

Winooski School Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, November 13, 2019,  
Learning Media Center  
Minutes

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

Board Members Absent: Students Representatives: Sophia Do and Hiba Laaroussi

Administration Present: Sean McMannon-Superintendent

Others Present: See attendance sign-in sheet on file

1. Meeting called to order at 6:30 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: Kirsten Kollgaard, Director of ELL and Curriculum, introduced Stevya Mukuzo school district Swahili and French-speaking Liaison, as the presenter of the cultural presentation on Congolese. Stevya gave a background about herself. She continued with information about the Congo. The Congo is located in central Africa. The country has a lot of natural resources such as; diamonds, gold, coltan, copper, cobalt, & uranium. The official language is French. The national languages are Kikongo, Tshiluba, Swahili and Lingala. When a couple gets married, a dowry is required, divorce is not allowed. Men are the head of the family, women shop, cook and clean. Women teach children about their roles in life. Christianity is the main religion. All young boys must be circumcised. There are many forms of transportation due to the size of Congo. The education system has kindergarten, middle school and high school. University education is restricted to the wealthy. People are leaving due to conflict between political parties, tribes/ethnic groups, poverty and the lack of employment opportunities. Congolese come to the United States through resettlement, student visas, family reunification, and green card lottery (a random selection of people from the annual unused worldwide visa numbers). When arriving in the United States challenges include a language barrier, differences in the education system, time change and food. Michael asked if the families are receptive to Stevya and she said after they get comfortable with her. Michael asked if there are still English classes being offered. Kristen said currently they are not offered at WSD but are available at other local locations. Alexander shared that he believes the common theme he is hearing is that students act as their parents liaison. Is there any way to help the students? He is concerned that the liaisons will get burned out. He asked what the school can do to make it easier on students and their families? Michael shared that there are commonalities between the liaisons. He asked if the liaisons get together to share their experiences. Stevya said she does

reach out to the other liaisons if she has a question. Kirsten said there are annual trainings with the liaisons and the Burlington liaisons and interpreters. Stevia shared that she hears a lot about the parents concerns about bussing. Board members explained there is a bus that runs starting December 2nd until the end of March. The intention is to have bussing during the coldest time of the year. At this point there is only bussing in the morning but not the return home. This started about three years ago.

4. Public Comments: None
5. Consent Agenda:
  - a. Minutes of meetings:
    - i. Regular meeting - October 9, 2019
    - ii. Capital Project Executive Committee Meeting - October 17, 2019
  - b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
    - i. Approval of Bills
  - c. Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
    - i. Superintendent Report

Motion made by Tori Cleiland to accept the Consent Agenda. Discussion included: Tori shared there was a lot of great information in the Superintendent Report. All in favor.

6. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):
  - a. Policy Title: 4.1b Governing Style: Encouragement of a Diversity of Views
    - i. Student Report to the Board - Not present
    - ii. Report on VSBA Annual Meeting - There was a lot of discussion around negotiations regarding health benefits. The time frame is December. A Winooski student, Zack Chagnon shared about his time in the Winooski School District and he was well received. This student is doing well in his second year of college at CCV and plans to attend Castleton to complete his undergraduate degree in Psychology.
    - iii. Board Development: Cultivating Student Voice with Up for Learning, Harry Frank joined board members at the table. The conversation included what board members think student voice is and how does that manifest what that means to the board? Board members believe that students see themselves has being able to give feedback. Teaching children to learn skill sets to be equal partners in their education. How to create an agenda that facilitates a student to be inclusive? Other than the student representatives how do other students have a voice? Is this for the board members or is this for the student? The after school activities is a way for a student to have a voice. A student voice needs to be cultivated. What are the current structures for students to have voice? Harry Frank asked, are we doing due diligence to the highest stakeholder - the students? Do they go to you or do they come to you? Margaret asked when Student Council stopped? Sean said about 5 or 6 years ago and now there is Peace Jam. Students do get to share their voices in their Advisory

Groups. Harry asked if there are mechanisms in place? There is a population of students where this concept of speaking up is not acceptable. Next steps need to be defining what students are looking for. Margaret suggested having all of the liaisons come sit at the table and share their views. The meeting wrapped up with board members thinking about structures to support student voice and Harry asking the board if he could discuss further with Sean and bring a proposal to a future meeting.

- b. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
  - i. 1st Reading-Policy #4116: Harassment of Employees with discussion. Alexander asked under procedures if the Non-Discrimination Coordinator should be the Human Resource Coordinator. All agreed and this will be changed
  - ii. 1st Reading-Policy #4310: Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace with discussion. No recommended revisions.
  - iii. 1st Reading on the new Admission of Non-Resident Tuition Students Policy with discussion. Sean explained elements of Act 129 related to school choice for high school students in grades 9 - 12 who can fill out an application to attend any public high school in Vermont. He explained that any high school can set the number of students to accept and allow to leave. The accepting school does not receive the monies for that student. This exists for high school students to apply to another school without paying tuition. Section II under Implementation page 17: Under the three bullets regarding being in good standing. Sean explained the student would be allowed with a recommendation. Sean will follow up regarding number 3 regarding tuition students. Employees who live outside of Winooski will need to request to pay tuition with the board having the final decision-making authority. Students of employees that are already here are grandfathered in until graduation. Changes on procedures were discussed.

7. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):

- a. Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
  - i. FY21 Budget Timetable discussion.
  - ii. Budget Buddy reminder to board members.
- b. Policy Title: 2.5 Emergency Superintendent Succession
  - i. Superintendent Monitoring Report discussion included the names of the current new administrative assistant and new co-principal to replace the past staff members.

Motion made by Tori Cleiland to approve 2.5 Emergency Superintendent Succession with the updates. All in favor.

- c. Policy Title: 2.6 Asset Protection

- i. WSD Capital Project Update: Sean shared that the code to review the project will be in the newsletter and is currently posted around the school.
- 8. Board-Management Delegation (Policy Section III):
  - a. Policy Title: 3.3 Delegation to Superintendent
    - i. Staff Diversity discussion included that Sean shared that staff diversity is a topic of interest and more recruiting would be a great outreach. Board members agreed.
  - b. Policy Title: 3.4 Monitoring Superintendent Performance
    - i. Board Monitoring Report discussion - Michael asked if the board can conclude that they are in compliance.

Motion made by Alexander Yin to accept the 3.4 Monitoring Superintendent Report. All in favor.

- 9. Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1):
  - a. Recent community activities by board members included Alexander Yin attended a Charter Committee. He shared that the committee is looking at a few changes. Tori Cleiland attended the boys soccer game.

10. Next Agenda: None

11. Upcoming important Dates:

- a. Budget Meetings are planned as follows:
  - i. December 4, 2019
  - ii. December 11, 2019
  - iii. December 18, 2019
  - iv. January 2, 2020
  - v. January 8, 2020
- b. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held at JFK on November 21nd & 22nd.
- c. There is no school from November 25th - November 29th.
- d. The UVM Outstanding Teacher Ceremony will be held December 5th.
- e. The Annual Train Show will be December 7th.
- f. The next regular Board Meeting will be held on December 11th.
- g. Craft Fair this coming weekend.

Motion made by Tori Cleiland to enter Executive Session to discuss Labor Negotiations. All in favor.

12. Executive Session:

- a. Motion to enter Executive Session at 9:13 to discuss Labor Negotiations.  
Out of Executive Session at 9:38

13. Possible Action on Executive Sessions:

14. Motion made to adjourn at 9:40. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Steady

