

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# South Burlington School Board Supports Joining With Other Vermont Districts To Protect Public Education And Make It More Affordable

**SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt.** – The South Burlington School District Board of School Directors voted 7-0 at its January 21, 2026 meeting to voice its support for education reform in Vermont. With property taxes up 41% in 5 years and academic proficiency declining for the last decade, the School Board supports frank discussion and prompt action.

“Vermonters are stronger together, so why are we afraid of consolidation?” said Seamus Abshere, School Board Chair. “To protect the legitimacy and the future of public education, we need to take action now.” The Board was unanimous in its support for protecting public education by making hard choices now.

The School Board is open to various options, including full consolidation with other districts. As the New England Public Policy Center at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston noted in 2020, Vermont’s change in per-pupil spending since 2000 is 3 times higher than the national average, and making larger school districts has been shown to reduce per-pupil costs.

The School Board is aware that this may result in higher transportation costs, more capital spending on consolidated buildings, and overall disruption in the schools that people are used to. Considerations for urban districts are different from those of rural districts. And, as others have said, the short term effects are unpredictable. But at a time when federal support for states like Vermont (which receives 36% more federal funding per capita than the national average) is decreasing, the School Board believes it is critical to make hard choices now to reinvigorate the proud tradition of public education in South Burlington and make Vermont education more affordable now and in the future.

## About South Burlington School District

The South Burlington School District is committed to inspiring all learners to make a difference in the world. For more information, please visit [www.sbschools.net](http://www.sbschools.net).

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