



# SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

**To:** WSD Board President and Board of Trustees  
**From:** Wilmer Chavarria, WSD Superintendent  
**Re:** **Superintendent's Report for June, 2025**  
**Date:** 6/09/2025

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Dear Members of The Board,

Below please find my report for **June 2025** and refer any questions about a given item directly to me during the regularly scheduled board meeting or to the Board President and me if your inquiry is prior to the meeting.

Thank you for your work in advancing the Ends Statement of our district to form students who will "lead healthy, productive and successful lives and engage with their local and global community."

Respectfully Submitted,

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**Wilmer A. Chavarria, NBCT**  
Superintendent of Schools  
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Spring Concert in the Performing Arts Center.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

I do not usually copy communication from the VSBA directly to members of the board, but I thought it is important to be aware of these new developments in case you did not see them in your inbox:

“The Legislature did not adjourn as planned last Friday. The H.454 Conference Committee was unable to reach an agreement after the Senate Conferees introduced an unexpected counterproposal with changes that did not serve the best interests of Vermont’s public school students. Many of the Senate’s provisions fell outside the intended scope of a conference committee negotiation because they were not in the bill as passed by either the House or the Senate. The House Conferees pushed back, advocating for changes that remain within the bounds of the original proposals.

The Legislature will reconvene on June 16 to continue consideration of H.454. Late this afternoon, the [House Conferees sent this letter to the Senate Conferees](#) outlining their plan for moving forward with the Conference Committee's work next week.”

## CONTRACT ACHIEVED (AND REFLECTIONS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE)

**Congratulations to the negotiating teams for achieving a contract ready for ratification.** The WSD board and the WEA will both be ratifying the 2025-2028 contract on the week of June 9th, which is considered a relatively early ratification and a good sign of a productive process. For years now, the WSD and the WEA have worked together to take proactive steps toward building trust and open channels of communication. This cooperation ensures that the district is able to manage its public assets responsibly while supporting our employees to the maximum extent possible. I recommend that all board members vote in favor of ratification.

The prompt ratification of a contract is a positive achievement, yet it is also a reminder to the board and the WSD administration that fiscal challenges lie ahead. Although this is no surprise to anyone, provided the current context and past years building up to the state-level debate on affordability, now we will know one important variable for our budgetary planning during the next three years: what increases in teacher salaries will be expected to see and how this can potentially affect our ability to maintain the same level of services. For example, for a 5% average increase in teacher salaries for a given year, we would be short several hundreds of thousands of dollars absent other variables. This means that no matter how consistent factors remain (which is not a promise under the current legislative unpredictability) we would be looking at another round of staff reductions for the upcoming year and possibly beyond. It is important for me to make this clear as early as possible, so that the painful process of deciding what we shed is more manageable as we carry out the process, and so that we minimize the number of surprises along the way. It is also important to understand this early so that as many stakeholders as possible get to contribute to the conversation ahead of final board decisions in the fall and winter. I will work on preparing a survey draft for stakeholders that the board can consider for dissemination in addition to any other public engagement activities that members anticipate having.




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## Collaborating with UVMH and the City on Housing Support

Our Wellness Coordinator is in ongoing conversations with the City of Winooski and UVM Health regarding a \$20,000 grant to help families who have secured housing but struggle to afford the security deposit. UVMH has expressed interest in supporting our school families' needs, and we expect to receive a final decision in the coming weeks. This initiative aims to reduce financial barriers and promote stable housing.

