

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



## **Item #1:**

With respect to the H1N1 “Swine Flu”, the Southwest VT Career Development Center is responding as follows:

1. **Generally speaking, we are following the guidelines set out by the United States Department of Health, the VT Department of Health, the SVSU, and the Mount Anthony Union High School.**
2. With respect to **PREVENTION**, the SVCDC has taken the following precautions.
  - 2.1. On the CDC Website is a link entitled “Welcome Students.” By clicking this link, students, parents and the general public can get information on precautions they can take relative to the swine flu. Many teachers handed out and reviewed these guidelines with their students on the first day of school.
  - 2.2. The CDC has installed hand sanitizers throughout the facility. Barb Gorbaty’s students have produced eye catching signs to put up above each of the hand sanitizers we’ve installed.
  - 2.3. CDC students should be encouraged to sanitize their hands at least three times per day...once when they arrive at school, once before eating, and once before they leave for the day.
3. With respect to **RESPONSE** should there be an **MINOR** outbreak of Swine Flu in our community, the CDC in concert with MAUHS and other sending schools will respond as follows.
  - 3.1. Students and staff who are suspected of having H1N1 will remain home for 24 hours after the fever is below 100 degrees without the use of fever reducing medicines.
  - 3.2. The CDC will emphasize hand washing with soap and water for 15-20 seconds with all students.
  - 3.3. Students will be taught to sneeze into their sleeve or elbow.
  - 3.4. CDC staff will have spray cleaners in each room to encourage more consistent cleaning of tables, door handles, keyboards, and desks.
  - 3.5. If a staff member presents symptoms of H1N1, that staff member will be sent home immediately and his/her classes will be covered.
  - 3.6. If a student presents symptoms of H1N1, that student will be sent to the isolation room set up at MAUHS until they can be sent home.
4. With respect to **RESPONSE** should there be an **MAJOR** outbreak of Swine Flu in our community, the CDC in concert with MAUHS and other sending schools will respond additionally as follows.

- 4.1. CDC teachers will be expected to scan the room for students who are exhibiting any symptoms of the H1N1 flu, and further, to refer them to the nurse immediately.
- 4.2. Medically fragile students and staff with medical conditions listed by the CDC (pregnancy, diabetes, heart disease, asthma, and kidney disease) will stay home from school until the risk is reduced. The students will be educated remotely via the internet. Staff will remain on paid leave.
- 4.3. Students with ill household members will stay home.
- 4.4. Classrooms will encourage more space between students to decrease spread.
- 4.5. School dismissals may need to be altered to decrease the spread of infection.
- 4.6. In the event of school closures, each teacher will post lessons daily on their class webpage or on the CDC webpage. Additionally, CAT TV may be used to air classes or lectures should the SVCDC faculty and administration choose to use this asset to maintain instruction remotely.
- 4.7. The SVCDC will close if Mount Anthony High School is forced to close.
- 4.8. The SVCDC will remain open should Mount Anthony High School remain open but any of our other sending schools closes. In this event, students from a closed sending school will not be allowed to attend classes at the CDC until their school reopens in order to limit the threat of infections from outside the immediate community to MAUHS students.

### **SYMPTOMS OF H1N1 FLU**

The symptoms of H1N1 (swine) flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include **fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue**. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with H1N1 (swine) flu. In the past, severe illness (pneumonia and respiratory failure) and deaths have been reported with H1N1 (swine) flu infection in people. Like seasonal flu, H1N1 (swine) flu may cause a worsening of underlying chronic medical conditions.

#### **In children emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:**

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Bluish or gray skin color
- Not drinking enough fluids
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Not waking up or not interacting
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

#### **In adults, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:**

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Sudden dizziness
- Confusion
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

**Item #2:**

The recommended capacities for our long block programs are as follows: Several of our programs are at or slightly exceed capacity. Several others still have capacity for additional students. Enrollment details in #3 below.

