

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 1, 2017

From: David Young, South Burlington School District Superintendent of Schools
802.652.7252

South Burlington – The South Burlington School Board voted to retire the Rebel identifier tonight following Superintendent of Schools David Young’s recommendation to the Board that the Rebel mascot and identifier no longer be used beginning in the 2017-2018 school year.

Noting that “this is the best decision – the right decision – for our schools,” Young referenced the factors that informed his recommendation. Those included the many stories from students, staff, families, and community he had listened to over the past year; additional training his staff had received on implicit bias; changing local, national, and world events; and the fact that the “current Rebel identifier is interfering with all students’ ability to feel safe and included in our schools.”

Acknowledging that “some students who have traveled through our system have recognized themselves as ‘Rebels’” and that “it is a part of our school district’s history and therefore should not be ignored or erased,” Young named as one of his recommended next steps “a thoughtful way to retire the Rebel identifier.”

The process for retiring the identifier and choosing a new mascot will appear on a future School Board agenda.