## GENERAL AND OPERATIONAL UPDATES

- **Fiscal Services** is diligently working to close out the current fiscal year. Our priorities include commencing the significant effort of the FY25 audit, ensuring all preparations are complete for summer meal programming, and efficiently handling the continuous onboarding and offboarding of staff as we approach and enter the new fiscal year.
  - **Housing Support Available This Summer from Jennie Davis:** Families experiencing housing difficulties during the summer months can reach out to Jennie Davis, who will be available to assist students and families with housing-related issues. We remain committed to supporting stable housing for our community throughout the summer.
  - **Migrant Justice hosted a training** for staff and community members interested in learning about the statewide efforts to provide support to undocumented families or families with legal status but under immigration authorities' threats. A lot of useful information was shared and several of our staff members who are part of our local Rapid Response Team were in attendance. I am happy to say that much of the work happening to support immigrant communities around the state aligns well with our local priorities, and we continue to hear about how Winooski's policy and procedures are used as a model.
  - **School Design Institute 2025 for Middle & High School teachers** will be held at Saint Michael's College, starting Tuesday, June 17. The new location offers collaboration opportunities with SMC faculty. Core objectives include community building, unit design, and peer feedback on proficiency based teaching and learning units for next year.
  - **Summer Months VVG :** We have Shared our Summer Months VVG Schedule with all students and their families. This ensures continued access to essential food support throughout the summer, helping families stay nourished and supported during the break.
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3<sup>rd</sup> Graders taking sail.

## LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITY

- **The camp “Free to Be,” formerly the BIPOC youth camp**, consistently and disproportionately serves youth leaders from the Winooski schools. We have not formally supported this camp in the past, but I have made a guest appearance, and I have witnessed how much this means to some of our students. Given the difficulty in fundraising or accessing shrinking grant opportunities for the organizers, I committed \$4000 in scholarships for Winooski youth to attend this upcoming summer. There are a few allowable options for internal funding sources, but this time we accessed donor money from Hydro-Québec. If this funding source is not available in the future, and the camp continues to attract Winooski youth, the board has already allocated a limited fund for Equity and Student Belonging initiatives through the regular budgeting process. This is the same fund that covers ARSC expenses.
- **For the past 10 weeks, students in the Girls on the Run program** have been training two days per week during the 21C Afterschool program to prepare for the 5K run at the Champlain Valley Exposition on Saturday, May 31st. It was a meaningful celebration.
- **Pranav Matri, 7th grade student** participated in his first marathon as part of the afterschool Jr. Miles Program, with Saja Almogalli. He surpassed his goal and ran two legs of the marathon. Well done Pranav!

## HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE, AND SUCCESSFUL LIVES

- **The Burlington/Winooski Summer Registration is now full.** It is exciting to see so many students taking responsibility for their learning.

### Athletics Update (Sam Jackson):

- **As we wrap up another year of athletics,** I'm proud to report that our teams and coaches had an incredible season. Despite a spring filled with rain, delays, and cancellations, our players stayed focused and gave it their all. Their commitment, teamwork, and resilience were evident in every game. Our coaches also poured their hearts into the season, going above and beyond to support our student-athletes both on and off the field. It was a strong finish to a memorable year.
- **Looking ahead, soccer sign-ups are already underway,** and we're excited for what's next. I want to take a moment to recognize Elise for her dedication and support of the girls soccer program, her impact has been deeply felt. We're also paying tribute to Karen Greene, who has tirelessly worked behind the scenes to support our athletes in countless ways. Her contributions often go unseen, but they've been vital to the success of our programs. Thank you both for everything you've done.

Karen Greene organizing her las prom after many years.





COLLEGE AND CAREER READY

From JFK:

**Our JFK Winooski Early Childhood Program** celebrates our students transitioning to kindergarten. Preschool graduation is a significant milestone for both children and their families, marking the exciting transition from early childhood education to kindergarten. It's a time to celebrate the immense growth and learning that has occurred, acknowledging the foundational skills acquired and the friendships forged. For families, this celebration is a moment to reinforce the value of education and look forward to the many exciting experiences that lie ahead.

**As we approach the end of the school year at JFK**, excitement is building across the school community. The JFK End of Year Celebration is planned for June 11th and includes a full day of fun: swimming at Myers Pool, games and activities at Landry Park, and a variety of events back at school.

**Our 3rd graders recently participated** in an enriching experience through the Lake Champlain Sailing Center. The students and adults spent the morning sailing on the lake, learning about water safety, teamwork, and the basics of navigating a sailboat. For many students, it was their first time on the water, offering an exciting and empowering opportunity to explore a new environment and develop new skills.

