



# WINOOSKI SCHOOLS

*We are the future.*

Winooski School Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 6:30pm  
Virtual Meeting

Zoom Webinar information: <https://wsdvt.zoom.us/j/92770302999>

Join by Phone: 1 929 436 2866

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.

Attendees: Mike Decarreau, Emily Hecker, Sean McMannon, Allison Burlock, Tul Niroula, Liz Edsell, Nicole Mace, RETN (Rich), Tori Cleiland, Steven Berbeco, Alex Yin, Jean Berthiaume, Hussein Amuri, Katherine Monje, Matt Gile, Rozee, Deo, Ambar Pradhan, Amelie Thurston, Lindsay Halman, Kayla Loving, Daniel Rai, Durga Dhakal, Jean Szilva, Penny Ly, Yatrika Dhamala, Evelyn Monje, Tessie Sakai, Rainbow Chen, Rachel, Davi, Sanjulimbu,

**1. Call to Order:** 6:32 pm

**2. Agenda Review and Adjustments:**

\*6: Action under executive limitations to approve Green Mountain Power Agreement

**3. Public Comments:**

a. WHS Presidential Scholar Recognition

\*Jean Berthiaume - We have three High School students nominated for the Presidential Scholar Award. Under COVID times, they are exemplar examples of our community and all three are engaged citizens. When I think about 3 words that represent them it's persistence, perseverance, and self directed. These are words I think about when I think about Evelyn Monje, Hussein Amuri and Penny Ly. Jean also read some important pieces of the nominations of each student.

b. Winter Transportation Comments

\*Durga Dhakal - Do you provide transportation to just 87 Elm St and O'Brien Center or all parts of Winooski? Can we have transportation to other corners of Winooski such as Eastern and Western part of the city?

\*Ambar Pradhan - If we get a driver after a few days or months, will we have transportation again?

\*Rahm Tundra - I am really grateful for the bus to and from school, I know because of lack of drivers (COVID) we don't have transportation this year but I know COVID is still going on and when students walk to school they get sicker more often so they will miss school and work. We have people in the community applying for a city license and it takes a long time to get the license (6 weeks). Hopefully in the next few months, we will have drivers from the community.

\*Deo - Is it because of COVID we are not getting drivers? Did all the drivers disappear? Is the school looking for drivers? I applied for CDL licensing, it takes 6-7 weeks to complete but haven't heard anything back.

\*Dhiraj Dhakal - what are the guidelines for getting to school due to social distancing?

\*Tori - Winter Transportation Update: Our budget is \$85,000 to and from school but we are short drivers. We are waiting for drivers so someone can make a bid for the winter transportation. Next school year, there will still be \$85,000 in the budget; we will hear from the WSD Leadership team on different options of the winter transportation.

#### **4. Consent Agenda:**

- i. Capital Project Executive Committee Meeting: November 11, 2020
- ii. Regular Board Meeting: November 11, 2020
- iii. Special Board Meeting: November 18, 2020
- b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
  - i. Approval of Bills
- c. Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - i. Superintendent Report

\*Motion to accept consent agenda

\*Mike - asked a question about the financing of the favorable balance. Another question was asked around executive limitations (7b) regarding the approval of the winter transportation bid.

\*Alex - asked a question about how many presidential scholars in the past in the community. There was another question about the weight study-do we have to vote on that?

\*Approval by all

#### **5. Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):**

- a. Policy Title: 4.4 Board Linkage with Ownership
  - i. Discussion: Anti Racism Work
  - ii. Discussion: Planning and Steering Committees for Anti Racism

Anti-racism work with Evelyn Monje and Hussein Amuri

\*Evelyn and Hussein started their hour with introductions and then discussed how People's Hour will change to explore different opportunities to connect the school and community. The new opportunity will be structured as an open discussion led by the youth of the Winooski community. Tori would like to create a multi-stakeholder steering committee that will hold work to becoming an Anti-racist district. The expansion of the planning team will include additional members to help move the work forward.

iii. Presentation: WSA Budget Proposal

1. What excites you about this budget?
2. Where are the growth areas for this budget?
3. What are your creative ideas to find funding for this work?

