

**WINOOSKI SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2018**

**MINUTES**

School Board Members Present: Michael Decarreau-President, Tori Cleiland, Margaret Bass, Matthew MacNeil, and Alexander Yin-Secretary

School Board Members Absent: Student Representatives - Destiny Syharaj and Sophia Do

Administration Present: Sean McMannon-Superintendent, Rebecca Goulet-Finance Manager, Kirsten Kollgaard, Director of ELL & Curriculum

Others Present: Sign-in sheet on file.

1. Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Michael Decarreau, president followed by the flag salute and mindfulness with Tori Cleiland.
2. Agenda Review and Adjustments: Add a teacher nomination under 7c.
3. Focus on Learning: Kirsten Kollgaard, Director of ELL & Curriculum introduced Tul Niroula as the presenter on Nepali Culture. Tul has been a liaison with the school district for six years. Bhutan is a very small country. It lies between China and India. Bhutan is the land of the Thunder Dragon. The capital of Bhutan is Thimphu. The estimated population is around 708,427. The languages in Bhutan are Dzongkha, Nepali, Sarchop and Kheng. The immigrants are from Ngyalong, Khengpa, Sharchhop and Lhotsampas. The Eviction Policy divides the people into seven groups. Groups are categorized through the Citizenship Act of 1985. The government banned watching television. The people had to get a license to have a radio in the home. Petitions were filed for equal rights throughout the country. When petitions were turned down, peaceful demonstrations took place to demand equal rights. Drukpa soldiers took advantage of the innocent Nepalese women. Men were labeled as "anti-national elements and "terrorists". Several Nepali's have a different story. When Tul and his family left the country, they stayed in a Nepali camp. Nepali speaking Bhutanese were expelled from their country. Over 108,000 Bhutanese were taken to seven different refugee camps of Nepali. Bhutanese refugees have been permanently resettled in eight countries. The education in the refugee camps didn't begin until two years after the camps were established. All the schooling is in English (British). Schooling begins with preschool to grade 10. Refugee parents that have students in the school system get confused with the education in the United States. The language barrier is difficult along with the grading system, high school expectations, and proficiency-based learning. When a Nepali has a visitor it is customary to feed them when in their home. Music is used in several occasions like weddings, harvesting, war stories and prayer service. Nepali's face many challenges like finding jobs, cold winters which make them feel isolated and bored. The suicidal rate among the Bhutanese community is high in the United States. It is unknown what the driving force is for this. The Bhutanese Community is being supported in the Winooski community through interpreters, Parents as Educational Partners, help with Medicaid, food stamps, citizenship classes and counseling, if needed. All community members are welcome to join the festivals like Teej and Holi. Tori asked if refugee camps have been reduced and Tul explained that families do fluctuate due to families having additional family members also going into the camps. Tori asked about the senior centers and refugee seniors attending. Tul said that the children are getting learning technology and play games, etc. at home and do not know their family language. Tul expressed concern about the students quitting school. Tul believes that students are receiving help at school and the O'Brien Center but

some end up not graduating. Sean added that the staff does work with students and it can be difficult when a student comes to the district at an older age and they may need additional time to receive their education, but choose not to stay in school longer to achieve their diploma. Michael shared that there is help with students getting answers regarding the financial aspect of a further education like the VSAC connection.

4. Public Comments: None.

5. Consent Agenda:

- a) Minutes of Meetings: April 10, 2019
- b) Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
  - Approval of Bills
- c) Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits - Approval of Teacher Contracts:
  - Daviah Lawrence – 1.0 FTE JFK ELL
  - Anne Scheneider – 1.0 FTE WHS ELL
  - Ann Berno Browning – 1.0 FTE WMHS Special Education Intensive Needs
  - Corey Girelli – 1.0 FTE JFK Special Education Intensive Needs
  - Caitlin MacLeod-Bluver – 1.0 FTE WHS Reading Specialist
  - Holly Haggerty – 1.0 FTE Early Childhood Special Education/District Evaluator
- d) Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - Superintendent Report
- e) Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
  - Adopt Policy #5114b, Student Alcohol and Drug Use
  - Adopt Policy #5125, Student Education Records (FERPA)
- f) Policy Title: 4.2.5 Appoint External Auditor
  - Approve recommendation

Motion made by Tori Cleiland to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. All in favor.

