

**WINOOSKI BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, October 9, 2019**  
**Learning Media Center**  
**Minutes**

Board Members Present: Michael Decarreau-President, Alexander Yin-Secretary, Tori Cleiland (left at 8:45 pm), Magaret Bass, Matthew MacNeil, Students Representatives: Sophia Do and Hiba Laaroussi (left at 9:05 pm)

Board Members Absent: None

Administration Present: Sean McMannon-Superintendent, Kirsten Kollgaard-Director of Curriculum & ELL

Others Present: See attendance sign-in sheet on file.

1. Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm by Michael Decarreau, President, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and mindfulness with Tori Cleiland.
2. Agenda Review and Adjustments: Move agenda item 3, Recognition: Golden Apple Award: Lisa Graves to the November Agenda. Add Retreat Minutes to the Consent Agenda. In the Consent Agenda the following corrections to the September 11, 2019 minutes:
3. Recognition: Golden Apple Award: Lisa Graves - added to the November Agenda.
4. Focus on Learning: Kirsten Kollgaard, Director of English Language Learning & Curriculum, introduced Faridar Ko, Burmese Home School Liaison. Faridar gave a presentation on Burmese and Karen culture. She shared that over a million Karen and Burmese refugees have come to the United States but first they go to refugee camps in Thailand. At the camp they are required to have an identification card. It was very hard to live in a refugee camp. There was no permanent employment and each day work had to be found. If a refugee wanted to leave the camp, they had to acquire a permit. The permit cost money and that made it very difficult due to the cost of getting the permit. There wasn't a lot of food. Eid al fitr, Eid al adha, New Year, Thingyan (Water Festival), Wrist Tying Ceremony and Christmas are celebrated. There is a long waiting process to come to America. First a refugee family needs to apply through the Office of Program Eligibility through the International Organization for Migrations and United Nations Commissioner for Refugees. Each family member has to pass a medical exam. Family members need to complete an orientation to learn the American culture. Once a refugee family does get to America it is very difficult due to the language barrier and having to learn so much about the new culture. Once here they need a social security card, I-9 card and Green Card. Education while in the Thailand refugee camp required learning four languages and three government exams. Board members asked what they can do to help. Faridar suggested adult classes specifically teaching technology skills. Also, it would be helpful to have a liaison year round and not just during the school year.
5. Public Comments: None

6. Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes of Meetings: September 11, 2019
- b. Policy Title 2.3 Financial Conditions and Activities
  - i. Approval of Bills
- c. Policy Title 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
  - i. Approval of Teacher Contracts
    - 1. Amy Loomis: 1.0 FTE WHS Guidance (1-Year), funded by School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds
- d. Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - i. Superintendent Report
- e. Policy Title 4.2.2 Board Job Description
  - i. Adopt Policy #5110: Student Attendance
  - ii. Adopt Policy #6160: Educational Support System
- f. Policy Title 4.8 Governance Investment
  - i. Accept Board Monitoring Report

Motion made by Alexander Yin to approve the Consent Agenda with corrections. All in favor

7. Governance Processes(Policy Section IV):

- a. Policy Title: 4.2.4 Board Job Description
  - i. Meeting with Legislators: Michael invited Debbie Ingram and Phil Baruth, Vermont Senators, to join board members at the table. Discussion regarding reinstating funding for construction. Mr. Baruth shared that there has been a moratorium on school construction aid since 2007. They are trying to lift the moratorium with specific target of what would be spent. The House would need to pass a bill through the Institutions Committee to help schools that are in more need. Ms. Ingram would like to see safety needs be a part of the construction aid bill. Governor Scott has green-lighted five million dollars for security upgrades. A discussion would be an item created in a budget that would target specific groups in the past two years. When school budgets are created, they are made skinny to get them passed. Then when there is a need there isn't enough funds. The water line break in Winooski was used as a prime example. Another discussion point with the senators was Early Childhood requirements. Unfortunately, the private providers cannot pay their staff the same wage as the public school system. There is currently not wage equity. Special Education funding changes would be to replace fees for service with a census based model. To come up with an equation for students that struggle, have behavior issues, etc., the census model would loosen restrictions. Mr Baruth would like to see a supplemental grant over and above the census grant. He would not want to see a district get into a situation where the funds were not sufficient. Statewide healthcare for school employees was another discussion point. Mr. Baruth is hoping for a resolution on this topic by December. Michael expressed concern regarding the budgeting perspective and timing of having healthcare negotiations. Both Mr. Baruth and Ms. Ingram understood this is difficult due to the timing. Mr. Baruth asked a question regarding

