

South Burlington School District

May 14, 2010

To: School Board Members

From: John Everitt

Re: Superintendent Report – May 19, 2010

Policy 2.9 – Communication and Support to the Board

1. Policy Governance – The superintendents in Vermont districts using policy governance meet several times a year to collaborate on moving forward and to look for ways to improve deployment of policy governance. At our most recent meeting, Laura Soares reported on a week long Policy Governance training session she and her superintendent attended. Laura proposed that the Vermont Policy Governance districts invite Marian Carver to come to the state to provide boards with further training in the model. I will speak further about this at the board meeting.

Laura has also done two things for us. She has reviewed our website and suggested changes that will protect the district from concerns from John and Marian Carver about copyright infringement. I will be making those changes. Laura has also provide Rich Cassidy and I further information about “at what cost” and her willingness to consult with the board on the meaning and implementation of this third of the board’s responsibilities in terms of the Ends Policy. Laura reported that the most recent interpretation of this phrase is the worth or the justification of the community resources being spent by the district to achieve the specified ends.

2. Adequate Yearly Progress – Each year, the Vermont Department of Education compares test results, graduation rates, Grade 2 reading assessment, and state assessment participation levels to a standard established for Vermont to comply with the No Child Left Behind law. This year our school district met the standard for the all students group, English language learners, students receiving support for food service, Asian students, and African American students in both reading and math. The students with disabilities did not meet that same standard in reading and math. Three ethnic groups were not large enough to be compared to the standard. More detailed information is provided in the board packet.
3. Legislation – You have all received a summary from the VSBA on the recent legislative session and the bills that have been passed to the governor. There are three areas that I would like to highlight:
 - a. The draw from the education fund is to be reduced \$23.2M from FY2011 to FY2012. The Commission of Education is to develop a method to allocate reductions and, by August 1, send each district their targeted amount. Districts will report by December 15 on their decisions related to their target. (SBSD reduced our draw from the education fund from FY2010 to FY2011 by \$950,145.)
 - b. There will be incentives for districts that merge on a voluntary basis. One incentive will be a reduced tax rate over four years – 8, 6, 4, and 2 cents.
 - c. Confidential separation agreements involving the safety of a minor or vulnerable adult are prohibited.

4. Champlain Valley School Districts – We have invited sixty school boards to the June 29 meeting to discuss collaboration of districts in ways that increase and improve opportunities for students and how changes in governance might support that collaboration. Since I offered to organize this event, I am gathering a planning team and hope that one or two board members would join in that work.
5. Comcast Grant – I am seeking permission to apply for and hopefully accept a grant to extend the work of our middle school network news. The purpose of the grant aligns with board ends in all four areas. The funds would be used to provide programming on Childlures/Teenlures Prevention to partner schools. In addition the grant would allow us to explore other ways to package media for communicating this message as well as messages on other topics. The grant request will be for about \$43,000 over two or three years. No match is required. An early draft of the proposal is included in the board packet to give a more detailed look.

Please bring your policy manual to the board meeting.