

## South Burlington School District

October 15, 2010

To: School Board Members

From: John Everitt

Re: Superintendent Report – October 20, 2010

Policy 2.9 – Communication and Support to the Board

1. Special Education Placements – My last report to the board included information about out-of-district special education placements, but did not include any comparison data. Included with this board packet is a chart showing in and out-of-district placements for area and similar size school systems around the state. Our rate of placement out-of-district is close to the average of this comparison group. It is important to remember that since the numbers are small, one or two placements have a large impact on the percent figures. It is also important to note that out-of-district placements by state agencies are beyond district control.
2. Budget – At this point in the process we are developing the “baseline budget” that will tell us the investment required to continue the student opportunities and stewardship currently in place. This budget will reflect what we know or believe to be the costs of this level of programming next year. It will include changes from projected enrollment and state and federal requirements.

The next step will be to align this budget with the Ends Policy and with revenue projections. We will then be in a position to propose changes to match different levels of investment. I hope to have the work completed to this point for the first board meeting in November.

3. Audit – John Stewart and Agnes Clift participated in the city’s bid review process to select a new auditing firm for the city and school district. The city manager will make a recommendation to the city council at their next meeting. I understand that there were three excellent choices. There will be a significant increase in cost to the district, no matter which firm is chosen.
4. Retirement – At the presentation to the School Board on September 1, we stated that the next step would be a proposal from the administration for action on funding a change to the Vermont Municipal Retirement System for our support staff. To get some expertise to assist us in that recommendation, we have contracted with Tracy Braun, an actuary with People’s United Bank to:
  - a. Review our plan documents, actuarial reports, projections of plan obligations, and VMERS proposal for assumption of active plan participants,
  - b. Assess retirement plan options for future funding of active and non-active participant obligations, and
  - c. Recommend specific actions to finance the migration of active employees to VMERS, and to finance the remaining liability for non-active employees under the existing South Burlington Pension Plan.

Tracy is also performing this service for the City of South Burlington. The cost of this review will be \$3,500 to \$4,500.

5. Early Childhood Education – You have heard me mention that we have been doing a year-long study of the needs of South Burlington families with young children and the supports currently in place. Although that study has not yet been completed, our work has attracted some attention from a foundation. We have initiated discussions with them about funding an outreach position to implement some of the recommendations that we see emerging from our study. Any action in this area will be included in budget decisions.

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