

## Policy Title: 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership

***The owners of the district are the citizens of Winooski. The board shall be accountable for the organization to the owners as a whole. The board shall act on behalf of the owners as a whole, rather than being advocated for specific geographic areas or interest groups.***



**Board President**

5/13/2020  
**Date**

11/14/2018  
**Last Updated**

**Accordingly, the board has direct responsibility**

**Policy 4.4.1:**

*The board shall gather data in a way that reflects the diversity of ownership. It shall meet with, gather input from, and otherwise interact with the broad spectrum of owners in order to understand the diversity of their perspectives. It shall recognize that diversity assures a broad base of wisdom, and shall seek to make decisions considering that input.*

**Interpretation:**

We interpret this to mean that the Board will not make decisions in a vacuum but shall seek out strategic input from a broad spectrum of the community.

**Data:**

Data was collected via focus groups with the community to gather input on four questions:

- What are you proud of as a Winooski School District faculty/staff/student/community member?
- What do you think are the strengths of the school district?
- What do you think are the areas of improvement for the school district?
- How does the Winooski School District cultivate and develop student's ownership of learning.

**Conclusion:** We report compliance as the data collected helped formulate a conceptual framework that allows the Board to better communicate the strengths and weakness of our school district. While we report compliance we recognize that this is an ongoing effort to stay in touch with the community on the variety of issues we face during the course of our terms on the Board.

**Policy 4.4.2:**

*The board will establish and maintain a three-year ownership linkage plan, in order to ensure that the board has intentional and constructive dialogue and deliberation with the owners, primarily around the organization's Ends. The plan will include selection of representative owners for dialogue, methods to be used, and questions to be asked of the owners. The information obtained from this dialogue with owners will be used to inform the board's policy deliberations.*

*4.4.2.1. Owner input may be accomplished through a variety of methods, including but not limited to focus groups, surveys, public forums and advisory committees.*

*4.4.2.2 The board may establish a committee to assist it in creating and evaluating the plan.*

*4.4.2.3 All board members are accountable to the board for participating in the linkage with owners as identified in the plan.*

**Interpretation:**

We interpret this to mean the Board will establish a three-year plan for ownership linkage to ensure that we continue to keep a representative base of the community in focus for input to our policy deliberations.

**Data:**

Data based on a lack of a three-year plan and our struggles in writing items for the Winooski School District (WSD) newsletter.

**Conclusion:** We report out of compliance and we should focus on developing our linkage plan in the upcoming year. The plan should be linked to the district’s strategic plan/goals. The plan will help us better communicate to the public so that they understand how to best support our Ends statement.

**Policy 4.4.3: The board will consider its ownership linkage successful if, to a continually increasing degree:**

*4.4.3.1 When developing or revising Ends, the board has access to diverse viewpoints that are representative of the ownership regarding what benefits this organization should provide, for whom, and the relative worth of those benefits.*

*4.4.3.2 The owners are aware that the board is interested in their perspective.*

*4.4.3.3 If asked, the owners would say that they have had opportunity to let the board know their views.*

*4.4.3.4 The owners are aware of how the board has used the information they provided.*

**Interpretation:**

We interpret this to mean that when we created and when we revise our ENDS statement we seek the views of the ownership to help guide our decision-making. This also means that the public will support and pass our budget.

**Data:**

Data based on communicating each month through the School newsletter, annual community dinners to arrange an environment for the community to give feedback. We are not ready to revise our ENDS statement at this time as we are gathering evidence that we are on track to our current ENDS statement. Data are also collected to see whether the voters of Winooski support the school budget.

<u>Budget Year</u>	<u>Vote Date</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>Margin</u>
FY19	March 2018	690 (73.7%)	246	444
FY18	March 2017	519 (60.5 %)	339	180
FY17	March 2016	1192 (70.7%)	493	699
FY16	March 2015	681 (66.1%)	349	332

**Conclusion:** We report compliance.