

South Burlington School District
April 1, 2011

To: School Board Members

From: John Everitt

Re: Superintendent Report – April 6, 2011
Policy 2.9 – Communication and Support to the Board

1. Wellness and Resilience Program – The presentation by Jon Kabat-Zinn and the spring retreat of the third year of our professional development program were huge successes. About 1,000 people attended the presentation. Part of what they heard was some very nice words about the mindfulness work being done in our schools and how it supports student personal development.
2. Middle School Media Center – At the last board meeting, you saw a presentation by the FHTMS Media in Action class. Their work, combined with the efforts of Jay Hoffman, Kristen Courcelle, Steve Webster, and several other teachers championing 21st Century skills, have increased the demand for technology aimed at producing and using media to enhance learning.

Middle School Principal, Karsten Schlenter, has developed a plan to redirect some existing resources toward outfitting the current middle school media center (library) with technology to support this increased demand. The changes this plan offers will support and encourage middle school project based learning, an innovation in our program that has increased student engagement in and out of school. Our goal is to make these changes, at least as many as possible, in the current fiscal year.

Executive Limitation Policy 2.4. – Financial Condition and Activities, requires board approval for any unbudgeted expenditure over \$25,000. I seek board approval to redirect middle school resources in the budget for up to \$37,000 to apply toward this project.

3. Transportation position – When the city developed their budget for FY12, they decided to begin charging the school district for any services provided by city employed mechanics on our school buses. They estimated the final cost would be in the neighborhood of \$70,000.

As we reflected on this change, I decided the district would be better off if we simply hired a second mechanic. This would put us in a position to have a person to serve as our current mechanic's backup. The new employee would be trained in not only bus mechanics, but also the many other jobs associated with our current mechanic, Norm Lavalette. Norm's other responsibilities include checking road and sidewalk conditions in inclement weather, preparing buses each morning, and assisting in bus evaluation and purchases.

Executive Limitation Policy 2.4. – Financial Condition and Activities, requires board approval for any unbudgeted expenditure over \$25,000. The estimated cost of filling this position is \$44,554 in salary and \$21,100 in benefits for a total of \$65,654 and thus requires board approval. My plan would be to allocate these funds from the contingency in the budget. Over the next two years, the district would expect to see annual reimbursement of 40% of this ongoing expense included in state transportation aid.

4. Peanut Allergies – We are seeing an increasing number of students with food allergies in the district. As a result, the nurses from each of the five schools in the district have been meeting with David Young to evaluate the current procedures. It is likely they will make some changes to our procedures at each school.
5. FHT Middle School Security Cameras – The Middle School Crisis Team requested that a TV monitor be installed in the main office that could be kept on to view the front entrance of the school. The main office is unable to view the entrance given the current office configuration. When there is no person in the lobby monitoring the entrance, there is no way to know who is coming and going. A TV monitor in the office, with a view of the front entrance, would provide that missing information.
6. VSBA Policy Governance - VSBA will host a Policy Governance professional development session for board members and superintendents on Saturday, May 7, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the VSBA offices in Montpelier. The session will be an opportunity for board members to network with each other, deepen their understanding of Policy Governance, and discuss how to apply Policy Governance principles practically at board meetings, with staff, with community, and when dealing with unanticipated issues. There is no cost for this session and a light lunch will be provided. To register, please contact Laura Soares at Isoares@vtvsba.org or (802) 728-9155 by April 29th.
7. Academic Progress - Recently a board member asked a question about our high school graduation requirements compared to other area schools. I will provide the board with information on this question either at or before this April 6 meeting.

In addition, the most recent state determinations of “adequate yearly progress” under No Child Left Behind have been released. I will have information about our status at the meeting.

Please bring you policy manual to the board meeting.