

South Burlington School District  
November 13, 2009

To: School Board Members  
From: John Everitt

Re: Superintendent Report – November 18, 2009  
Policy 2.9 – Communication and Support to the Board

1. Title I – I hope to continue our discussion about SB school plans to better serve children with economic disadvantages. I will provide more materials at the board meeting.
2. Budget development – The administration is deep into the budget development process. My goal is to develop a budget that aligns with the board’s Ends Policy and meets the limitations in other board policies. You will see the initial work in December, but since the board is not only responsible for the “what and for whom,” but also for “at what cost,” I suggest the board spend some time now discussing this fiscal responsibility. Board discussion would also assist me in my planning.

Commissioner Vilaseca and the Governor’s Office have asked us all to look for ways to contain costs as we develop budgets for the 2010-11 school year. The Vilaseca and Reardon memo listed a variety of factors to consider. It is also worth pointing out the chart below from the “Current Realities” presentation. The \$.86 tax rate planned for next year is based on a zero percent increase in statewide educational spending. In addition, the idea of shifting costs for the teacher retirement system to the VT Education Fund is not included in projecting this rate.

**Education Fund Outlook**

**Preliminary Conference Committee  
Report with H.12 Adjustments**

(millions of dollars)

	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011
a Base Homestead Tax Rate <sup>1</sup>	\$0.87	\$0.86	\$0.86
b Uniform Non-Homestead Tax Rate <sup>1</sup>	\$1.36	\$1.35	\$1.35
c Base Rate on Household Income <sup>1</sup>	1.80%	1.80%	1.80%
d Household Income Limit	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000
e Housesite Value Limit if Over Household Income Limit	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
f Base Education Amount Per Pupil	\$8,210	\$8,544	\$8,544
g Equalized Pupil Count	95,676	94,107	93,166
h Education Grand List Growth Rate	9.7%	6.3%	2.2%
Education Spending Growth Rate	5.0%	2.2%	0.0%

<sup>1</sup>The statutory education tax rates are: homestead property - \$1.10 (base tax rate); nonresidential property - \$1.59; and househo

As you know, there are many factors that combine to produce the school’s share of the residential property tax. I will keep you abreast of them as we get them. One of these factors is the Common Level of Appraisal. My best estimate at this time is that the CLA will add about five cents to the rate.

3. Health Insurance – We have received notification from the Vermont Education Health Initiative (VEHI) that our rates will increase between 2% and 4.5%. This is after a zero increase for the current year. This is good news.

**Please bring your policy manuals to the board meeting.**