

South Burlington School District

March 11, 2011

To: School Board Members

From: John Everitt

Re: Superintendent Report – March 16, 2011

Policy 2.9 – Communication and Support to the Board

1. Wellness and Resilience Program – This coming weekend, our mindfulness program will hold its third spring retreat with the third group of teachers and staff participating in the year-long professional development program. Providing this opportunity for the adults in our system to develop their own mindfulness practices is the critical component for the personal development work we are doing with the children. In order for all of us, children included, to be present for each other and our work, we need to develop foundational knowledge, skills, and culture.

We are especially fortunate this year to be joined at our retreat by [Jon Kabat-Zinn](#) and [Ferris Buck](#). Both of these international figures have added a high level of excitement to our retreat. Dr. Kabat-Zinn will also make a public presentation at Ira Allen Chapel on Friday, March 18 at 7:00 PM.

2. School Calendar – Area superintendents set the regional school calendar consisting of 175 common student days. I have added five additional student days and nine teacher inservice days to come up with the South Burlington Calendar for 2011-12. Although there will be no VEA Teacher Convention, the usual October days are not used in the regional calendar and I have not scheduled those days into our calendar. Some districts are experimenting with those days for student days and teacher inservice days.
3. SBHS Trip to Spain – The high school trip to Spain was very successful. This year, John Stewart participated as one of the chaperones. At the meeting, John will give the board a report.
4. Sergeant Tom Fraga Retirement – Sgt. Fraga retires from the South Burlington Police Department on March 15. His distinguished career focused on the children and young adults of our community. In 1987 he became the first Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) officer in the state and in 1990 he became the manager of Youth Services and Crime Prevention. Since 1994 Sgt. Fraga has been the driving force behind the South Burlington National Night Out, a national crime prevention effort. He will be coming to the board meeting to be recognized for his 35-years of service in law enforcement with his emphasis on youth.
5. Statewide Update with Steve Dale (VSBA) – Steve Dale is the new Executive Director of the Vermont School Boards' Association. He will join the board to provide an update on statewide issues and the board discussion on conflict of interest. I know Steve will also be interested in hearing from the board about ideas for the VSBA.

Please bring your policy manual to the board meeting.