

Director's Report to the Board of Education March 2010 – Happy St. Patrick's Day



Item #1:

On behalf of the students and staff of the Southwest Vermont Career Development Center, I want to thank the RGB for its unanimous support of our 2010-2011 school budget. I also want to thank the good people of Bennington County for their support in overwhelmingly voting for our budget.

Item #2: Engineering and Design:

The Engineering and Design Program would like to thank the SVCDC RGB for taking the time to hear from our co-op students at the February meeting. This was a positive experience for them. The interest and support shown at this meeting conveys how much the school and the board value our students and their hard work. Two Engineering and Design students are off to the annual Vermont Skills USA competition next week. One will be a returning competitor in the Technical Drawing competition, and another will be a returning competitor in the Technical Math competition.

Engineering and Design 2 students have begun their senior projects. This year, they have chosen the following projects: aerodynamic improvements to a pickup to improve fuel economy, material testing equipment/procedures, wind tunnel design/analysis, and restoration design of antique boat systems.

Item #3: Human Services:

Students in the Human Services Program continue to learn about working with people and careers in the social services. First-year students learned about infant and preschool development, child discipline and play. Their next unit of study will be adolescent development which will also include stress management, eating disorders, nutrition and teen mental health issues. The second-year students learned about parent involvement, developing curriculum, and childhood illnesses & diseases. Their next units of study will include extensive curriculum development for early education programs as well as learning about local human services agencies. Both programs studied personal finance and sexual harassment in the workplace & school. Second-year students continue Co-Op Placements at an infant & toddler center, a home day care, and our own Growing Upright at the CDC, where they are learning about child development, early childhood education and exploring various careers working with children & families.

Item #4:

Vacancy notices have gone our regarding the CDC Outreach Coordinator's position. I personally delivered job postings to all CDC and SVSU buildings. The job is also posted on our website as well as the job description. We've sent postings and job descriptions to the placement offices at Bennington College, Southern Vermont College, CCV, and MCLA. We've already received a number of resumes. We plan on accepting applications for this position until April 1st.

Item #5:

The CDC administration asks that the school board authorize us to solicit bids for a new 20 passenger school bus. We saved up and have set aside funds for this purpose. We also ask that the board authorize us to sell the bus we wish to replace once this new bus is in service. Our current bus is over 10 years old. It has served us well and is still running well. However the body and undercarriage are beginning show signs of age. Our busses pay for themselves in just over two years of service through the revenue we generate by transporting students. For example, the minivan we purchased last spring will have paid for itself by the end of this school year.

Item #6:

Reminder to the board. At our next board meeting, I hope to be able to present our 2010 five Year Enrollment Trends PowerPoint similar to the presentation we did last April.

Item #7:

MAU and the CDC held a very successful Sophomore Summit last week at Southern Vermont College. A nice article and photo of MAU students involved in our Cosmetology demonstration appeared on the front page of the Bennington Banner.



Item #8:

As previously requested by the Board, Greg Lewis will be bringing RFP's for audit services for Board approval to the April RGB meeting. A Finance Committee meeting can be scheduled prior to the full Board meeting if the Board so desires. Proposals are due tomorrow, we have two in now.

Doc Barone