WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

Winooski School Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 6:00 pm
WSD Library Learning Commons or via Google Meet
Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/szx-gwkh-oee

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: Nicole Mace, Robert Millar, Katie Livermore, Emily Bowers, Sarah Haven, Erik Johnson, Allyssa Ravelin, Elom Essiba, Dolma Sherpa, Barakit Gyi, Gabby Dzessou, Matthew Gonzalez, Wilmer Chavarria.
Virtual Attendees: Mikayla Kelemen, Cheyne Racine

1. **Call to Order** (5 Minutes)
    a. Nicole Mace calls the meeting to order @ **6:00pm.**

2. **Agenda Review and Adjustments:** (5 Minutes)
    a. None Provided.

3. **Announcements and Recognition**
    a. Arab American Heritage Month
        i. Nicole Mace recognizes that it is Arab American Heritage Month. Statement written and shared with the possibility of doing this each month, doing a little research and saying something. Nicole shares that April is Arab American Heritage Month; It is a time to celebrate and recognize the rich history, cultures and contributions of Arab Americans to our community and nation.
    b. Other Announcements and Recognitions
        i. Robert Millar acknowledges the Junior Chefs and their awards of Crowd Pleaser and Honorable Mention. Our Robotics team also performed well.
        ii. Elom Essiba- Recognizing Jenny Paw for her art work that was given recognition recently.

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. Nicole Mace shares a letter from a student regarding needing new basketball & court. Bleachers are no longer ADA accessible & the basketball court has dead spots.

5. **Consent Agenda:** (5 Minutes)
    a. Minutes of Meetings
        i. Regular Board Meeting: March 11, 2026
        ii. Student Member Committee Meeting: March 16, 2026
        iii. Student Member Committee Meeting: March 23, 2026
    b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
        i. Approval of Bills:

c. Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
    i. Nicole Mace looks for a motion to accept the COnsent Agenda.
    ii. Elom Essiba makes a motion.
    iii. Robert Millar seconds the motion.
    iv. Passes Unanimously.

6. **Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):** (45 Minutes)
    a. Policy Title: 4.1.8 Governing Style
        i. Discussion: Student Board Member Committee Recommendations
            1. Introductions of Student Committee: Barakit Gyi (9), Gabby Dzessou (10) and Dolma Sherpa (12).
            2. Presentation regarding why WSD should have a Student Board Member Committee.
                a. Overview of Policy:
                    i. Two Students
                    ii. Two Year Terms
                    iii. Advisory Votes
                    iv. Mentor
                    v. Training
                    vi. Compensation and Academic Credit
            3. Hear the presentation and board discussion regarding Student Board Member Recommendations

    b. Policy Title: 4.2.1 Community Engagement
        i. Discussion: Recent Community Activities by Board
            1. Nicole Mace- Informal calls with chairs from the county trying to make sense of what is happening in Montpelier. Consensus is people don't really know what is going on.
    c. Policy Title: 4.2.2 Create Written Governing Policies
        i. Action: Public Hearing and Adoption of Policy
            1. AOE2 Student Use of Cellphones
            2. B3 Alcohol & Drug Free Workplace
            3. B5 Harassment of Employees
            4. C14 504 and ADA Grievance Protocol
            5. C3 Transportation
            6. F1 Travel Reimbursement
            7. F2 Policy on Nondiscriminatory Mascots and School Branding
            8. PG2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
            9. Nicole Mace looks for a motion to adopt as a slate: AOE2 Student Use of Cellphones, B3 Alcohol & Drug Free Workplace, B5 Harassment of Employees, C14 504 and ADA Grievance Protocol, C3 Transportation, F1 Travel Reimbursement, F2 Policy on Nondiscriminatory Mascots and School Branding & PG2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
            10. Elom Essiba- "So Moved."
            11. Passed Unanimously.
        ii. Discussion/Action: Policy Second Read and Approval for Adoption

1. PG2.7 Compensation and Benefits
    a. Wilmer Chavarria confirms there are no changes, ready for approval.
    b. Robert Millar more extensive items from the previous meeting, wanted to acknowledge, it is very helpful.
    c. Nicole Mace- Question about pension benefits, would that be like retirement plan contributions? The Teachers' Retirement System and Municipal Retirement System are state funded. Do we have additional? They can elect to withhold. Seems like we don't need it.
    d. Robert Millar asks if it's from standard policy governance?
    e. Wilmer Chavarria- Assume so. We can check the other packet. It doesn't hurt to have it for the language, "established."
    f. Nicole Mace recommends changing language from pension benefits to retirement benefits, or strike the word altogether.
    g. Wilmer Chavarria shares to just use benefits.

