

# Director's Report to the Board of Education December 2009



## **Item #1: 2010-2011 Budget Process**

The CDC administration and the finance committee have been looking at drafts of the proposed 2010-2011 SVCDC budget. Even in this current fiscal climate, the SVCDC is most pleased to be able to offer tax relief to local taxpayers in the form of a significant tuition reduction. With this current draft of our proposed budget, the taxpayers of Bennington will receive a tuition reduction of nearly \$90,000 in next year's tuition rate compared to this year's. That equates to nearly \$800 per Full Time Equivalent student.

How is this possible given the current fiscal environment? Many schools in Vermont have been experiencing declining enrollments. This decline often results in decreased state aid which is based on enrollment and therefore a greater reliance on local funding. The CDC has been able to buck this trend. Our enrollment has been increasing. This has resulted in an increase in state support based on enrollment. In fact, our student enrollment has gone up nearly 14% this year over last year.

While we project that our operating costs will need to go up in order to provide the same quality of education to an increasing number of students, we here at the CDC are currently seeing these costs more than offset by increased state funding and less by local tuition which is the main source of local funding for our school.

While our current proposed budget is a draft, we feel it is an accurate reflection of both revenue and expenditure and good news for local taxpayers.

## **Item #2: Status on Wind Generator:**



The awaited parts did arrive and were installed. It is the anemometer that generates data on wind speed. The data logger collects and stores the wind speed measurements from the anemometer. Together, the anemometer and the data logger are the primary components of the data logging system. The data logging system was restored to working order by replacing some of the components. This led to us consistently logging data on

wind speed for nearly a month.

Components of the wind generator, data logging system, and shed were damaged during the recent wind and snow storm. Efforts are being made to affect repairs. The photo is that of Mr. Gilbert's building trades class and Mrs. VanDeurzen's engineering class at the site. They will be dismantling the windmill and bringing the damaged components back to the school for repair. The data shed will be repaired at the site.

**Item #3:**

On a recent visit to Bennington, Vermont Education Commissioner Armando Vilaseca took a brief tour of the Career Development Center. Here he is with Doc Barone and SVSU Superintendent, Catherine McClure.



**Item #4: Honor Roll Scroll:**



Barb Gorbaty's Communication Tech students produced a wonderful scroll acknowledging the CDC's first ever group of Honor Roll students. These scrolls will be displayed in the CDC atrium.

Should the board approve it, Ms. Gorbaty's program will be enhanced to include instruction and practice in print media

### **Item #5: Troop Sendoff:**



Assistant Director, Bob Montgomery was able to attend the recent troop send off held at the Armory here in Bennington. Here is a photo of the event. The Vermont guardsmen are headed to Indianapolis where guard units from across the country will ready for deployment to Afghanistan. Coincidentally, Doc Barone's daughter, Captain Anita Barone, will be at that

ceremony in Indy as part of her duties with the Indiana National Guard. Doc asked her to hook up with the Vermont guardsmen if she is able.

### **Item #6: Human Services Program:**

The Human Services Program students continue to learn about working with people, including an overview of child & elder development, early education philosophies, communication skills, developmental theorists, workplace safety, and child nutrition. Members of the Human Services Club volunteered to serve Thanksgiving Dinners to the needy, and members of SKILLSUSA hosted a holiday party at a local nursing home. Second year students are beginning Co-Op rotations at a local home day care, an infant & toddler child care center, and at our own on-site center Growing Upright at the CDC.

### **Item #7:**

Theatre Arts is working hard on their adaptation of Bernice Bobs Her Hair, a short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald. It's the story of a teenage girl who learns how to be popular and a much more important lesson in the process. The students will be performing the one act play on Tuesday Jan 12 and Thursday Jan 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the MAUHS auditorium. They will also do two performances during the school day.

The Video Production class has been working on their editing skills. They are also working on Public Service Announcements for Digital Wish.org a not for profit dedicated to bringing technology to the classroom.

## Item #8:Pre Law:



On December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Pre-Law Class participated in an Oral Argument at the Superior Court in Bennington with judges asking questions of both sides of a case involving questions of Search and Seizure. Students had prepared their oral presentations and responses to judges' questions during the previous three weeks of reading and research. Students have been working on their oral presentation skills and enjoyed the opportunity to present in a location which as one

student remarked “added to the serious atmosphere of the exercise.” Many students found that it was not as difficult as they had anticipated. Thanks to the staff of the Bennington Superior Court and to Lon McClintock who volunteered his time with students and who spoke to them when the exercise was over.

During the fall, Business Law has been visiting local businesses and government offices in order to see, first hand, how business, personal and legal decisions impact people's lives. Thus far, students have visited Heritage Family Credit Union, Green Mt. Oasis Day Spa, Bennington Book Shop, Star Electric, Small Claims and District Court, Wills Insurance and the Bennington Town Office. Attached are photos of students doing land record searches of their parents' properties in Bennington at the Town Clerk's Office. Thanks are offered to Tim Corcoran and Cassandra Barbeau, and all the local business people for opening their doors to the class.



**Item #9:**

Bob Montgomery accepts a gift of kitchen equipment valued at over \$20,000 beyond our payment of \$5,000. The equipment was sold/given to the CDC by Mr. Mac



Lewis. Mr. Lewis recently purchased the building and its contents that once housed the Mount Anthony Middle School.

**Item #10: Legislative Luncheon:**

CDC staff and CDC board members recently attended a luncheon held for our local state legislators. Board members and educators discussed legislative issues that directly affect the CDC and technical education state-wide.



Respectfully Submitted,  
Doc Barone