<u>Program</u>	<u>Cap</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Accounting	14-17	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)
Auto Tech	16	21 with a para (as per VT Tech Ed Law
Building Trades	16	21 with a para (as per VT Tech Ed Law
Business Management	16	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)
Comm Tech	18	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)
Computer Tech/Network	18	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)
Networking Academy	16	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)
Cosmetology	16	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)
Design & Fabrication	16	21 with a para (as per VT Tech Ed Law
Drafting/Engineering	10-12	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)
Forestry/Heavy Equip	16	21 with a para (as per VT Tech Ed Law
Horticulture/Landscape	16	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)
Human Services	16	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)
Law Enforcement	18	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)
Marketing Ed	18	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)
Medical Professions	16	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)
Artificial Intelligence	16	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)
Pre-Law	16	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)
Co-op	18	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)
Rec & Hospitality	16	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)
Tech English	16-20	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)
Theater Arts	16-20	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)
Video Production	16	Local Decision (as per instructors' rec.)

**Item #3:**

Opening enrollment this year was 489. This is compared to 418 the previous year. That's a 17% increase over last year. Official reported enrollment is held on October 15<sup>th</sup>. I will prepare a PowerPoint for our November meeting comparing that enrollment figure with those of years past in order to show trend.

**Item #4:**

**HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM** -- Just a few weeks into the school year, we have built a solid foundation for the year. Students have been engaged in team building &

group dynamics activities as well as personal goal setting. They've also spent significant time exploring the many careers in the helping professions and learned about applying to, choosing & paying for college. In October we will visit Champlain, Herkimer & Hudson Valley Community Colleges and University of Albany.

The Human Services Club has started meeting, with over 20 students participating. Their plans for the year include making contributions to the community, volunteering, guest speakers, and trips to learn more about the field of human services.

**Item #5:**

Building Trades 2 students set the temporary electrical service at the Laura Lane building site this morning(9/11)and are in the process of doing their Electric Wiring lab assignments. Additionally they are making 2 natural Elm log benches for the Molly Stark School daycare playground. The Forestry program split the 18" Elm log down the center with their bandmill.

Building 2 students are working on their Measurement and Builder's Math units, as well



as their Hand and Power Tool Safety training. Both classes are working on dimensioning the salvage lumber from the NBGS barn into nominal width 2X6s and 2X4s for use in the upcoming house. We are awaiting excavator's bids (due today 9/11) and expect to break ground and start the foundation as soon as the low bidder can commence work. The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Photo: Work in progress last spring on a "recycled materials" shed on the NBGS Barn site.

**Item #6:**



18 new cosmetology students enrolled this year; 12 MAU students and 6 adults.

14 returning cosmetology II students, bringing our program total to 33 students!

Attached is a photo of both classes combined for a "first day-getting to know you" gathering.

**Item #7:**

The Cosmetology Program has successfully grown to a total of 32 students! Our first graduating class is moving forward with their careers....2 have passed State Board and obtained their Cosmetology Licenses...both have been employed in our community salons—one in Shear Jazz, and one in JC Penny Styling



Salon. The other graduates will be taking their boards in the coming months! Cosmetology 2 students are also gearing up to begin their Co-op rotations in our Community salons, a great experience for both the students and the salon partners. Some of our recent graduates have come in as guest speakers to help prepare the class for what's

to come and talk about their experiences.

**Item #8: Submitted by Bob Montgomery**

David Dence has successfully completed the Vermont DOE Mentor Program, and now is eligible to hold a Level I Educator License.

**Item #9:**

1. Comm. Tech. will be delivering a presentation on Internet Safety and Social Networking to the 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Shaftsbury Elementary on Thursday 9/17.
2. Comm. Tech. is working on signs to promote hand sanitization at the CDC. This is in response to concerns about swine flu.

**Item #10:**

Theatre Arts is working on adapting a story. We have read the first part of Mark Twain's Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court. We are currently reading Bernice Bobs Her Hair by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

In Video One they have completed autobiographies and are working on biographies and a silent movie.

In Video Two they are working on documentaries and preparing resumes to use in Coop interviews.

**Item #11:**

Greenhouse News - September 2009

Welcome back SVCDC and SVSU community! We hope that you had a restful and bountiful summer.

The greenhouse has seen a wonderful resurgence this past year with the hugely successful Spring Plant sale and The Bennington Youth Horticulture program using the facility and caring for the new gardens all summer.

Thank you everyone for your support!

There are many exciting things going on at the SVCDC greenhouse this school year. First, we began renovating the front CDC garden with specialty perennials and a new stone wall. The new wall will mitigate any further erosion in the garden from the heavy rains that sometimes plague us here in VT. We expect to be completed with fall plantings around the 1st of October. Please be sure to drop by and check out all our hard work. We have already noticed the photography students taking pictures of some of the beautiful flowers that continue to bloom.