iii. Discussion: Policy First Read

1. PG 4.1.8 Student Representation on the Board
    a. Nicole Mace shares that they took the policy Wilmer had made a little while ago and updated it to reflect the conversation that was heard earlier and presentation that was shared.
    b. The board shares a discussion regarding board-student mentoring.
    c. Emily Bowers shares clarifying questions about language saying students will be assigned a mentor. The students wanted to choose. Offers changing it to "guaranteed a mentor."
    d. The board shares that changing the language to "provided" will work.
    e. Nicole Mace shares that their envision was an hour before the board meeting, like when onboarding a new member, not a huge extra task of the board.
    f. Nicole Mace clarifies the only change needed is that "each student representative will be provided a mentor among current board members."
    g. Robert Millar The training piece is so broad. Do we leave it open or more specific at the policy level? Does the VSBA provide any sort of training?
    h. Nicole Mace shares to keep it broad, we have procedure. We gave Wilmer a lot of language for the sub-bullets. Trying to keep this in line with other policies. In their remarks, the students said they would be open to whatever the VSBA offers.
    i. Katie Livermore questions the procedural level, what to do if the student has to step out?
    j. Nicole Mace shares that we would just appoint another student. We wouldn't go through another election, taking up a lot of administrators' time mid-year.
    k. Nicole Mace shares that we don't need a second motion, but that the initiation process will begin with Wilmer.
    l. Wilmer Chavarria will announce to students, along with requirements. Rely on the student committee for outreach. He will control the Google form with nominations. Board members will review nominations in executive session.
    m. Nicole Mace clarifies with Wilmer that in May's Board Meeting, this will be ready. Students only asked for a couple weeks for campaigning.

n. Katie Livermore asks about candidates submitting a writing sample. Based on the fact we will be having them write monitoring reports, newsletters, etc.
o. Wilmer Chavarria recommends after we see who the students want. This was discussed extensively in the committee. The idea of the vote is not to choose who you are going to select but one of the factors to take into account. That is student popularity among the students. Once finalists are selected, that could be part of criteria, having them submit a narrative.

d. Policy Title: 4.6 Chair's Role
   i. Internal Monitoring Report
   ii. Emily Bowers- It differs from the last time we have had chair movement. In 4.6.1 in evidence, of a new chair, election was seamless, using that as evidence of compliance. This was a unique time.
   iii. Nicole Mace looks for a motion to accept Internal Monitoring Report for Policy4.6.
   iv. Robert Millar "So Moved."
   v. Passed Unanimously.
e. Policy Title: 4.8 Governance Investment
   i. Discussion: Board Learning\
      1. Nicole Mace hosts a discussion with the board regarding PDF for board learning. Schedule, track different themes throughout the year.
   ii. Discussion: Board Retreat Logistics Planning
      1. Nicole Mace- We need to firm up when we want to have the retreat and where? Asks for Erik Johnson to get a scheduling poll together/provide availability.
      2. Wilmer Chavarria shares that his retreat is June 30-July 1st. End of July and beginning of August. Poll administrators first, then send out to the board.
      3. Nicole Mace- Regroup in June.

7. Executive Limitations (Policy Section II): (20 minutes)
   a. Policy Title 2.3 Financial Conditions and Activities
      i. Discussion: Real Estate Update
         1. Robert Millar- Ended up doing the closing on the 31st rather than the 20th. A walk through was done. There is a lot of stuff still left. Isaiah Donaldson worked with lawyers, sellers, etc. He was able to get back $10K for removal.
         2. Nicole Mace shares that in Wilmer's report, authorize phase 1 of this project. Architects draw up plans.
   b. Policy Title: 2.8 Communication and Support to the Board
      i. Discussion/Action: April Superintendent's Report to the Board
         1. Wilmer Chavarria shares reflections on "the week before, the week before," staff is doing great despite adversities and sometimes surprises. Hechinger Report was here for the past three days, learning about the operations of our schools and the unique ways in which we come together to affirm the experiences of our communities.
         2. Nicoel Mace highlights the music video made to encourage and get excited about state testing.
         3. Wilmer Chavarria gives accolades to the teachers, who even while doing everything else, have to be these cheerleaders for the spirits of these students and things.
         4. Katie Livermore shares she was unaware we didn't have a District Liaison Officer.

5. Wilmer Chavarria shares that a message went out to WSD email from the DLO, but school board members' emails aren't connected to that. It is a staff departure, and doesn't get announced publicly, generally.

ii. Internal Monitoring Report

1. Wilmer Chavarria a lot of changes in formatting. A few changes in evidence. Reporting Compliance.
2. Nicole Mace looks for a motion to accept the April Superintendent's Report to the Board.
3. Robert Millar "So Moved."
4. ***Passed Unanimously.***

8. **Adjourn:**
   a. Nicole Mace looks for a motion to adjourn.
   b. Robert Millar "So Moved."
   c. Passed Unanimously
   d. The meeting adjourned at 7:08pm.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Wednesday, April 15 - K-2 Spring Concert, PAC at 2:00 PM
- Friday, April 17 - Veggie VanGo
- Monday, April 20 - Friday, April 24: No School - Spring Break
- Thursday, May 7 and Friday, May 8 - Early Release, JFK P/T Conferences
- Saturday, May 9 - Winooski Middle High School Jazz Fest, WSD Cafe at 6:30 PM
- Friday, May 22 - Early Release
- 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