



# WINOOSKI SCHOOLS

*We are the future.*

Winooski School Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
Library  
Wednesday, December 11, 2019  
Minutes

Board Members Present: Alexander Yin-Secretary, Tori Cleiland, Matthew MacNeil, Margaret Bass, Student Representatives - Sophia Do and Hiba Laaroussi

Board Members Absent: Michael Decarreau-President

Administration Present: Sean McMannon-Superintendent, Rebecca Goulet-

Others Present: See sign-in sheet on file.

1. Meeting called to order by Alexander Yin at 6:31 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and mindfulness with Tori Cleiland.
2. Agenda Review and Adjustments: Budget meeting minutes to be added to the Consent Agenda. Move the public comments before the Focus on Learning. Tori made a motion to move the public comments before the Focus on Learning and adding the December 4, 2019 budget minutes to the Consent Agenda.. All in favor.
3. Public Comments: Yam Basnet presented a petition on behalf of the Nepali community to request bus transportation to and from school.

Kate Nugent, Executive Director of Youth Mobilization, and Hannah St. Don, Youth Mobilization Coordinator, updated the school members on the work they have been doing. They extended an invitation to their upcoming events. The focus is on substance abuse reduction. The majority of their work aligns with the mission of the school. They work with the after school group Above the Influence. It is possible to prevent substance use and their vision is to help this happen. They invited everyone to a forum on substance abuse prevention March 18, 2020 at the school.

Coral Bisbee thanked the board to be able to speak with them about bussing at this meeting as Parents are very concerned about not being able to make the budget meeting and the scheduled meetings on Wednesdays and Thursdays are difficult to attend. Friday would work better. The bussing is a priority for the parents. Without a school bus in the afternoon the return trip home is very difficult for students that walk home because they get wet and dirty. The concern is that the students will not be able to attend school the next day as they will not have dry shoes and snow pants. What is the point to have a bigger school and staff if students cannot attend? Yam shared information from a parent, per a phone call, that children are getting wet walking home and the importance regarding the transportation home.

4. Focus on Learning: Nellie Maley, ELL & Social Studies teacher, along with students, Hussein Amuri and Evelyn Monje, presented. Hussein, a junior at Winooski, shared how he has worked with making change in the school. Evelyn added that after talking with peers they can fully understand the issues for all ELL students. How might we reach out to the school board members and community? The students in her group came up with the idea of forming a student government. Research was done around what a student government would look like. Students reached out to teachers to find out what the student government looked like in the past. The next step will be forming the student government. The focus will be to reach out next semester regarding curriculum. Hussein told the board that a lot of students do not understand the grading system. Alexander invited Hussein and Evelyn to the table to speak with the board. Tori asked what the next step would be to get the information to the board. Matthew asked if the majority of the students wanted a student government or a small percentage. Evelyn felt that there was a fair amount involved in the decision to have a student government. Hussein felt that some people have a hard time being part of change. Hibba asked if there is a student government, how will students be selected? Sophia feels that using polls makes it less of a popularity contest. Evelyn appreciates the concern and will take note of it. Tori wants to know how the students will lead regarding student voice. Alexander let Hussein and Evelyn know they can come to any board member to help strengthen the bond with the student government to make it effective, efficient and sustainable. Sophia asked how they will get more students involved with the student government. She said that there was not a lot of interest for student board members. Hussein said that they hope to add ways to meet everyone's interest.
5. Consent Agenda:
  - a. Minutes of Meetings:
    - i. Regular meeting - November 13, 2019 and Budget meeting - December 4, 2019
    - ii. Capital Project Executive Committee Meeting - December 4, 2019
  - b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
    - i. Approval of Bills

- c. Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
  - i. Approval of Teacher Contracts
    - 1. Amy Loomis-WHS Guidance Counselor
      - a. Contract revision
- 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 #4116: Harassment of Employees
  - ii. Adopt Policy #4310: Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace
  - iii. Adopt Policy #5150: (New)-Admission of Non-Resident Tuition Students Policy

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

- 6. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):
  - a. Policy Title: 2.6 Asset Protection
    - i. WSD Capital Project Update: Sean informed the board of the current updates regarding the project. There has been student focus groups throughout the building and they have shared their thoughts.
  - b. Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
    - i. Superintendent Monitoring Report: Tori Cleiland made a motion to accept the Superintendent Monitoring Report. All in favor.
- 7. Board-Management Delegation (Policy Section III):
  - a. Policy Title: 3.1 Unity of Control
    - i. Board Monitoring Report: Tori Cleiland made a motion to accept the Monitoring Report. All in favor.
- 8. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):
  - a. Policy Title: 4.1b Governing Style: Encouragement of a Diversity of Views
    - i. Student Report to the Board - Sophia and Hiba shared that a lot of students are applying for college and students are concerned about the GPA's and getting scholarships. The National Honor Society requires a GPA. It is her understanding that there is not going to be a National Honor Society. The proficiency scale makes it difficult to understand for students.  
Tori made a motion to move the proficiency grading system to the January meeting. All in favor.
    - ii. School Newsletter Topics: Alexander will write for the January newsletter. Board members suggested topics such as; the budget, elections coming up or student voice information.
    - iii. Board Appointment to WSD Finance Committee: Sean gave an overview of the committee and that it has not met for quite awhile. Michael would like to stay on this committee and board members

were asked if anyone would also like to join this committee. Tori asked if this could be tabled until the next meeting to get more information.

- iv. Up for Learning proposal for board development: Tori felt it would be great to build off the strengths and assets within the building. Matthew agreed and this could be added to the summer retreat. Sean suggested it would be great to have a third party to coordinate this between meetings.

Motion made by Matthew MacNeil to approve a contract to hire for an Up for Learning position. All in favor.

- v. FY21 Budget Session: Rebecca gave each board member a FY21 Budget proposal hand out. Sean gave an overview of the updated proposal numbers. He shared the Statewide benefit update along with any state student numbers that are available at this time. Tori asked if the morning bussing is in the line item. Rebecca shared that there has been additional days added. The reason it has decreased is due to individual transportation that is no longer needed. Alexander suggested that the WSD investigate what the dollar cost would be to add the after school transportation piece and what the percentage increase would be. Sean said the question would be if there is a provider that can provide after school bussing. Duane Sherwood, community member, shared that he believes that the budget process has been meticulous. Corali Bisbee said that parents are very frustrated. She believes that community members will help spread the word about the budget with after school bussing added to it. Margaret asked how come this has been an issue for so long and Sean explained that the original concern five years ago was getting students to school safely. Sean shared that the after school bussing is fairly new. She believes this is an issue of urgency and it matters to her tremendously. Matthew said that with the tax dollars that are being invested in the community already that people are concerned about what they are going to pay with their tax dollars.

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

- a. Recent community activities by board members: None

**10. Next Agenda: Discussed during the meeting.**

**11. Upcoming Important Dates:**

- a. JFK Winter Performance: Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 pm.
- b. School Vacation: Monday, December 23rd - Wednesday, January 1st.
- c. Budget Meetings: 6:30pm in WSD Library
  - i. December 18, 2019

- ii. January 2, 2020
    - iii. January 8, 2020
  - d. K-12 Early Dismissal on January 8, 2020 at 12:15 pm.
- 12. Executive Session: None
  - a. Labor Negotiations

13. Possible Action on Executive Session: N/A

14. Motion made by Margaret Bass to adjourn at 8:47 pm. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Steady  
Board Recorder