

DRAFT

**Winooski School Board of Trustees**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, January 8, 2020**  
**Minutes**

Board members present: Michael Decarreau, president, Alexander Yin, secretary,, Tori Cleiland, Margaret Bass, Matthew MacNeil, Hibba Laaroussi (left 7:44 pm), Student Representative

Board members absent: Student Representative: Sophia Do

Administration Present: Sean McMannon, Superintendent, Kate Grodin, Middle School Co Principal, Rebecca Goulet, Finance Manager

Others Present: See sign-in sheet on file.

1. Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by Michael Decarreau, President, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Mindfulness with Tori Cleiland.
2. Agenda Review and Adjustments: Addition of Alison Palmer as a Long-term Substitute as a Reading Specialist - FTE: 1.0 from January 8, 2020 - April 3, 2020 (57 days)
3. Focus on Learning: Sean McMannon-Superintendent introduced Co Principal of Middle School, Kate Grodin, along with eighth grade students Alex, Amira and Gabbie as presenters of **Expeditionary Learning**. They shared what they did before Expeditionary Learning is. Ms. Grodin along with two other staff members went to the Eagle Rock School in Estes Park, Colorado to learn more about Expeditionary Learning. Three major components of Expeditionary Learning are the mastery of knowledge and skills, character and high quality work. This is the third year of Expeditionary Learning in the Winooski District and at this time it seems to be successful. The students gave an overview of what Expeditionary Learning is. It has a topic you learn about, get data and information about that topic. The first day is called launch. At the end of the Expedition you produce what you did in a culminating event where people come to see what you've been learning about. The students feel

really good and accomplished when they are finally done with the Expedition topic. Students like it that it is more hands on. It gives them the opportunity to learn new skills that they can use in the future. It makes learning fun. It gives them the chance to get out of the classroom and out into the real world. They get to meet new people. They have a chance to do things that they would not have ever done. Students performed a circus for their first Expedition. It gave them a chance to see that they can learn new ,like juggling. Another Expedition besides circus was Earth Stories. Questions included: How is a topic found? The students shared that the teachers choose the topic.

4. Public Comments: \_\_\_\_\_ shared that bussing is needed. Michael Decarreau and Alexander explained the rules regarding public comments. Olga Bisbee asked if the board has the dates regarding when the bussining will begin and if it will be available before and after school. Infinity Culdeasune spoke regarding bussing. He said the concern with the families is getting their children to and from school and how much work it has taken them to get to this point.

5. Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes of Meetings:
  - i. Regular Meeting 12-11-2019
  - ii. Special Meeting 1-2-2020
- b. Policy Title 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - i. Superintendent Report
    - Approval of WHS School Choice Capacities (Act 62)
    - Approve Announced Tuition for 2020-21

Motion made by Alexander Yin to accept the Consent Agenda. Discussion included Tori sharing that she was pleased with the partnership to create more pre school spaces. All in favor.

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

- a. Policy Title: 3.3 Delegation to the Superintendent
  - i. Proficiency-Based Learning
    1. Board questions for February presentation - Board members want to generate questions regarding Proficiency-Based Learning. Tori wants to understand the change in recording and how is the communication to the parents around this new recording system. There is concern about getting scholarships with Proficiency-Based Learning and not having a GPA. Hiba

would like to see the results clearly given to the parents and in the different languages.

7. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):

- a. Policy Title: 4.1b Governing Style: Encouragement of a Diversity of Views
  - i. Student Report to the Board: Hiba shared there is not a lot going on due to students working on JanPo. She handed out a schedule to each board member with the Expo sessions.
  - ii. Board Appointment to WSD Finance Committee: Michael asked if there is another board member that would join him on the Finance Committee. Alexander Yin offered if there is not another board member that can commit but he will need to meet before work. Motion made by Tori Cleildand to add Alexander Yin to the Finance Committee. All in favor.
  - iii. FY 21 Budget Session: Rebecca Gould, Finance Manager, joined the board members at the table. Sean began the budget presentation with some proposed reduction in classes. After learning about the impacts of reducing these classes the board members expressed the best way to move forward. Michael explained that they about five staffing positions have been cut to bring a budget to the voters that hopefully will pass. Michael explained to the public audience that the voters will be asked if they will vote to support the schools \$19 million dollar budget and if it doesn't pass then they will need to come back together as a board and come up with a lower budget. At this point, the transportation has been retained in both of the proposed scenarios. Scenario one (Includes new debt service and risk of \$150K for Special Education and scenario two (includes new debt service, risk of \$150K for Education and fund balance of \$100K) and both scenarios include the staff reductions. Board members discussed which scenario to bring forward to the voters. Board members decided to go forward with scenario two at estimate of 7.58% increase.
- b. Policy Title: 4.1.6 Governing Style: Board Performance
  - i. Mid-Year Progress Update: Board members shared how well they meet up to their own goals. Keeping the meeting civil yet pointed. Board members were given a hard copy of an assessment to follow.
- c. Policy Title: 4.5 Agenda Planning
  - i. Board Monitoring Report: Board member discussed if the monitoring report is accurate. Margaret believes that the public body would like to have an answer when they come to a meeting regarding the bussing. Michael explained that with afternoon bussing there needs to be additional staffing. At this time, a date cannot be given regarding the bussing without a passed budget. The budget that board members will adopt tonight has \$85K in it that will provide 80-90 days of transportation provided to students to and from school which is approximately half the school year. Motion made by Tori Cleiland to accept 4.5 Agenda planning. All in favor.

8. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):
  - a. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
    - i. Quarterly Financial Management Report: Michael gave an overview. Motion made by Matthew MacNeil to accept the Financial Management Report. All in favor.
    - ii. Approval of Bills: Motion made by Magaret Bass to accept the approval of bills. All in favor.
  - b. Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning & Budgeting
    - i. Motion made by Matthew MacNeil to approve the Winooski School District budget of \$19,500,064 for 2020-21.as presented. All in favor.
    - ii. Motion made by Alexander Yin to adopt the 2020-21 Budget Warnings with new information as updated when available. All in favor.
    - iii. Review Annual Report to Voters: There is still one outstanding item (Audit Report).
9. Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1):
  - a. Recent community activities by board members: Alexander, Michael and Tori attended the community meeting regarding school budgeting, organization and capital project.
10. Next Agenda: None
11. Upcoming Important Dates:
  - a. January 8th, Executive Committee Meeting at 5:15 pm in the WSD Library.
  - b. January 20th there is no school due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
  - c. March 12th is the next regular board meeting at 6:30 pm.
12. Motion made by Alexander Yin to enter into Executive Session at 8:55 pm to discuss Labor Negotiations. All in favor.
13. Possible Action on Executive Session: None
14. Motion made by Matthew MacNeil to adjourn at 9:00 pm. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by:

Brenda Steady  
Board Recorder