

South Burlington School District
February 24, 2010

To: School Board Members
From: John Everitt

Re: Superintendent Report – March 3, 2010
Policy 2.9 – Communication and Support to the Board

1. Ends Policy monitoring – We will have the very beginning of a monitoring report to show the board at the meeting. The purpose of the demonstrating is to get an idea about the level of detail the board desires for monitoring the Ends Policy. It is my hope that the report can serve to inform the board and also inform the community.

While the monitoring reports you have reviewed for Executive Limitations Policies have started from complete drafts, I expect that developing the Ends Policy monitoring will be more productive if we develop it together.

2. Staff retirement – We have received the district actuarial valuation for our support staff retirement plan that covers the period of the significant downturn in the equity market starting in late 2008. (Report included in board packet.) Our minimum contribution has increased \$133,621 from last year. (\$441,718 to \$575,339) The new amount exceeds our budgeted amount by \$122,764.

This payment is due June 15, 2010. We have researched the consequences of making a late payment. The process is covered under Government Accounting Standards Board Statement 27. It involves amortization at the interest rate in our plan, 7.5%, and would result in additional accounting work and audit notes.

I recommend we avoid this unpaid liability process and make the June 15 payment by using tuition revenue funds that exceed the budgeted tuition revenue by \$300,000. This will reduce our carry forward in our FY2012 budget development next fall.

The FY2011 budget has \$615,000 for this expense next year so that I do not anticipate a similar situation next year. In addition, we are continuing with our research to switch from a self-funded retirement system to the Vermont Municipal Employee Retirement System.

3. Middle school principal search – The search process is proceeding as planned. Candidates will be interviewed by students, parents, staff, and administrators on March 4 and March 9 (two each day). Each group will provide written feedback that will be used to select finalists for site visits. Information on the four candidates coming for interviews is posted on the district web site. I hope to submit a candidate to you for hiring at the April 21st meeting.
4. Technology news – First, we will soon have about 200 netbook computers to put into student hands, mostly at the middle school, but also at Central and Orchard. Netbooks are not as powerful as laptop or desktop computers, but they are more portable and fully capable of doing most all of the required work. This will be our first experience with putting a large number of devices directly into student hands to promote engagement and students' taking responsibility for their learning. I will report further as the project progresses.

Second, I was accepted to attend a Google Teacher Academy for Administrators on March 5 in San Antonio, Texas. My main reason for applying was to learn more about our district becoming a Google Apps District. This would mean that many of the network functions we maintain locally, especially email and storage, would be done through Google, in the clouds. Several Vermont districts and some very large districts across the nation have taken this path to improve efficiency and reduce expenses.

Please bring your policy manual to the board meeting.