We spruced up the Bennington Free Library for their open house celebration. The Director of the library is so pleased with their new garden that we have begun making plans for further additions to the day lilies, roses and lavender that are currently thriving.

The students are also busy making hand painted wooden signs to be placed in the many gardens they care for that will recognize their skills and efforts over the course of the school year.

Fall Plant stock is here!

We have approximately 65 mums, aster and flowering kale available for sale. The mums are beautiful 8" hardy varieties available in yellows, bronze, pinks and reds and are sure to bring smiles to anyone interested in picking them up for fall gardens. The hardy mums are \$7.50 ea. Remember that they are perennials in our zone if mulched well and placed in a south facing garden.

The aster varies in sizes and come in both pink and purple. The aster are \$10.00 ea. for 8" (available in pink) and \$8.00 ea. for "6.5 (available in purple). The flowering kale are \$5.00 each. The students have inventoried and priced all of their stock very carefully. They are also working on customer service in the greenhouse. Please be sure to stop by and congratulate them on all their hard work.

The beginning of a Bennington Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapter. After Mr. Richard Lutz, took the FFA to great heights for many years, we have big shoes to fill beginning a new FFA Chapter. While the Horticulture and Forestry students in both Ms. McElheny's and Mr. Dence's classes are required, all MAU and SVCDC students are welcome to attend. Our first meeting will be September 25th. Ms. McElheny will be addressing both of Mr. Dence's forestry classes as well as her own on that day to introduce students to the program. Enrollment will take place through the end of September. Please be sure to have students come to Ms. McElheny's room between 9am and 1pm if they are NOT in horticulture or forestry classes and are interested in attending. The meetings will generally run for a ½ hr and will be every third Friday of the Month unless otherwise announced.

This year we will be offering a 'Recipe of the Week' email service. Due to the exciting interest in gardening, local foods and farmers' markets, we thought it would be a great idea to start a 'Recipe of the Week' email that encourages people to not only visit farm stands and farmers' markets, but also offer suggestions on using the great ingredients offered by our gardens and farmers. The recipes will be gathered from such sources as Gourmet.com, the NYTimes.com, PBS and the students. Please be sure to check your email for these updates on Mondays and make sure you share them with your friends and family!

This fall there is also a series of Adult Education courses and seminars focused on sustainable gardening, ethnobotany/herbalism and winter 'kitchen window' gardening available for a nominal fee.

The 2nd Series in Sustainable Gardening will begin on September 30th at 5pm. The classes will consist of 5 - 1 and 1/2 hr instruction and demonstration seminars of harvesting techniques, seed saving strategies, garden bed preparation, and using the fall harvest. There will also be discussion about planning for the spring. This class costs \$75.00 + materials. Materials will be minimal.

Come learn about the folkloric, historical and cultural usage of cultivated herbs and wild edible plants on Wednesday, November 4th at 5:00pm. The cost for this class is \$20.

Participate in creating your own 'kitchen garden'. Learn how to up-pot household plants and create edible herb gardens for your kitchen window beginning on Monday, November 9th at 5:00pm. The cost for this class is \$40.00 + materials.

Please be sure to check out the SVCDC Adult Education Bulletin or website for class registration information.

The greenhouse is open 9:00am to 1:00pm or by appointment. You may call us at 447-220 x128. You can email us at [kmcelheny@svcdc.org](mailto:kmcelheny@svcdc.org).

### **Item #12: Update on the Wind Generation Project**

The wind generator is operating and is generating and storing data on electrical output. The equipment is owned by the SVCDC and is attached to the Engineering Program. Using grant money, the SVCDC purchased the wind generation equipment from Central Vermont Solar and Wind at a reduced price. For this consideration we agreed to display this equipment at the annual Solar Fest, and have done so for the past 2

“fests”. The dismantling and re-erecting are done collaboratively with CV Solar and Wind personnel and CDC, MAU staff. Plans for re-erecting are being firmed up at this time, and will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September at the MS site. Data will then resume being collected at this site for an undetermined amount of time.

Originally this equipment was purchased with our grant money with entrepreneurial intentions. Many requests have come in for data collection throughout the region, and this interest may be revived and pursued in the near future. The project’s intended mission is to make the wind generator available (for a fee) to various sites who will be then able to use the data to determine the feasibility of wind generation as an option. Therefore, the generator will from time to time be moved to and from various sites.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. Frank J. Barone