



Office of Mayor Miro Weinberger

February 19, 2014

Alan Matson, Chair
Burlington School Board
150 Colchester Avenue
Burlington, Vermont 05401

Dear Alan,

Thank you for your letter of February 17. I appreciate the School Board's interest in exploring cost savings together. While there certainly are larger statewide issues having a significant impact on cost and property tax trends, I am glad you share my belief that we have the responsibility as Burlington public officials to do everything we can locally to change the concerning education cost trajectory of the last decade.

I appreciate the School Board's conceptual support for working together on the cost control proposals I made at the January 13 City Council meeting and listed again in my January 21 letter to Superintendent Jeanne Collins, as well as the other two items considered by the Board and noted in your letter. Successful collaboration on these cost control proposals will require significant effort – I am prepared to make this work a central focus of the Chief Administrative Officer's team in 2014.

I am open to your suggestion that we start this process with a joint meeting of School Board and City Council members, with the understanding that the group will meet to establish clear goals for addressing the five cost control proposals and other items, and then charge City and School staff to jointly develop an implementation plan to be brought back to the whole group for review and discussion. My office will be in touch shortly to schedule the first meeting.

I look forward to working together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Weinberger".

Miro Weinberger
Mayor

cc: Superintendent Jeanne Collins
CAO Bob Rusten