



Winooski School Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 6:00 pm

WSD Library Learning Commons or via Google Meet

Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/szx-gwkh-oeo

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, Nicole Mace, Robert Millar, Emily Bowers, Katie Livermore, Allyssa Ravelin, Erik Johnson, Matthew Gonzalez, Cheyne Racine, Kiera Manion-Fischer, Elom Essiba, Sulley Adinan, Mikayla Kelemen, Nimo Ali, Gabby Dzessou, Kira Irwin, Barakit Gyi.*

1. **Call to Order** (5 Minutes)
 - a. Nicole Mace calls the meeting to order at **6:01pm**.
2. **Agenda Review and Adjustments:** (5 Minutes)
 - a. **None Provided.**
3. **Announcements and Recognition**
 - a. Jewish American Heritage Month
 - b. Asian American, Native Hawaiian, & Pacific Islander Heritage Month
 - c. Mental Health Awareness Month
 - d. National Physical Fitness and Athletics Month
 - e. Robert Millar shares recognition for the months of May with history and statistics to bring awareness to Jewish American Heritage Month, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, & Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Mental Health Awareness Month & National Physical Fitness and Athletics Month
 - f. Other Announcements and Recognitions
 - i. Katie Livermore shares appreciation for the students and the Voting Rights and Drive, well done. Brings awareness to the Unheard Stories in the PAC this Friday and Saturday. Powerful experience.
4. **Public Comments:** This item is reserved for comments and questions on topics that are not included on this agenda. Time for public comment is included by default for each item below.
 - a. **None Provided.**
5. **Consent Agenda:** (5 Minutes)
 - a. Minutes of Meetings
 - i. Regular Board Meeting: April 8, 2026
 - ii. Finance Committee Meeting: May 4, 2026
 - b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities

- i. Approval of Bills:
- ii. Renewal of FSMC
- iii. PLC Side Letter Renewal
- iv. Ratify Support Staff CBA
- v. Approved Board Scholarship Recipients
- c. Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
 - 1. Nicole Mace looks for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.
 - ii. Emily Bowers "So Moved."
 - iii. **Passed Unanimously.**
 - iv. Nicole Mace congratulations the negotiation committee along with Katie Livermore and Robert Millar for the new support staff contract. Congratulations to the Board Scholarship recipients that were selected.

6. **Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):** (45 Minutes)

- a. Policy Title: 4.1.8 Governing Style
 - i. Discussion: Student Board Member Interview
 - 1. Nicole Mace gives the history of the process of getting student board representation.
 - 2. Wilmer Chavarria gives recap of the survey to students, there were 11 original candidates, now 7 candidates for 2 seats on the board.
 - 3. [Student Board Member Interview Notes](#)
- b. Policy Title: 4.2.1 Community Engagement
 - i. Discussion: Recent Community Activities by Board
 - 1. Nicole Mace- DRB meeting last month, speaking on behalf of the board in support of the armory project.
 - 2. Katie Livermore Jazz Dinner - really fun and well done event. A high school teacher shared the date (waiting confirmation) for Capstone speeches, inviting the Board members to attend.
 - 3. Nicole Mace asks Wilmer Chavarria to confirm details for the evening speeches and to inform the School Board.
- c. Policy Title: 4.2 Board Job Description
 - i. Discussion: Legislative Update
 - 1. Nicole Mace The House did pass a bill that has mergers happening in a voluntary construct. First order of business (FIFA), groupings of districts that are required to work together on a variety of topics. Hire facilitators to bring districts together. Move forward on the foundation formula. New map being put on the table by Sen. Beck. District of 20K+ students. Updates from VSBA haven't been detailed. I don't think the approach being taken by the House isn't a useful tool (SEESAW). Personally speaking, I shared my perspective for the VSBA.
 - 2. Katie Livermore Track if there are implications for next year, will our situation be the same?
 - 3. Nicole Mace shared the process of selecting someone and forming a new committee to be part.
 - 4. Wilmer Chavarria There are a few other bills regarding education. Paying attention to the merger, the foundation or how we pay for our programming won't be changing for a while (2030). They were trying to change the way we receive funding without changing the way things happen. Some legislators aren't really listening to us. Provide input when we need to. Stay informed.

5. Nicole Mace- Governor said he won't sign the House bill. This is going to be done outside of the committee process—typically doesn't go well. Senator Saunders has moved a fair amount with the proposal. Pay attention. Not clear of what impact will have behind closed doors.
- ii. Action: Legislative Resolution
 1. Nicole Mace- Friends of public education drafted this. In VT, if a school doesn't operate a certain grade they are obligated to pay tuition to public/private schools, select a different school. Independent schools can follow the standards, but they don't have to. Set the expectation of a school that is receiving public dollars, then the same standards need to be followed.
 2. Emily Bowers clarifies that this is for any public dollars.
 3. Nicole Mace looks for a motion to accept the Legislative Resolution.
 4. Katie Livermore "So Moved."
 5. **Passed Unanimously.**
- d. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
 - i. Action: Public Hearing and Adoption of Policy
 1. PG2.7 Compensation and Benefits
 - a. Robert Millar clarifies we are to strike the word before "benefits."
 - b. Robert Millar makes a motion to adopt the PG2.7 Compensation and Benefits with the previous amendments.
 - c. Emily Bowers - "So Moved."
 - d. **Passed Unanimously.**
 - ii. Discussion/Action: Policy Second Read and Approval for Adoption
 1. PG 4.1.8 Student Representation on the Board
 - a. Nicole Mace- entertains a motion to approve for adoption policy PG 4.1.8 Student Representation on the Board
 - b. Emily Bowers - "So Moved."
 - c. **Passed Unanimously.**
 - iii. Discussion: Policy First Read
 1. B4 Drug and Alcohol Testing of Transportation Employees
 - a. Nicole Mace clarifies that we don't hire our own drivers. However, the three vans we have to transport students. Would those be commercial?
 - b. Wilmer Chavarria shares that we have a policy for transporting students with those vans. Drivers licenses, background checks and forms need to be filled out with Erik Johnson in the district office.
 - c. Nicole Mace wants to be sure that the policy would not/would pertain to policy B4 Drug and Alcohol Testing of Transportation Employees, coming back next month to be sure.
- e. Policy Title: 4.7 Board Members' Code of Conduct
 - i. Internal Monitoring Report
 1. Nicole Mace shares she wrote this month's report.
 2. Nicole Mace take a motion to adopt the Board Monitoring Report 4.7 Code of Conduct
 3. Emily Bowers- "So Moved."
 4. **Passed Unanimously.**
- f. Policy Title: 4.8 Governance Investment
 - i. Discussion: Board Retreat Logistics Planning

