

South Burlington School District
August 27, 2010

To: School Board Members
From: John Everitt

Re: Superintendent Report – September 1, 2010
Policy 2.9 – Communication and Support to the Board

1. Energy Report – At the last meeting the board reviewed usage and cost information. Over the past three years electrical usage has been reduced, yet because of rate increases, the total cost was not significantly reduced, however higher costs were avoided. With natural gas, our declining use coupled with lower gas rates, have reduced our total costs. (Graphs are included in packet.)

A remaining question is the evaluation of the district contract with Energy Education, Inc. In this contract the vendor guaranteed that if the district took specified actions over four years, costing approximately \$353,000, the district would achieve at least that amount of energy savings over that same time. The actions included hiring and training an energy manager in the Energy Education program.

Since Energy Education provides continuing support after the contract period, they developed a chart showing ten years of expenses and savings. This chart is attached as well as one detailing our expenses. The ten-year chart shows that at the end of calendar year 2009, the district achieved a net savings of \$55,000.

Savings are calculated by comparing annual energy costs to a baseline year. The baseline is adjusted for weather and cost of energy so that the savings claimed (energy use avoided) are a fair measure of the impact of the program. A sample of this calculation, natural gas at one of the meters in January 2009, is included in the packet. In this sample, the district actually used more gas than the baseline so that the cumulative savings were reduced by \$1,949. Overall in 2009, the district did use less energy than the baseline, achieving a savings of \$20,287 in natural gas and \$105,354 in electricity. Cost avoidance summary charts are included in the packet.

2. Retirement Programs – Attached is a report of the four district retirement programs. The focus of the report is on the program for support staff as this reflects our work over the last few years. As we move forward in this work, we review our decisions through three frames – upholding promises, predictable and sustainable funding, and reducing the district involvement in the investment business.
3. Ends Policy – Several steps have been taken on the plan for further community linkage relating to the draft Ends Policy and the September 15 board meeting. The focus has been on soliciting attendance at the meeting and generating written comments. So far we have put ads in the next two editions of the Other Paper. I have written a letter to the editor for the September 1 edition and Rich Cassidy is writing one for the September 8 edition. We have sent a letter from Rich Cassidy to each participant in the forums with a copy of the draft policy and an invitation to comment. We have put similar materials on the website. The next steps will include an invitation to parents, high school students, and staff as well as to the community through the Front Porch Forum.
4. VSBA – The state conference is October 28 & 29 at Lake Morey. The regional meeting is September 22 at Winooski High School Library.

Please bring your policy manual to the board meeting.