



Winooski School Board of Trustees  
Special Meeting - Board Budget  
Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 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, Sarah Haven, Maybeline Lopez, Matt Gonzalez, Jean Berthiaume, Elaine Wang, Elom Kpessé, Michael Decarreau, Kamal Dahal, Robert Millar, Nicole Mace, Isaiah Donaldson, Steve Berbecco*

**1. Call to Order: 6:02pm**

- a. Robert Millar calls the meeting to order @ 6:02pm
  - i. Invites public and staff to join

**2. Agenda Review and Adjustments:**

- a. Robert Millar - makes a motion to move section 6, the budget work session, to right after public comments and to switch section 5a and 5B, to allow the board to discuss board self-assessment before having a discussion about recommitting to policy governance,
  - i. **Motion passed unanimously**

**3. Public Comments: None**

**4. FY24 Budget Work Session:**

- a. Presentation/Discussion: FY25 Baseline Level Services Budget
  - i. Wilmer Chavarria recaps information shared in previous budget meetings and notes that numbers will be more precise after we receive numbers from the Yield.
  - ii. The District Budget includes all the money needed to make educational programs run: this includes books, salaries for employees, electricity, lawsuits—anything that a school needs to run.
    - 1. Education Spending does not include federal revenue, but rather local funding
    - 2. The Role of the Board is to adopt the budget that voters will vote on in the spring. And the final number that will be brought to the community and ensure that prudence has been given.

- iii. Budget Buddies are introduced and listed below, these Winooski residents will attend WSD budget meetings and engage in our budget process.
  - 1. Elom (Kpesse)- welcomed by Nicole Mace
  - 2. Mike Decarreau - welcomed by Kamal Dahal
  - 3. Steve Berbecco and Isaiah Donaldson- Budget buddies will be present next week.
  - 4. Wilmer Chavarria—Welcomes the city manager, Elaine Wong
- iv. Wilmer welcomes Jean Berthiaume --co-principal middle/high school, Maybeline Lopez- director of early education, Matt Gonzalez -- director of IT services, Sarah Haven-- District finance director
- v. Sarah Haven- Shares FY25 Key Budget Factors and discussion takes place between the board Sarah and Superintendent Chavarria. This list of items can be found by clicking [this link](#) or checking the [Winooski School District Budget Page](#).
  - 1. ESSER funds will need to be absorbed by the regular budget.
  - 2. Open 2 Preschool Classrooms
  - 3. Salaries and Wages as negotiated
    - a. Licensed staff 8.5%
    - b. Support Staff TBD
  - 4. Loan Payment
  - 5. Insurance
    - a. Health +16%
    - b. Property Insurance +23%
    - c. Worker's Comp Insurance +4%
  - 6. CCC New Child Care Tax +.44%
  - 7. IT Infrastructure
  - 8. Required Security Updates
    - a. Cameras
    - b. School Safety Position
  - 9. Out of district tuition—13%
  - 10. Utilities
  - 11. Transportation
  - 12. Replace Maintenance Truck
  - 13. Total Proposed General Fund \$31,827,404.57—25.07% increase
    - a. Sarah Haven stated she took the FY 24 (included just local funds) aside from the ESSER funds to make it more comparable. For that- Proposed increase is 18.9%
- vi. Wilmer Chavarria—Budget Options for FY 25
  - 1. Waiting on the Yield (December 1<sup>st</sup>).
  - 2. Budget being presented in 6 scenarios
    - a. ESSER position cuts
    - b. ESSER incorporated
    - c. ESSER and PRE-K and a few critical additions—this scenario was presented to the board this evening.
    - d. ESSER, Pre-K and admin requested investments
    - e. ESSER, Pre-K and all other staff and community requested investments.