\*WSA presented a budget for their Anti-racism work within the Winooski School District. The presentation was given by Rainbow Chen and discussed the context of the budget. There is an overall budget as well as a budget broken down by demand. The rate pay will be set at minimum wage in order for it to be a living wage. The total budget for the project is \$70,560. Liz asked a question about the fiscal agent and how it will work. It is proposed by WSA to have a core group for each demand to include students, alum and community members. These groups will include 3 members of WSA and 4 members of the community. WSA was given a gift of \$725 from the Giving Project as well as a \$3,000 grant from the Vermont Community Foundation.

\*At the end of the presentation, WSA asked three specific questions about the project. Some of the comments for the first question include: how much thoughtfulness went into each demand (Tori), excitement of the work becoming real, and the ability to have WSA members and others compensated for their work through their project. Some of the areas in need of growth include how the budget presented will tie into what Tori presented such as a steering committee (Sean), translation will be a higher need than what the budget represents and will need a larger investment (Sean), and Nicole discussed the different opportunities to fund some of the pieces of the demands to free up some funds for translation as needed. Alex brought up that WSA should look for professional trainers who use the "train the trainer" model as some don't understand everything the first time. Mike discussed how to break down the budget as some items will be done in a short time and some items will be in the budget for a longer time.

\*Some of the creative ideas for fundraising the anti-racism work include: partnering with higher education organizations along with Doctoral students at University of Vermont, working with companies such as GlobalFoundries, looking at grants from organizations like Spectrum who are currently working with the district for social justice, and reaching out to celebrities to promote the work being done.

b. Policy Title: 4.1b Governing Style: Encouragement of a Diversity of Views

i. Action: Heart of Winooski (HOW) Board Member Representative Appointment.

\*HOW is a 12 member board and has quarterly meetings (every 3 months) and will have sub-committee meetings as it's challenging to hold a full 12 member meeting.

\*Liz Edsell has been nominated for the HOW school board member representative

\*Approval by all

ii. Discussion/Possible Adoption/Action: Weighting Study Coalition and Resolution

\*The weighting study was submitted in December 2019 and will be discussed by Vermont legislation and will bring significant resources to WSD if adopted.

\*Motion to join the coalition.

\*Liz asked a question regarding who is a part of the coalition. There are a number of school districts such as Burlington and Rutland who support the coalition. This will benefit the entire state of Vermont. It will acknowledge the cost of educating all students across the spectrum. Voices for Vermont could be a great ally for this movement.

\*Motion to approve the proposed resolution

\*Approval by all

c. Policy Title: 4.2.9 Negotiating Union Contracts

i. Approve WSD Support Staff Contract for July 1, 2020- June 30, 2022

\*Motion to approve support staff contract

\*Approval by all

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

a. Policy Title: 2.6 Asset Protection

i. Action: Approve Capital Project Change Order #5

\*Motion to approve Capital project change order 5

\*Questions were brought up regarding roofs and roofing drains (#58 and #59). This item is an addition to the project. According to Sean, based on the budget, this was built into it. Mike asked a question about the deleting of a grease drain.

\*Approval by all

\*Green Mountain Power Agreement - This agreement will need approval due to bringing power in from another place. This is part of the Capital project.

\*Motion to approve Green Mountain Agreement

\*Approval by all

b. Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting

i. Discussion: FY22 Budget Work Session

\*The discussion starts with Sean talking about the reasoning behind using a level services model. The presentation included the additions of staffing in the district between 2015 and 2021. Along with the staffing, the building also had needs. Some of the reasons include the uncertainty of finances due to COVID-19 and immigration policies. There is also a shortfall of \$58 million in the Education Fund for FY 21. Questions were brought up about whether there will be consequences for not being able to pass the budget the first time. Another piece of the presentation was the history of budget votes and budget amounts. FY 22 transportation options were also discussed and the information came from Green Mountain Transit. Special Education was presented as well.

\*Acknowledgement to the Abbey Group needs to happen. They were able to pull together and give food for over 400 families who were displaced over the weekend.

**7. Community Engagement (Policy 4.2.1):** (5 Minutes)

a. Discussion: Recent Community Activities by Board

i. Newsletter Topics

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

**9. Upcoming Important Dates:**

a. No School: December Break, 12/23/2020 - 1/1/2021

b. Veggie Van Go: 1/6/2021 & 1/13/2021

**10. Executive Session:** (30 Minutes)

**11. Possible Action on Executive Session:**

**12. Adjourn:** 9:50 pm