

Jan. 28 BEA BSD Negotiations Update

The Negotiating Teams met January 28, 2010 in the Board room at Ira Allen. Joe McNeil, Chief Negotiator for the Board began a presentation on the Board's proposal. Key points:

Primary Board Objectives

1. Manage the school district in the manner that creates and sustains the best learning opportunity for all of Burlington students and
2. Accomplish this in a manner that is fully transparent to Burlington citizens.

Primary Methodology

1. Examine all aspects of BSD finances and operations from a "zero based" perspective, identifying any impediments to accomplishing the objectives and amending operating protocols to the extent necessary to eliminate or at least seriously reduce such impediments.
2. Acknowledge that since personnel costs constitute at least 85% of the overall cost, they need to be examined to determine all reasonable potential for savings.

The presentation reviewed the items in the Board's proposal by categories – operational concerns, economic conditions and general housekeeping within the contract. Points covered:

- a. 17.1 increase the work year for new teachers from 186 to 189 days
- b. 1.1 clarify that the contract covers individuals that are licensed to teach
- c. 6.8 right to assign duties
- d. 8.7 increase by 15 minutes the on site day to accomplish an 8 hour day
- e. 9.1 create and manage alternative programs
- f. 8.9 weekly meetings outside of school day, no more than 2 per week
- g. Article XI dealing with reduction in force
- h. 6.1 flexibility in providing a half day in the classroom for planning before school
- i. 8.7 eliminate the right to leave before the school day ends on Fridays
- j. 7.1 assignment of duties during the day
- k. 9.1 & 6.3 meet state legal requirements class size limits, student contact limits, student supervisory standards
- l. 6.4, 6.8, 7.2, 7.3, 8.3 & 10.2 do not layer contract obligations on top of legal and regulatory obligations that the Board must meet

To be continued at the next session.

(Note: Please see the Board's proposal in UPDATE 1 for more details.) The session adjourned at 5:30 pm. The next session is Thursday, February 4 at 3:30 in the Board Room at Ira Allen.