**\*Robert Millar calls a break @ 7:28pm**

**\*Robert calls meeting back to order @ 7:39pm**

- vii. Discussion/Possible Action: Position of the Board regarding housing
  - 1. This item was requested by board members to be added to agenda in an effort to keep Winooski residents aware of things happening at 300 Main and the fact that Winooski families are currently facing displacement.
  - 2. The board feels it is appropriate and important for this body to stand with our families and help prevent this from happening and would like to have a resolution drafted.
  - 3. Kamal Dahal is currently Seeking housing for one person relocating to the United States. He notes that it has been extremely and that there has been a huge cost increase. He notes that this does not fall on the school board but it is very tricky when we would like new immigrants to come to our town. For them to be able to find housing, without a job, is difficult. In order to get a job, they need to have residency.
  - 4. Isaiah Donaldson- This is a huge issue and notes that there is a shortage in our state.

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

- a. Policy Title: 2.3 Race and Equity
  - i. Discussion/Possible Action: Final ARSC and Equity Initiatives Funding
    - 1. Wilmer Chavarria states that the letter states approve the same amount of money that was unspent. ~\$51,000. Doing well so far. Wilmer is requesting a generous cushion of \$8,500 to cover unexpected costs. An additional cost of \$10,000 for our mentor BIPOC mentor program. Mohamed Diop, director of the multilingual learners helped to reach this #. An additional sum of \$16,500 for work with the city.
      - a. Nicole Mace asks if we have gotten anything back from the audit.
        - i. Sarah Haven states that we have not but makes the assumption that it is about 1.5% after requesting 1.4% this year.
        - ii. This would be paid for out of “fund balance” for this year but in the future would be a part of the school budget.
        - iii. Isaiah Donaldson asks Elaine Wong if a potential date for the community event borne from the Equity Audit has been determined. This date has not yet been and agreed on and it is noted that post budget season would be preferred.
      - b. Isaiah Donaldson makes a motion to approve the requested funds for the ARSC - \$8,500 to cover unexpected costs, \$10,000 for the BIPOC mentor program & \$16,500 for work with the city.
      - c. **Passed unopposed.**
- b. Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
  - 1. WSD Ad Hoc Budget Communication Committee Report Out

- a. Nicole Mace gives a recap. Thank you to Wilmer Chavarria and Miriam Greenfield for getting the surveys together and the liaisons for their work getting the information out to the community for the December 9th Board Budget event.
- b. Isaiah Donaldson asks if there is a way to put the QR code to access the survey in the newsletters, on Front Porch forum and in social media. Can we get a call out to the parents about this?
- c. Wilmer Chavarria states that it is a big ask, but if it's something the board wants, he believes it is important as well.
- d. Nicole Mace offers suggestions as to sending messages after the 12/9 event that stresses the importance of completing the survey.
- e. Steve Berbecco requests a list of the areas of concern that will be on the survey.
  - i. Wilmer Chavarria states this can be done, but the survey is not finalized and is set to be launched at the 12/9 event.
  - ii. Nicole notes the script, with categories being shared with the board members.

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

- a. Policy Title: 4.1 Governing Style
  - i. Discussion/Action: Recommit to Policy Governance
    - 1. Isaiah Donaldson states that he learned so much at the conference and had a big presence along with the administration of Wilmer Chavarria and Mohamed Diop. We are a strong team and district, excited about the future. I want to commit to Policy Governance. Our tools are geared towards that. Why reinvent the wheel?
    - 2. Kamal Dahal—can't think about the other governance other than policy governance without thinking of chaos. It can cause a lot of confusion and chaos. Policy governance is a good way. Learned a lot of other districts, heard stories, never assumed would happen in the school. I would definitely commit to policy governance again.
    - 3. Steve Berbecco- I guess like everyone else, I am entirely in favor of committing to Policy governance.
    - 4. Nicole Mace- I am committing to Policy Governance, with a caveat. We have work to do and need to get training. Funds need to be set aside for board professional development. Thinking about how we plan our work, and insert board development along the way. After budget season, look at the end statement and have that be the policy we really ground this board in. Need to have continual support from the community, school, and superintendent.
    - 5. Robert Millar states he's heard enough information to entertain a motion.

