

South Burlington School District
January 15, 2009

To: School Board Members
From: John Everitt

Re: Superintendent Report – January 20, 2010
Policy 2.9 – Communication and Support to the Board

1. Budget – The annual City and School District Program Budgets booklet has been delivered to South Burlington households. A special thanks to the business office is in order. They were prepared to incorporate the board changes made to the budget in the short turn-around time required.

I have made some progress identifying the \$625,000 reduction required by the board. They will be completed by the end of the month. So far they fall into four categories:

- Items from the list of possible reductions to meet the charter limit.
- Refinements based on new information (i.e. 3% rather than 4.5% increase in health insurance).
- Changing two maintenance projects from one payment to a lease over three years. This would require board approval (Executive Limitations Policy 2.4.2).
- An increase in revenue (state transportation aid) that takes the place of a reduction. (The board would need to agree with this interpretation.)

I also believe there is a need to interpret the boards directive to “hold compensation level” in the FY2011 budget. In thinking through the various possibilities, I believe that the directive would be met if both the total salaries in each of the five employee categories (teachers, union support staff, non-union support staff, building administrators, and central office administrators) did not increase and if the total number of FTE in each group did not increase. This would mean that any total salary increase in a category would need to be offset by a reduction in FTE. It would also mean that any savings from replacement of a departing employee could not be used to increase FTE.

I also understand this to mean that using contracted services to replace FTE reduction is not acceptable.

Any salary or FTE changes to the budget that are outside this interpretation would require board approval.

2. Preschool – During the budget discussion, there were some questions about preschool that may not have been fully answered. The propose of VT law around support of preschool programs through school districts is to promote what research has shown to be a very cost-effective way to promote success in school. Students entering school ready to learn make more progress and require less additional support than children less ready.

Rather than running our own programs, we partner with preschools that meet DOE criteria and serve South Burlington children. We include the children in our student count and provide grants to the programs to reduce the amount parents pay for the preschool program. Some area school districts limit participation through a lottery to the state capped number of students. In South Burlington, we allow all eligible families to participate and adjust our grants to match available resources. Next year our grants will be closer to the area average of \$2,600 per child. This is well within the amount generated by counting the children in our ADM.

Please bring your policy manual to the board meeting.