6. ENDS Statement (Policy Section I):

- a) Michael asked if anyone feels the need to expand on the ENDS Statement. Tori shared that successful and productive lives should be addressed. Matthew believes it should be a living document and is well rounded. Self-reflection would be valuable including social, emotional and well-being. In conclusion, board members believe the current ENDS Statement is good as is.

7. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):

- a) Policy Title: 2.1 Treatment of Students, Parents/Guardians & Community
  - Superintendent Monitoring Report: Sean believes the report hasn't changed much. Michael asked board members if there were any concerns with the report.  
Motion made by Matthew to accept the Superintendent Monitoring Report. All in favor.
- b) Policy Title: 2.6 Asset Protection
  - Water Main Break Expenses- Payment from Capital Reserve: Rebecca Goulet joined the board members at the table. Sean suggested to the board that they use up to \$25K of the operating budget so that the Capitol Reserve still has a good working balance. Board members thanked Rebecca for her work on this. Motion made by Alex Yin to accept the recommendations to pay \$99K to ASE and utilize \$74K from the Capitol Reserve account and \$25K from the general operating budget. All in favor.
  - WSD Capital Project Bond & Committee update: Michael reflected on the committee doing all the hard work up front. One of the concerns was getting the information out to the community. He believes all aspects were touched upon including the advertising, etc. He was pleased that 714 people came out to vote. Sean felt it was very inclusive developing the message and concepts and following it through. Liz and Mark Etzel jumped right in and met people, canvassed and did their research and it was wonderful

how they supported this effort. Amy Snow helped with also showing her support. Alex felt there was some frustration throughout the process and he was pleased with the outcome.

c) Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits

- Approval of Teacher Contract
  - Hannah Handloff 1.0 FTE Middle School Special Educator
- Motion made by Alexander Yin to approve Hannah Handloff as a 1.0 FTE Middle School Special Educator. All in favor.

**8. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):**

a) Policy Title: 4.1.b Governing Style: Encouragement of a Diversity of Views

- Student Report to the Board: The student representatives were not available at this time. Sophia did want Sean to pass on that they are working on a new student representative to join the board in the fall.

b) Policy Title: 4.2.4 Legislative Update

- Sean shared that the lead bill will require lead testing and there is expected to be some reimbursement available. The House Education Committee is hoping to get school construction back in. The plan is to extend the deadline for the data system.

c) Policy Title: 4.5 Agenda Planning

- Board Retreat Date: Board members discussed the date for the Board Retreat. There will be no board meeting in July. The next regular board meeting will be August 11<sup>th</sup>. Board members decided to hold their Board Retreat on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, the time will be determined at a later time.

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

a) Recent community activities by board members: Alexander attended the Jazz Concert.

b) The newsletter topic: The next newsletter topic is about the newest board member. The due date will be May for June. Matt will complete his article for the newsletter by mid-June for July.

**10. Next Agenda: None.**

**11. Upcoming Important Dates:**

- Superintendent/School Board Chair Training is Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- VSA/VCSEA Spring Conference will be May 16<sup>th</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- WMHS Pops Concert is Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm.
- The next regular Board Meeting will be Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.
- Graduation will be Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm.

**13. Motion made by Margaret Bass to enter Executive Session at 8:08 pm for a Grievance Hearing and personnel-mediation update inviting in all interested parties. All in favor.**

**14. Possible Action on Executive Session: The board voted unanimously to support the administrative position in the grievance hearing and directed Chair Decarreau to complete a letter with a written response to the grievant within 10 calendar days.**

**15. Motion made by Tori Cleiland to adjourn at 10:27 pm.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Steady  
Board Recorder