**On the academic side**, we have completed our spring local assessments, providing valuable data on student growth and progress. Teachers are using this information to support end of year reporting and to plan for a successful start to the next school year. The final weeks are filled with reflection, pride, and celebration as we honor all that our students have accomplished this year.

## COLLEGE AND CAREER READY

### Middle High School

#### **Engaging Students in Career Exploration &**

**Connection:** Through the evening Winooski Career Cafe and school day Career Cafes, we welcomed the following organizations onto campus to engage students in employment, volunteer, free training, and paid learning opportunities: Le Bon Goût, Winooski Community Services Department, Downtown Winooski/Winooski Farmers Market, FUSE Marketing, VHV, PCC, Dumb Luck Grill, ECHO Center, Dwellness Shop, and the VT Construction Academy. We want to acknowledge and thank Global Foundries for their \$500 sponsorship of our Robotics Team.

**Our investment in building a relationship** with HUSKY Technologies (including school-sponsored informational visits to their Milton location and on-site Career Cafes) has yielded two apprenticeship opportunities for Winooski students next year (one graduate and one senior co-op). As recruiter Devon McGarry states: We are proud of this collaboration and happy to see it starting to have an impact on the Winooski community. Hope to see it continue to grow!

**Middle School Celebration of Art and Poetry:** The middle school 7th/8th grade team celebrated and shared students' learning and creativity at a Harlem Renaissance-inspired arts showcase and poetry slam on Tuesday, June 3rd.

**Semester 2 Student Feedback for Teachers:** High school teachers administered for the second time this year the student feedback survey using a provided script and schedule. This feedback helps to inform and improve instructional practices.

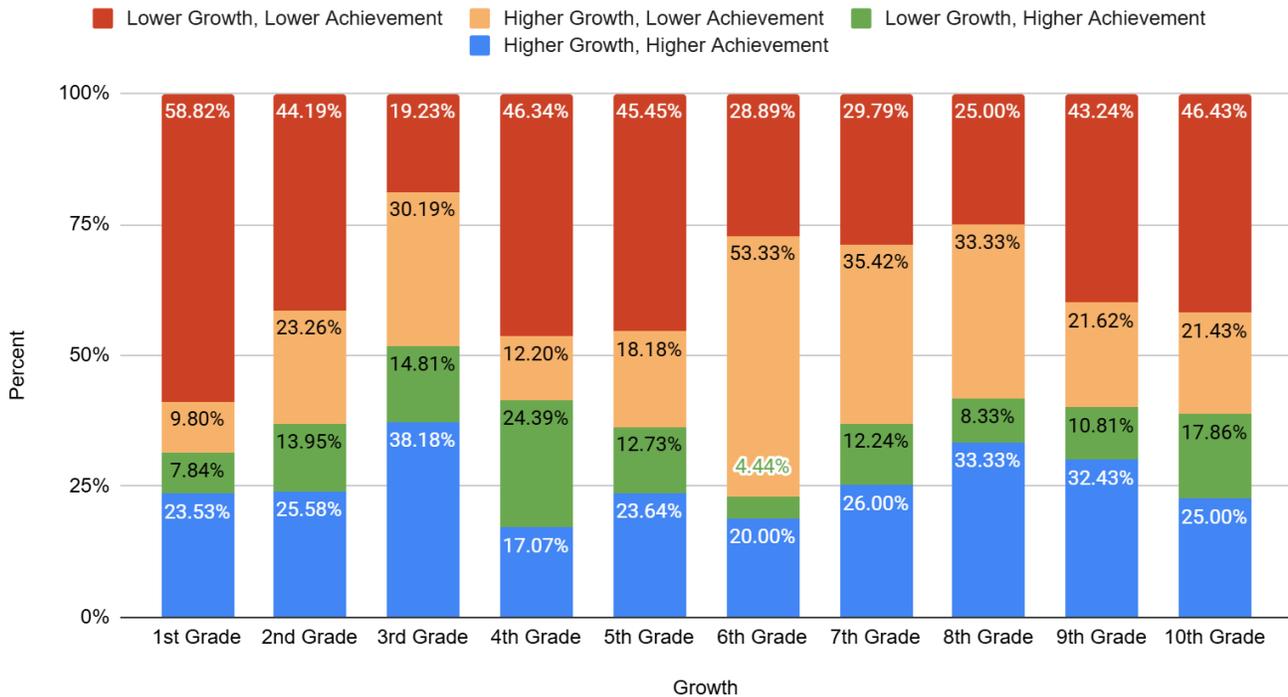
**JFK hosted an incredible Collaborative Art Night,** created and organized by our talented art teacher, Renee Weertman, with support from colleagues across the school. The event was a vibrant celebration of student creativity and community. Thanks to generous support from the PTO, families were welcomed with food and a warm, inclusive atmosphere. The turnout was fantastic, with a large number of students and families attending. Every student had a piece of artwork on display—from kindergarten jellyfish and 3rd grade frog sculptures to 5th grade claymation movies. It was a powerful showcase of student talent and a joyful reminder of the importance of the arts in our school community.

