

South Burlington School District  
August 12, 2009

To: School Board Members  
From: John Everitt

Re: Superintendent Report – August 19, 2009  
Policy 2.9 – Communication and Support to the Board

1. Ends Policy 1.3 Disposition for Learning – Listed below are some lists and links about current thinking about important knowledge, skills, and dispositions. Most documents are integrating the important Ends under the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills umbrella.

- a. [The Global Achievement Gap](#) by Tony Wagner (2008)
  - Critical thinking and problem solving
  - Collaboration across networks and leading by influence
  - Agility and adaptability
  - Initiative and entrepreneurialism
  - Effective oral and written communication
  - Accessing and analyzing information
  - Curiosity and imagination
- b. [Vermont Framework of Standards](#) (2000)
  - Vital Results
    - Communication
    - Reasoning and Problem Solving
    - Personal Development
    - Civic/Social Responsibility
  - Fields of Knowledge
    - Arts, Language, and Literature
    - History and Social Sciences
    - Science, Math, and Technology

c. SBSB Grade-5 Report Card

<b>Characteristics of a Successful Learner</b>	
<b>Accountable:</b>	<b>Work Habits--</b> Is organized, manages time and materials, stays with task, and completes school work
<b>Accountable:</b>	<b>Homework--</b> Completes and returns homework on time
<b>Attentive:</b>	Listens well and follows directions
<b>Cooperative:</b>	Works and interacts well with others, gets along with and supports other children, and contributes to group efforts and class discussions
<b>Reflective:</b>	Thinks and asks questions, provides reasons for opinions, and evaluates own progress
<b>Resourceful:</b>	Solves problems, seeks help appropriately, finds ways to support own learning, and seeks new opportunities
<b>Responsible:</b>	Respects others, rules, authority, and property, and accepts responsibility for own behavior

d. [Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills](#) (2002)

[Core Subjects and 21st Century Themes](#)

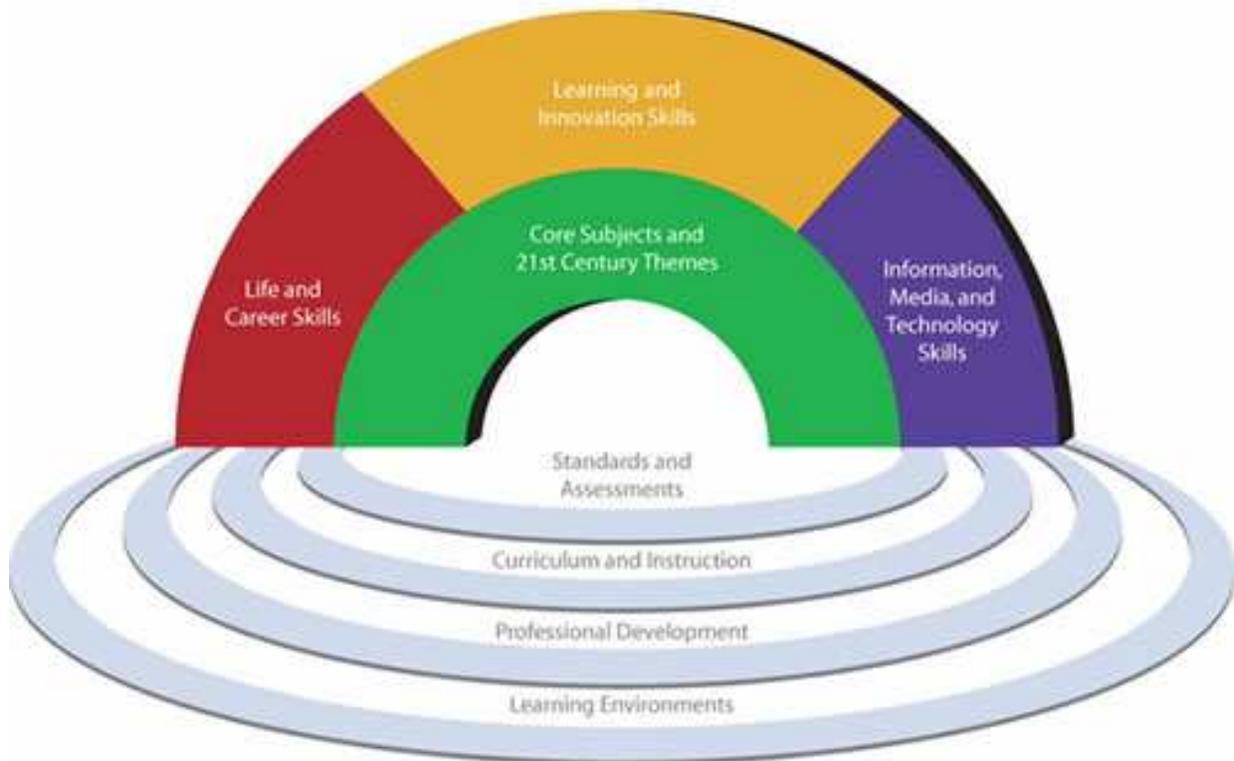
[Learning and Innovation Skills](#)

- [Creativity and Innovation](#)
- [Critical Thinking and Problem Solving](#)
- [Communication and Collaboration](#)

[Information, Media and Technology Skills](#)

- [Information Literacy](#)
- [Media Literacy](#)
- [ICT Literacy](#)

[Life and Career Skills](#)



e. [Habits of Mind](#) - Arthur Costa and Bena Kallick (2000)

- Persisting
- Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision
- Managing impulsivity
- Gathering data through all senses
- Listening with understanding and empathy
- Creating, imagining, innovating
- Thinking flexibly
- Responding with wonderment and awe
- Thinking about thinking (metacognition)
- Taking responsible risks
- Striving for accuracy
- Finding humor
- Questioning and posing problems
- Thinking interdependently
- Applying past knowledge to new situations
- Remaining open to continuous learning

There are so many ways to look at student outcomes that we can get stuck. I am reminded of my favorite poem:

*The centipede was happy quite,  
 Until a toad in fun,  
 Said, "Pray, which leg goes after which?"  
 This worked his mind to such a pitch,  
 He lay distracted in a ditch.*

2. Community Linkage – Last week I forwarded information from Laura Soares about some questions used by other districts to solicit input from the community. District Network Services has found a free service to collect survey information that is more friendly and sophisticated than survey monkey. When the board is ready to collect information, we will be ready to move.
3. Superintendent Office Move – The move from the high school to the middle school remains set for the week of August 17.
4. Convocation – The start of the new school year begins August 28 with a district wide staff gathering at the high school starting at 7:30 a.m. for a light breakfast and conversation and continuing at 8:15 a.m. in the auditorium with introductions, service awards, and a follow up to last year's county-wide convocation on education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Board members are welcome to attend.
5. Policy 2.5 – Financial Planning and Budgeting – The monitoring report for this policy is enclosed.

**Please bring your policy manuals to the board meeting.**