



Winooski School Board of Trustees
Special Meeting - Board Budget
Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 6:00pm
WSD Library Learning Commons or via Zoom
Zoom Login: <https://wsdvt.zoom.us/j/87380690607>

Policy Title 1.0 Ends Statement: 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: Wilmer Chavarria, Robert Millar, Isaiah Donaldson, Nicole Mace, Kamal Dahal, Sarah Haven, Eli Phillips, Carsen Small, Judy Lance, Ken White, Allyssa Ravelin (Board Recorder)

1. Call to Order:

- a. Meeting called to order by Robert Millar @ 6:01pm

2. Agenda Review and Adjustments:

- a. None needed

3. Public Comments:

- a. No Public comments.

4. FY25 Budget Work Session: (45 minutes)

- a. Presentation/Discussion/Possible Action: FY25 Budget Presentation 6
 - i. Wilmer Chavarria- Thanks the board for their contributions last week. Not much has changed, but actually a lot has changed outside of us.
 - ii. Kamal Dahal recaps the ***Education of the Public:*** A District Budget, Education Spending, The Role of the Board, The Role of Winooski residents. Our end statement and mission for the board is shared by Kamal Dahal, “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.”
 - iii. Wilmer Chavarria shares that the amount you pay in taxes could potentially increase even if the tax rate decreases. He states that we are at the point where we as the

administration are ready to propose a final recommendation for the board. An overview of how they reached their final numbers was reviewed, including the CLA.

- iv. An overview of the budget and how it is funded was given to the board and can be reviewed by following this [link](#).
- v. Wilmer Chavarria along with the school board shared an extended conversation regarding the proposed recommendation and the additional \$1M increase to the original local budget. [Click here](#) to hear the full discussion regarding the Final Recommendation from the Board.
- vi. Direction from Wilmer Chavarria for Nicole Mace to meet with Sarah Haven and him to have a third set of eyes on the numbers.
- vii. The school board (Nicole Mace and Robert Millar) share that they are comfortable with increasing the budget proposal for an additional \$250K increase instead of the \$1M increase proposed. Isaiah Donaldson states he is comfortable with up to \$500K, but agrees with the other members of the board for a \$250K increase.
- viii. Isaiah Donaldson shares that he is okay with increasing as long as a sliver goes towards marketing and promoting enrollment.
- ix. What this budget allows (shared via presentation from Wilmer Chavarria):
 - 1. A significant expansion of Pre-Kindergarten services, which includes habilitating 2 new classrooms and making Pre-K available to all eligible 4-year-olds in Winooski.
 - 2. The incorporation of the majority of ESSER-funded investments that already exist in the district, including staff positions and contracted services. This would prevent disruptive or excessive reduction in force in a single year.
 - 3. The honoring of previous commitments such as the funding of equity and anti-racism initiatives in the district and the addition of a School Safety Coach.
 - 4. Meeting the budgetary demands is hard to control, such as insurance costs and negotiated salaries for staff.
 - 5. Other high importance additions or maintenance such as one teacher in JFK to meet planning time obligations under the CBA; maintaining the Flexible Pathways Coordinator position at the high school; adding 10K to each school for classroom budgets; bringing some ML liaisons to year-round if needed; and increasing the “Community” line to 50K.
 - 6. Increasing operational lines to confront potential reductions in financial capacity in the next few years.

5. [Governance Processes \(Policy Section IV\):](#) (30 Minutes)

- a. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - i. Discussion: Policy First Reads
 - 1. AOE 1 Local Wellness Policy

WINOOSKI SCHOOL DISTRICT, 60 NORMAND ST., WINOOSKI, VT 05404
PHONE (802) 655-0485 FAX (802) 655-7602 www.wsdvt.org

- a. The board discussed this policy and Wilmer noted that the need for a Wellness Policy is a corrective action from a nutrition services audit.
 - b. Further discussion around nutrition, physical fitness and the potential for adding in sleep was had by the board.
- ii. A22 Notice of Non-Discrimination
 - 1. Board discussion around this policy took place. It will come back to the board for a second read.
- iii. C27 Student Distribution of Literature
 - 1. Board discussion around this policy and its importance took place with an emphasis on additional language that was added to the model policy.
 - 2. Wilmer confirmed that additional language in this policy was reviewed by an attorney.

6. Next Agenda:

- a. Budget Adoption by the board

7. Upcoming Events:

- a. 1/10/2024 - WSD Regular Board Meeting/Budget Adoption by the Board

8. Adjourn: 7:50pm

- a. **Robert Millar** Makes a motion to adjourn
- b. **Motion Passes Unanimously**
- c. **Robert Millar adjourns meeting at 7:50pm**