## DATA SNIPPET

STAR is a standardized computer adaptive assessment we conduct three times a year in grades 1-10 for screening and progress monitoring. It provides both criterion (measuring specific skills) and norm-referenced (comparing student performance nationally) data. The assessment is 34 multiple choice questions and takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. The data you are looking at is norm-referenced data. We use this as one of our first flags for identifying student need. These graphs show the combination of achievement (percentile rank) and growth (SGP). SGP compares a student's growth to that of his or her academic peers nationwide. These peers are students in the same grade with a similar achievement history on Star assessments. SGP is measured on a 1-99 scale. Lower numbers indicate lower relative growth, and higher numbers indicate higher relative growth. For instance, if a student has an SGP of 75, it means the student has shown more growth than 75 percent of their academic peers.

The cut point we use between high growth, high achievement and low growth, low achievement is the 40th percentile.

### Math Growth & Achievement





## KEY DATES

- 6/8 - 8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony, 6:00 PM, PAC; Doors open at 5:45 PM
- 6/13 - Last Day of School, Early Release at 11:00 AM
- 6/14 - High School Graduation, Gym, 1:00 PM
- 6/16 – Staff Wellness Day
- 6/17 - Teacher Inservice

## ADMINISTRATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- 5/19 I completed my last round of coaching at Harvard. Now I am done for good after three wonderful years.
- 5/20 I also attended my last meeting as a board member of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation. Like with Harvard, I am stepping down after 6 years.
- 5/22 I gave an opening speech at the annual conference of VT Schools of Education
- 5/29 I met with US Representative Becca Balint for an off-the-record conversation
- 5/31 I attended the ARSC's annual community event
- 6/9 I am meeting with Alison Novak from Seven Days who is interested in working on a profile for me, which will be published in late summer.
- 6/10 I am attending the Mill Museum Donor celebration
- 6/11 I am attending the CVSA's End of Year Celebration, where two superintendent colleagues will be bid farewell.
- 5/17 I am attending a luncheon with WSD students at the North Country Credit Union offices
- 5/25 I am a panelist in St Michael's college for a conversation led by Meagan Roy.
- 6/29-7/2 I am attending and co-leading our administrative retreat
- 7/4 I am flying to Nicaragua for a couple of weeks of vacation.

## ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Below are a few items the board assigned to management along with a status update.

Item	Board Direction	Status
Board Retreat	Board availability has been limited and not much seems to overlap when deciding on a date for the retreat.	Board members are sending availability to Krista to narrow down options, which will be discussed at the next board meeting.
Scholarship Logistics	The board requested for admin to reach out to Karen Greene about whether the board hands out the scholarship during graduation.	Administration reached out and Karen Greene said that all scholarships are read by the principal. Since there are several, donors are not invited to hand them out.
Graduation representation.	The board requested that a discussion be added to the next agenda to identify a board representative for graduation	Item was added to the agenda.