WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

Winooski School Board of Trustees

Special Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 6:00 pm
WSD Library Learning Commons

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: Elom Esibba, Katie Livermore, Nicole Mace, Wilmer Chavarria, Robert Millar, Sarah Haven, Erik Johnson, Jesse Moukoueke, Gabby Dzessou, Dahlia Michoma, Kathleen Walsh, Barakit Gyi

1. **Call to Order**
    a. Robert Millar calls the meeting to order @ ***6:00pm***

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

3. **Announcements and Recognition**
    a. Other Announcements and Recognitions
    b. ***None Provided.***

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. No public comments.

5. **Consent Agenda:** (5 Minutes)
    a. Minutes of Meetings
        i. Special Board Meeting: December 16, 2025
        ii. Special Board Meeting: December 17, 2025
    b. Policy Title: 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
        i. Approval of Bills:
    c. Policy Title: 2.7 Compensation and Benefits
    d. Robert Millar looks for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda
    e. Nicole Mace-"So Moved."
    f. Passed Unanimously.

6. **Governance Processes (Policy Section IV):** (60 Minutes)

a. Policy Title: 4.2 Board Job Description
    i. Discussion: student budget buddy reflections and suggestions for permanent student representation
    ii. Robert Millar asks student budget buddies for reflection, suggestion if we move to have a student representative on the board.
    iii. Students shared ideas: easier ways to implement their opinion. Giving a new perspective, how school looks at things, helpful to see the point of few. Slideshows were easy to understand. Prompts would be helpful to answer questions.
    iv. Nicole Mace asks about prompts, would it be questions ahead of time?
        1. It felt like we were just asking questions but not helping or giving students insight into their perspective.
        2. Nicole Mace shares as a policy governance board, we may not talk about things students have interest in or influence over. We have a lot of things that we are required to do.
        3. Katie Livermore shares that we need to be clear about student board representation. There is a lot of stuff that is required for us to do. Whoever is on the board would need to learn the way it works, what its role is, process more than being on the board thinking you are going to change specific something, because that is operational and that is what administrators do.
    v. To hear the full discussion regarding Student Budget Buddy reflections: Winooski School District School Board Meeting - Jan. 7, 2026

7. **Executive Limitations (Policy Section II):** (60 minutes)
    a. Policy Title: 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
        i. Internal Monitoring Report
            1. Robert Millar looks for a motion to accept Wilmer's 2.4 Financial Planning and Budgeting
            2. Nicole Mace moves to accept but wants to share future references clearer language regarding investments, make sure we are making the most out of the fund balance.
            3. ***Passes Unanimously.***
        ii. Presentation/Discussion: Budget Final Version
            1. Wilmer Chavarria shares the adoption timeline, next week
            2. Budget presented $34,818,909 for FY26-FY27 Increase: 4.59% (FY25-FY26- 4.13% increase).
            3. Our operation budget is looking to increase 4.6%.
            4. Things in our favor: Decrease in Homestead Tax Rate (-2.4%); Decrease in Income Sensitized Property Tax Rate (-2.2%) & our Spending per Weighted Pupil also decreased (-2.4%). All of this with an increase in our Weighted Pupils increased by 7.6%.

5. This budget comes with the following compromises:
    a. 2 Support Services S.S. Reductions; 1 Licensed Reduction; 2.2 JFK Licensed Reductions; Foster Grandparent Program Reduction; 2 MHS Licensed Reductions; 1 Licensed ML Reduction; 1 ML Support Reduction; 1 District Office Reduction
6. This budget still allows WSD to do the following:
    a. Meeting our Ends Statement through maintaining robust programming; $75K in additional Capital Improvement Funds ($150K total); Additional $75K shifts from grants to local budget to reduce dependency; Bus Partnership; Work Based Learning Opportunities; Student Leadership Fund; Spanish Liaison to Full Time; 5 Day Pre-K, access to UA
7. Wilmer Chavarria shares it is important to mention that: "Most reductions will be made through natural attrition, retirements, involuntary transfers, reassignments, and other shifts permitted by the CBA, not through “Reduction in Force” layoffs.”
    a. “We anticipate a net total of 1 or 0 job layoffs in the entire district as a direct* result of our new budget. *Does not include termination, non-renewals, or separations for other reasons such as discipline, probationary contracts, or specific legal arrangements.
8. To view to Wilmer’s presentation FY' 27 Budget Presentation
    a. A full recording of the FY27 Budget Presentation is available.

iii. Discussion: Board Budget Outreach

1. Katie Livermore- Finalize who is going to the Senior Center next week on Wednesday, 11am-12pm. Coffee Shop, pick a Sunday/Saturday and have school board members available to ask questions. February 12th- Middle/High concert, have people available to ask questions.
2. Robert Millar and Nicole Mace doing CCTV presentation on the 20th @ 5:25pm.
3. Nicole Mace- When will the budget flyer be completed?
    a. Wilmer Chavarria shares that it should be available a few days after the board adopts a budget.
4. Katie Livermore shares she can attend the Senior Center. Robert Millar will also attend. Reaching out to Joann Davidman to attend the Senior Center (budget buddy).
5. Nicole Mace shares that she will be at the concert and can be available.

8. **Adjourn**

a. Robert Millar looks for a motion to adjourn
b. Elom Essiba- “So Moved.”
c. Passed Unanimously
d. Meeting adjourned @ 8:01pm

Upcoming Important Dates:

a. Wednesday, January 14: Regular Board Meeting
b. Friday, January 16: Veggie VanGo
c. Monday, January 19: No School (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
d. Friday, February 6: Veggie VanGo
e. Thursday, February 12: WMHS Concert, PAC, 7:00 PM