarreau will be the appointed board member.

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 - Sophia shared that Destiny will not be attending board meetings any more due to a college class. Sophia will be making more students aware of Green Up Day. A lot of students played bingo today. A past student came to speak with students. Jump Rope for Heart took place today. The middle school students are learning more about careers. High school students are mentoring them. Peace Jam is having a food sale which will include food from different cultures. Advisory representatives will be having more workshops. They will discuss on how to speak and control meetings to get students attention.
- b) Policy Title: 4.1.4 Governing Style: Board Development
  - Board Self-Assessment - Michael handed out a copy of the Board Self-Assessment. The intent is to make sure the board members are following their own rules. Board members were given a short time to complete the assessment. Matthew believes that board members are very respectful and are they effective after more than two hours at a meeting.
- c) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #4122, Substitute Professional Staff Employment - Sean did not have any recommendations on policy changes. Alexander questioned the language on page 2 regarding the

unlicensed person or college student. He doesn't believe a college student needs to be in the procedures.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, Policy #5123, Promotion and Retention - Is this a policy that needs to be kept? Is there anything in this policy that has value to the direction the school is moving? Tori believes it should be more of a means. Sean believes that the same process for any policy reading should be to have two readings and then bring back as a repeal in the Consent Agenda.

d) Policy Title: 4.2.4 Legislative Update

- Michael asked Sean if he has heard anything on the health insurance. There is a lot going on with Act 46. The legislation around vaping and age is getting a lot of attention. The ethnic studies might make it through cross over.

e) Policy Title: 4.2.4 Board Job Description

- School Newsletter Topics - Tori completed the topic for April. May will consist of the same topic with the completion of the tours. Alexander thought a good topic in the future would be the diversity on the school board of Winooski residents. Welcome the new Vermonter.

10. **Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1):**

- a) Recent community activities by board members - The budget

11. **Next Agenda:** None.

12. **Upcoming Important Dates:**

- The next regular School Board meeting will be held on April 10th, 6:30 pm.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences will take place on April 11th and 12th.

13. Motion made by Alexander at 9:06 pm to enter Executive Session to discuss Labor Negotiations and an Employee Matter. All present in favor.

Out of Executive Session at \_\_\_\_\_.

14. Possible Action on Executive Session: ?????

15. Motion made by \_\_\_\_\_ to adjourn at \_\_\_\_\_ .

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Steady  
Board Recorder