

South Burlington School District
February 12, 2010

To: School Board Members
From: John Everitt

Re: Superintendent Report – February 17, 2010
Policy 2.9 – Communication and Support to the Board

1. Contract negotiations – Negotiations are underway for negotiations with all three of the associations.
 - a. Teachers - The first meeting with the teachers is set for Tuesday, February 16. The agenda will focus on ground rules and baseline facts (mostly current positions, salaries, and benefits).
 - b. Support Staff – Proposals have been exchanged and the next meeting, Wednesday, February 17, will focus on the proposals.
 - c. Administrators – The first meeting covered how the talks will be conducted and the important issues for each party. The next meeting has not yet been set.
2. Clean energy grants – We are looking to apply for two grants from the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF). Both grant requests are aligned with the December 18, 2008 report of a site visit by the Vermont Superintendents Association – School Energy Management Program.

The first grant request is for interior fluorescent fixture lighting upgrades at the high school and Community Library, Central and Orchard School gymnasium lighting upgrades including motion sensors, and sensor switches in the high school and middle school. The project cost is \$59,156. (CEDF - \$50,000, Efficiency VT - \$5,916, SBSB - \$3,240)

The second request pertains to street lighting upgrades at all of the district's locations. The project cost is \$58,156. (CEDF - \$50,000, Efficiency VT - \$5,816, SBSB - \$2,340)

Relevant pages from the application are included in the board packet. Facilities Director, Mike O'Malley, deserves special recognition for his efforts to bring these funds into the district.

This information is being provided to the board as information and as a possible context for a board discussion about a new Executive Limitation relating to district applications for grants. (See December 2, 2009 board minutes, "Other Board Business.")

3. Legislative report – Governance and cost reduction in education seem to be the most significant matters in discussion. Various reports call for governance consolidation, but I do not see any groundswell to make sweeping changes. There is a bill emerging to offer budget and tax stabilization incentives to districts that merge as a way to promote, but not mandate, governance consolidation.

School boards across the state have increased budgets far less than anticipated by the tax commissioner. (The SBSB draw from the education fund is reduced by \$950,145.) The net result is that about a 1.7¢ statewide residential property tax increase is needed rather than the recommended 2.2¢. The House Appropriations Committee may be looking for even more savings from education based on an external report commissioned by the Legislature last year. The report called for substantial savings in special education and administration (including all operations costs). Beyond this report, it is not clear what will be done with the shortfall in the teacher retirement funding beyond a recent agreement with the VT NEA, the VT Treasurer, and the

Legislative leaders. Talk I hear includes, the Legislature maintaining the 2.2¢ increase and simply not funding budgets as approved by local boards and voters. It will be interesting to hear what our local Legislators have to say at our next local breakfast.

4. Monitoring Reports – We set an ambitious schedule to complete all monitoring reports during our first year of Policy Governance. In the past few months we have fallen well behind schedule. The chart below shows where we are as well as some comments from me. My overall suggestion is that we continue doing what we can to move forward with the reports. The current annual board agenda calls for the board to set the next annual agenda at the first meeting in May.

Monitoring Report	Status/Comments
1.0 Ends	Due February 17. A small part of this report will be presented at the meeting to begin the discussion of the level of detail the board desires for the entire report. This report will evolve over time as the board incorporates what is learned from the community and as the administration develops measures corresponding to the Ends.
2.0. Global Executive Constraint	Due March 17. It will be difficult to consider this report without completed reports 2.1 through 2.9.
2.1. Treatment of Students and Parents/Guardians	Due May 5.
2.2. Treatment of Staff	Due May 19.
2.3. Treatment of Community	Due March 3.
2.4. Financial Condition and Activities	Report accepted September 2009 – not in compliance, but plan accepted – report on the website Report accepted November 2009 – not in compliance, but plan accepted – report on the website Due again January 20 and April 21 Audit due November 18 The board may want to reconsider the frequency of monitoring this Executive Limitation. Currently it is monitored through four superintendent reports as well as the external audit report.
2.5. Financial Planning and Budgeting	Report accepted October 2009 – in compliance – report on the website Report accepted November 2009 – not in compliance, but plan accepted – report on the website Due again February 3 and June 2 The board may want to reconsider the frequency of monitoring this Executive Limitation. Currently it is monitored through four superintendent reports.
2.6. Emergency Superintendent Succession	Report accepted November 2009 – not in compliance, but plan accepted – report on the website
2.7. Asset Protection	Due December 2. Presented January 20. Revisions in process, possibly completed for this meeting.
2.8. Compensation and Benefits	Due December 16. This report is not yet in process.
2.9. Communication and Support to the Board	Due July 7 through a direct inspection of the board.

Please bring your policy manual to the board meeting.