

South Burlington School District

April 30, 2010

To: School Board Members

From: John Everitt

Re: Superintendent Report – May 5, 2010

Policy 2.9 – Communication and Support to the Board

1. Projects – Several facilities improvement projects are underway. We have broken ground for the concession stand. The first step is the upgrade of the fire hydrant in that area. At some point during the project, we will also be completing the fencing around the turf field with a decorative iron fence along the entrance side of the stadium. The second is a renovation of a garden area in front of the high school. We are using gifts, one from the student Key Club, to turn this garden into an area that invites student use. (A current picture and the planned design are attached.) There are also playground projects, funded by federal stimulus money, at Central and Orchard Schools. These projects upgrade some surfaces and increase wheelchair accessibility to the playground
2. Community Linkage – A group of students, as part of their Project Citizen service learning project in the senior Public Issues and World Affairs class (PIWA), will be addressing the board about how the high school calculates grade point average.

Although the board does not make the determination about GPA, the presentation is a way for the board to better understand the thinking of students on matters important to them and to gain further insight into the way the high school is developing citizenship skills. (You may recall that at the end of the last semester, a student presented her project about the need for music composition to be returned to the curriculum. The result of that presentation was action at the high school to do just that.)

At the last meeting, Board members expressed interest in developing avenues, beyond the Ends Policy Forums, to increase community linkage. I encourage board members to think about possibilities to link to the community and bring them up at the second meeting in May during the agenda item where the board will set its agenda for the next year.

3. Policy – There are two policies warned for the first time this meeting. The first is an addition to Executive Limitations that clarifies the authority of the superintendent with regard to applying for and accepting grants. The second is a state required policy on animal dissection. We have been relying on existing procedures at the high school to meet this requirement, but adopting this as a policy heads off potential problems.
4. Library Committee – In the past, a committee was established to review the governance of the Community Library on matters that concerned both the community focus of the library and the high school focus. This committee basically stopped meeting and the Steering Committee then asked Chuck Hafter and I to draft a structure. At this time, there is no need for the board to appoint a member to replace Ted Manazir on the library committee.

There is a South Burlington Community Library Board of Trustees appointed by the city council. This is a group focused on the community use of the library and its by-laws do not hold a seat for a school board member.

I will attach the draft of a proposed structure to the agenda of the upcoming Steering Committee meeting – 6:00 PM on May 19, just before the next school board meeting. The Steering Committee can decide if and when it wants to continue with the idea when they consider other business.

Please bring your policy manual to the board meeting.