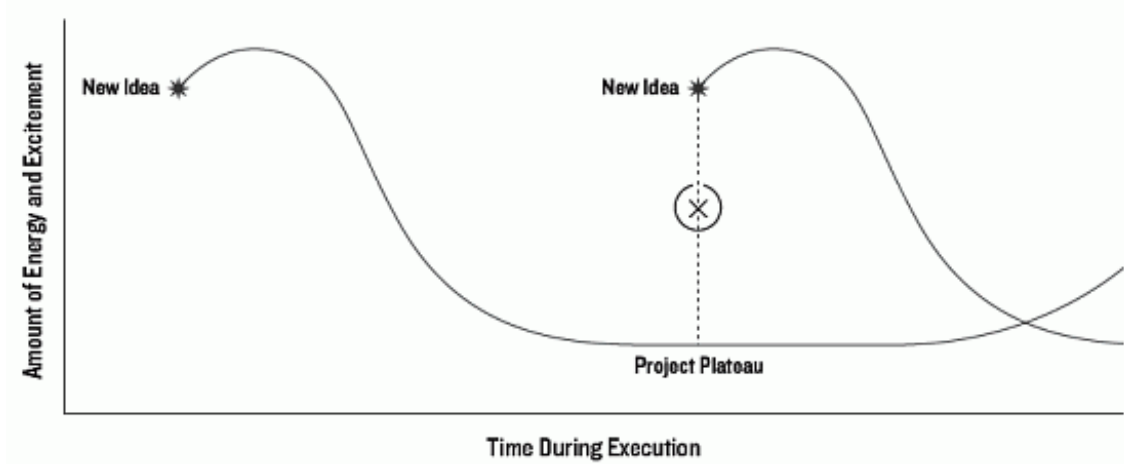


WINOOSKI AND BURLINGTON: PARTNERING FOR CHANGE

Survival of the Project Plateau

By Scott Belsky

**Source: behance.com**

Winooski High School Principal, Justin Brown, shared the above graph with the Steering Committee. It is created by Scott Belsky, an expert on how inspirational ideas are brought to fruition. The graph traces a powerful influx of energy and excitement that accompany a new idea, which steadily wanes over time during the arduous and unglamorous work of execution. A turning point comes in the midst of the so-called project plateau, when energy is low and implementation is either abandoned in favor of a new idea and corollary rush of good feeling, or it pushes on.

The graph is gratifying in that it effectively describes our journey to date – through the initial excitement and enthusiasm of the Planning Grant application process, and into the arduous, turbulent work of Logic Model development. Its most useful lesson, however, is in contextualizing the many, many, many difficult moments and turning points contained in an effort of this scope, and in reminding us that true change lies in vision, leadership, collaborative will and perseverance.