Winooski High School's (WHS) graduation rate data. Student Representative, Hiba, believes that students do not graduate due to not knowing English. It would be great to have more monies for ELL services to help newcomers with the language barrier.

- ii. Student Representative Comments: Sophia and Hiba shared that students have been busy with Spirit Week and how they decorated the festive hallways. The boys soccer team is undefeated. Clubs have started. The Yearbook staff have already started fundraising. The Prom Committee is up and running. Peace Jam topic is global warming. Through HERO Hiba shadowed health care providers. She is taking college level courses through the Burlington Technology Center (BTC). She believes that students need to be more prepared to take exams. She believes that online classes are a great way for the students in Winooski to take classes. Sophia is currently taking early college and enjoys the labs. She doesn't feel she was challenged enough at WHS. Both Sophia and Hiba are trying to be more involved. They would like to speed up the transcript process. They are hoping to speak with the principals about how they can help other students.
- iii. Board Committee Reorganization: Reviewed current committees and board members on these committees.

b. Policy Title: 4.1 Governing Style

- i. Review VSBA Resolutions: Go with the recommendation.

c. Policy Title: 4.2 Board Job Description

- i. Admission of Non-Resident Tuition Students Policy: Sean recommended a discussion on preparing a Non-Resident Tuition Student Policy. When a student that has their tuition waived, these students cannot be counted towards equalized pupil counts. The current procedures are sufficient. Add a second reading to the November agenda.
- ii. District Newsletter Topics: Margaret Bass will write the topic for November and Matthew MacNeil will write the December topic. He told his fellow board members he is open to suggestions for a topic.

d. Policy Title: 4.3 Handling of Operational Complaints

- i. Board Monitoring Report: Listen or read a complaint and make sure the person writing it is pointed in the right direction. Follow-up to make sure they did speak to someone regarding their issue but do not try to resolve it.  
Motion made by Margaret Bass to approve the Board Monitoring Report interpretation and evidence. All in favor.

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

a. Policy Title: 3.3 Delegation to the Superintendent

- i. Board Monitoring Report: Motion made by Matthew MacNeil to accept the Board Monitoring Report interpretation and evidence. All in favor.

9. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):

a. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities

- i. Quarterly Financial Management Report: Mike Decarreau presented an overview of the Quarter 1 financial report to the rest of the board.

Motion made by Alexander Yin to approve the Financial Management Report as presented. All in favor.

b. Policy Title 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting

- i. Superintendent Monitoring Report: Motion made by Alexander Yin to approve the Superintendent Monitoring Report. All in favor.
- ii. FY21 Budget Meeting Schedule: Discussion included moving the FY21 budget ENDS presentation before Thanksgiving after the regular board meeting or keep the December 4th as the first budget meeting. Michael also asked board members to invite friends and family to attend the budget meetings.

Motion made by Matthew MacNeil to approve the Budget Meeting Schedule as written. All in favor.

c. Policy Title: 2.6 Asset Protection

- i. WSD Capital Project Update: Sean sent a link with the updated design which will give more green space and updated firewall location. Emily has continued to find grant monies and other funds. She is planning a meeting with the webmaster to set up online donations. And is working with the campaign committee on getting local, regional and statewide support.

10. Next Agenda: Discussed throughout the current meeting November additions.

11. Upcoming Important Dates:

- a. Thursday & Friday, October 24th & 25th there is an early dismissal at 11:00 am for Parent Teacher Conferences and JFK Professional Development

12. Executive Session - Labor Negotiations moved to the November meeting.

13. Possible Action on Executive Session:

14. Motion made by Alexander Yin to adjourn at 9:45 pm. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Steady  
Board Recorder