



# WINOOSKI SCHOOLS

*We are the future.*

Winooski School Board of Trustees  
Special Meeting-Board Retreat  
Saturday, September 26, 2020, 8:30am  
Doubletree by Hilton Hotel  
870 Williston Road, South Burlington, VT 05403

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.

**School Board Members Present:** Tori Cleiland, Alex Yin, Mike Decarreau, Matt MacNeil

**Administration Present:** Sean McMannon, Sara Raabe, Nicole Mace, Jean Berthiaume, Kate Grodin, Michael Eppolito

**Others Present:** Lindsey Hallman, Evelyn Monje, Luke Dorfman, Mugabo Uwilingiyimana, Jessie Baker, Kayla Loving, Sarah McGowan-Frejje

1. **Call to Order:** (5 Minutes)
2. **Agenda Review and Adjustments:** (5 Minutes)
3. **Public Comments:** (5 Minutes)
4. **Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):** (3 hours & 30 Minutes)
  - a. Policy Title: 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership
    - i. Discussion: Reflection on WSA Demands Process
      1. Acknowledge harm on the path to acceptance of the Demands
      2. Build equal partnership between WSA, WSD LT, Board, Spectrum and City to move demands forward
      3. Establish process, functioning, monitoring, and structure for inclusion of community and faculty in 'demand groups' to commence work

\*The Special Meeting opened with Lindsey Hallman & Evelyn Monje facilitating uncomfortable conversations that need to be had to start moving toward anti-racism. Feelings of members were heard during this restorative circle.

\*The discomfort of not having students at the meeting and the design of the meeting in regards to who it benefited was voiced by Mugabo.

\*The needs to not address the symptoms but to address the problem in order to fully move forward was brought forward by Alex Yin.

\*Kate Grodin brought attention to individual experiences and how they can affect a person in this

**WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT, 60 NORMAND ST., WINOOSKI, VT 05404**

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restorative circle

\*Several members brought up the lack of students at the meeting and what could have been done differently to help them attend. Evelyn noted that it may be difficult for others that are not in a facilitator role such as hers to come into this space at this time.

\*Evelyn spoke about the hope to continue with the work that has been started by WSA and that it falls to the shoulders of those in attendance to continue this work. Mugabo, noted the importance of keeping the voices of those that are not in attendance at the front of our minds. Mike pointed out the importance of making sure everyone is on board with moving forward with a majority of the WSA not in attendance. It was agreed that the group could move forward with Evelyn representing the WSA group.

\*Luke Dorfman spoke about healing and building trust with students and the WSD community.

\*Sean McMannon touched on the work that will be done in the meeting and the confidentiality issue that may come up in this meeting that is an open public meeting. The need to ask permission before sharing someone's words was stated. Lindsey Hallman noted that listening and not trying to give advice or offer help without being asked is a way to keep that confidentiality.

\*Evelyn Monje opened the restorative session with reminders for the group to create a brave space, turn down the volume of the outside world, examine what we think we know, and work on the issues at hand keeping in mind the imperfections of the space and those in it. Lindsey Hallman followed up with a few reminders of the group before entering the session by passing on the ball of energy.

\*Members of the circle spoke about an aspect of the poem that was read by Evelyn and how it spoke to them. This can be heard by listening to the board meeting at the 24 minute mark.

\*Members took time to speak about the impact the Winooski Anti-Racism demands had on each member personally. These statements can be heard by listening 51 minutes into the meeting.

**5. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II): (30 Minutes)**

a. Policy Title 2.6 Asset Protection

i. Action: Approve Interim Finance Package for Capital Project

Nicole Mace, WSD Finance Manager reviewed her memo outlining the interim financing package that will serve as a bridge loan to a United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") direct loan. The USDA direct loan becomes available upon completion of the District's new educational facility, expected in September 2022. Paul Giuliani, WSD school board bond counsel and Whitney Warren from PFM Financial Advisors joined the discussion via phone to respond to any board member questions. Board action is necessary to provide the Board Chair and Treasurer the authorization to sign the Debt Resolution, Note Purchase Agreement (NPA) and other documents following the sale of the notes.

Alex Yin made a motion to approve "adoption of the "Resolution Authorizing the Sale and Issuance of Winooski Incorporated School District General Obligation Bond Anticipation Note Series of 2020" in the form appended to these minutes, and to approve the transactions contained therein, and to authorize the Chair of the Board of Trustees and the District Treasurer to execute, acknowledge, deliver and receive on behalf of the District all documents and instruments necessary or convenient to implement and consummate all actions contemplated in the Resolution, with such charges as may be made by the Chair and District Treasurer with the advice of counsel." All in favor.

**6. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV): (10 Minutes)**

a. Policy Title: 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership

i. Discussion/Action: Authorize Superintendent to sign Side Letter through November 15th for current City of Winooski/Winooski School District (WSD) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Superintendent Sean McMannon reviewed with board members the purpose of this side letter which is to give the board more time to consider the specific elements of the MOU before discussing with the City of Winooski.

Motion made by Matt MacNeil to authorize Superintendent to sign a side letter through November 15th for City of Winooski/WSD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Revisions to be brought to the board during the October 14th meeting. All in favor.

**7. Next Agenda: (5 Minutes)**

**8. Upcoming Important Dates:**

a. Regular School Board Meeting: October 14, 2020

**9. Adjourn:** Motion made by Mike Decarreau at 1:12p. All in favor.