



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
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Winooski School Board of Trustees
Special Meeting
Shared Gathering Rm. D158
Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 6:30pm

Attendance: Sean McMannon, Nicole Mace, Tori Cleiland, Allison Burlock, Kamal Dahal, Mohamed Diop, Steven Berbeco, Mo Matte, Sarah Haven, Eileen Wang, Bruce Wilson, Brin Oakley, Katherine Blair

1. Call to Order: 6:30 pm

2. Agenda Review and Adjustments:

- a. *Move December 1 Tax letter to item A

3. Public Comments: None

4. FY24 Budget Work Session:

- a. Presentation of Special Education and Multilingual Programs

*Katherine Blair started the presentation by outlining the special education revenue and costs. Beginning July 1, 2022, ACT 173 went into effect which moved to a block grant based on the total number of students in the school district. Due to ACT 173, the district has lost revenue to cover special education costs. As the number of students goes down, the reimbursement from the state goes down. From 2013-14 to present there was an increase of the number of students eligible for Special Ed. ACT 173 has some changes for meeting eligibility for special education. The requirements for eligibility will be lessened due to ACT 173 starting July 1, 2023. The number of students with initial referrals to SPED rose in March 2020 and then dipped down due to the pandemic. That number is projected to rise again. There is one intensive needs special educator and one special educator for every grade level. Katherine talked about what is not addressed in this budget. Those questions include: How we build our internal capacity instead of relying so heavily on independent school placements to stem rising special education costs; and How we meet our legal obligations for evaluations with ACT 173 changes. Board members and community members had the opportunity to ask questions.

*Mohamed started the presentation by outlining the number of ML students in the district based on grade level. In order to be eligible for ML, students take the WIDA assessment. The WIDA assessment is taken every year until they are proficient and test out of being an ML student. There are a total number of 5 positions that are currently being funded by ESSER Funds. The

language with the highest number of students is Nepali, second is Somali and Mai Mai. Mohamed went over the home/school liaison support at school and in the community. Board members and community members had the opportunity to ask questions.

b. Discussion of FY24 Draft Budget

*Sean started the presentation by explaining the purpose of the meeting and going over the ENDS Statement and the WSD Graduate Expectations and proficiencies. Nicole gave an overview of the key budget assumptions from the previous week and there are some adjustments. Those adjustments include: Health, out of district placements and Tech Center tuition. The baseline budget has increased from 16 percent to 20 percent. The outline of the baseline budget by object which shows the 20 percent increase.

c. Discussion of December 1 Tax Letter

* Nicole talked about homestead tax rates and how the December 1 tax letter relates to the budget. The projection for the property yield for FY 23 is \$15,479 which will be a 6.34 percent increase. This amount does not include the use of fund balance.

*Motion to adjourn the meeting

*Motion passes, 3-0

5. Executive Session:

6. Adjourn: 8:00 pm