1. Erik Johnson August 10, 11 or 27th for dates for most availability. Most administrators would be available August 14th, but most of the board members couldn't attend. August 21 & 27th? Board Members can move things around and lock in **August 27th** for board retreat. Administrators can pop in and out being that students are back in session.

7. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II): (20 minutes)

a. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Conditions and Activities

i. Discussion: Real Estate Update

1. Wilmer Chavarria- Numbers came back, pretty good job gauging of needs going forward. Contractors getting costs. Knock it down and rebuild or remodel. We want the opinions of contractors. Contractors did say building from scratch would likely be 20% more expensive than renovating. There are things we don't know yet if we just renovate. Pursue both avenues through stage 1. A significant amount of money either way, the board would have to vote. Most expensive option- brand new, bottom up at \$1million investment. If we do move ahead, likely the best option.
2. Nicole Mace asks for clarification regarding the unknown if we renovate.
3. Wilmer Chavarria For example, we wouldn't be able to use the second floor & would lose 50% of the square footage. Shared the parking zones have changed and now need 3 parking spaces per learning space. Not to worry yet, but we expected to be contacted as the quintessential building. Maybe the board would be interested in being informed during a different venue, sporadic reports, finance committee or if you want to be included in a board committee with administration?
4. Nicole Mace shares the Capital Project, there was a board committee. Board input on major decisions. Waiting on FMR for Q3 to see how things shake out for finances to have a sense of where we will end the year. What will we be able to absorb? To continue to have the finance committee be involved, it's a little premature to establish a committee on go or no go for the study. Nicole Mace confirms with the board: Not pursuing both scenarios at once, but we can if we need to & that the updates still continue through the Finance committee.

b. Policy Title: 2.9 Race and Equity

i. Internal Monitoring Report

1. Wilmer Chavarria Happy to give more metrics, we do measure this. The political national landscape, suggesting I should give you this data, can suggest we are being racist. We believe it is the right thing to say years ago, it should still be right today. We shouldn't be flip flopping to please. We can report compliance overall, in general.
2. Katie Livermore clarify not specific guidelines from the board, do you want more clear guidelines from the board?
3. Wilmer Chavarria no it isn't saying you haven't done something you should have.
4. Nicole Mace shares that we can benefit from integrated data. I would rather the board tell me they want to see data and I can bring it to you.
5. The board enters a discussion regarding their thoughts regarding guidelines, policies.
6. Nicole Mace tables the Internal Monitoring Report and asks the board to really look through it, pick 2 topics and bring it back next month.

c. Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board

i. Discussion/Action: May Superintendent's Report to the Board

1. Wilmer Chavarria shares general updates, reports with general WIDA data (reviews chart).
2. Nicole Mace would like to entertain a motion to approve the May Superintendent's Report to the Board

8. **Proposed Executive Session:**

- a. §313(a)(3) - Appointment of a public officer or employee
 - i. Nicole Mace would entertain a motion to enter executive session for the purpose of §313(a)(3) - Appointment of a public officer or employee.
 - ii. Emily Bower- "So Moved."
 - iii. Nicole Mace shares that the board will return and take action.
 1. **Passed Unanimously.**
 - iv. Enters Executive Session @ 8:05pm.
 - v. Returns from Executive Session @ 8:52pm
 - vi. Nicole Mace share discussion of appointment of two school board members. This board would be better if any four students joined us. Impressed by engagement and thoughtfulness. We considered interview questions, writing samples, and tallies of votes. With all factors, the Winooski Board of Trustees would like to invite Gabby and Barakit to join the board.
 1. Emily Bowers- "So Moved."
 2. **Passed Unanimously.**

9. **Adjourn:**

- a. Robert Millar makes a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Emily Bowers "So Moved."
 - ii. **Passed Unanimously.**
 - iii. Adjourned @ 8:53pm.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Friday and Saturday, May 15/16, Unheard Stories at 6 PM
- Friday, May 22 - Early Release at 11 AM
- Saturday, May 23 - Prom at Mansfield Barn
- Monday, May 25 - No School in observance of Memorial Day
- Thursday, May 28 - Winooski Middle High School Band, Chorus and Orchestra Pops Concert, PAC at 7:00 PM
- Monday, June 8 - High School Athletic Awards
- Tuesday, June 9 - 8th Grade Moving Up
- Wednesday, June 10 - Last Student Day - 11 AM Early Release
- Wednesday, June 10 - Regular Board Meeting at 6 PM
- Saturday, June 13 - Graduation
- Tuesday, June 16 - Last Teacher Day