



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS

We are the future.

Winooski School Board of Trustees
Special Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2020, 6:30pm
Virtual Meeting

Zoom Meeting information: <https://wsdvt.zoom.us/j/99177558309>

Join by Phone: +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

All students will graduate from the Winooski School District (WSD) college and career ready at a cost supported by a majority of the Winooski community. WSD students will lead healthy, productive and successful lives and engage with their local and global community.

Attendance: Sean McMannon, Mike Decarreau, Tori Cleiland, Matt O'Neill, Alex Yin, Margaret Bass, Nancy Keller, Matt Gile, Rick Herbert, Colin (RETN), Anna Steeley, Kate Grodin, Sarah Forbes, Helen Tosteson, Hussein Amuri, Lydia Mongeon, Rebecca Jagar, Nari, Dhani, Jason Ziter, Yatrika and Eh Ka, Judith Atkins, Kayla Loving, Evelyn Monje, Rainbow Chen, Key Nguyen, Indra Acharya, Andy Siki, Wafic Faour, Andrew Wild, Sara Raabe, Jill Cramer, Jim Duncan, Phil Bickel, Hillary Gombar, Jessica Perrotte, Kari Bohlen, Allison Novak, Graham Clarke, Nicole Mace, Mugabo Thierry, Sarah Gowan-Freije, Emily Freiji, Robin Hood, Steven Berbeco, Mark Edsell, Luke Dorfman, Liz Parris, Ed Adler, Tulasha Pradhan, Dave Solomon, Lindsay Helman, Emily Hecker, Kate Cappleman-Sinc, Lindsay Cox, Vijayata Dahal, Nicole Cabral, Ryan Hargraves, Mary Carlton, Stephe Siki

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Mindfulness: 6:38 pm

2. Agenda Review and Adjustments:

*The board will meet this evening to go through each of the demands and make a decision on each demand and how the board stands on them.

3. Public Comments:

*Jason Ziter- current SRO at Winooski School District. The SRO position is important; it's focused on the safety and security within the school. The position has allowed me to develop relationships with students, read to elementary school students, watch students graduate from high school and teach DARE. The ability to help find a missing 7 year old child was dependent on the relationships developed with the students and being able to develop that bond with parents and families.

*Rebecca Jager-I supervise child abuse and neglect. I have the pleasure of working with many SRO's in the school. It is critical to have the position of the SRO due to helping the working relationship with DCF. I found SRO's helpful for child safety.

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*Hussein Amuri-rising senior at WHS: We are willing to work with you about the demands. We are passionate about this and have done tons of research on this.

*Lydia Mongeon-parent of students: I went to school with Ron Jackson's children. Jason is one of the better SRO's, and knows all the students' names, and that's a k-12 school. He brings money to sporting events and pays for food for kids who don't get enough to eat at home. Where's the money coming from to pay students to do these committees?

*Indra Acharya-I received a letter from the superintendent, and I felt bitterness of the lack of participation. I know what being left out was like. When we shared our testimonies, you stood quiet and didn't reach out. You ignored us, you traumatized us.

*Hal Colston-We are demanding change. We are going through our civil rights era, we can be proactive in this work. This is about you doing the work, how are you going to get to third base?

*Emily Freiji-During TA, a student started staring at me at first. Then a couple days later, it got worse. He started yelling at me in their language. I went to the school counselor and talked about it. The situation got much worse, so I went to the black committee for change and explained my situation. It helped and I'm glad I found a solution.

*Wafic Faour-I think the demands of the students are justified. We have to admit the system is racist. For the white individuals, they see police, they feel comfortable. For people of color, they are not feeling comfortable. The colored people are worse during COVID-19; they were not present as much during the lessons.

*Dave Solomon-I served 3 years as SRO. It is important to understand what the SRO does. It's about building relationships within the community. In 2015, the program was a total mess; we were following the best practices. There were 200 assaults in the home and fights in the hallway. Last year, no students were arrested at all. I was still in classrooms and helping students all over the school. The district needs him.

*Mike-It takes everyone to work towards a common goal. I look at this as a district to move forward. Inclusion and exclusion needs to go.

4. Consent Agenda: (5 Minutes)

a. Minutes of Meetings

i. Special Meeting: July 20, 2020

5. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II): (15 Minutes)

6. Board-Management Delegation (Policy Section III): (20 Minutes)

7. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV): (20 Minutes)

a. Presentation & Discussion: Board Response to Student Anti-Racism Demands

*Sean-We are all struggling, the board doesn't have the ability to meet everyday due to jobs and laws.

*Demand 1: Support the formation of a Racial truth and reconciliation Commission by the WSA in collaboration with a third party to help facilitate a hearing campaign. Increase the timetable from 3 months to 6 months. We should also take out teachers and administrators from the demand.

*Indra - be honest: you said you were going to do something and you're not. Those with power, feel threatened. Y'all are racist. You are all using the same tentacles of racism. Why are you trying to hide this under the rug? We are not trying to challenge you. You are not thinking about the future of Winooski.

*Margaret-we need time. I need to be able to read through the demands and make my recommendations.

*Alex - What are the ground rules moving forward? I have not done enough work on this, I've tried very hard to talk with students and professionals. Maybe we need to take a step backwards and ask the students what they are expecting from us. I want to pay respect, but the demands just came out and spent a great deal of time looking through the demands.

*Mike - the board needs more time to go through the demands with the Leadership team individually and offer their recommendations. We are committed to making this work, but we all need to come back as a board to ensure when we implement we are all tied together. We need time as a board. The contract with the SRO is with this city. The document was created from the leadership, and shared to go through with a public forum.

*Hussein Amuri - We need to work together, but what I'm seeing is not working together. We received an email from the superintendent about how the leadership team looked at the demands. Why? We are willing to work with you all, but we need honesty and I'm not seeing this. I need acknowledgement, and I'm not getting that.

*Indra - You are not allowing student engagement. The idea of board recommendations came from us.

*Alex - we are not afraid, it's the board that's confused. I needed a little guidance from the leadership team.

*Sean - clarity is emerging from this conversation. Board members need to meet as a whole or groups of 2 to review the demands and come back together to discuss their recommendations and views. I fully support having students discuss and engage with the Leadership team.

*Tori -This is above and beyond the issues of racism.

*Rainbow - We have worked countless hours and got input from community members. Some categories we may need to find funding for in the future. We need to get paid for the work we have done and will do in the future.

*Mike - next steps: board and leadership team; board and students; leadership team and students. The budget is depending on the piece from the board. Next regular meeting is August 12th. Is this too much time or not enough time?

*Mike -To get paid and writing a check is not simply writing a check. One thought-having a third party pay them a stipend and having them distribute accordingly. We are here to make this thing

work.

*Rainbow - we will email the budget to you right after this meeting.

*Lydia - why are we giving money to the student organizers in the school?

*Mike - it's an effort to become an anti-racist school district. The work the students are doing is above what's normally expected. The budget will require consultants to make sure it's done right. We believe it's critical work and we need to be leaders in the state. We need to do it well and do it together.

*Mugabo - We are here for racial justice. The WSA is a gift to the district and it's critical to do the work and do it right. The final demands should be from the students and not the leadership team. There is a work session to be done and then the next meeting should be the presentation.

b. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies

i. 2nd Reading: Electronic Communications Between Employees and Students

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8. Next Agenda:

Items will be the budget and the demands. Board response to 8 demands.

9. Upcoming Important Dates: Special board meeting: July 29, 2020

10. Executive Session:

11. Possible Action on Executive Session:

12. Adjourn: 8:53 pm