

April 2017

Dear Lamoille North Families and Staff,

Greetings and welcome to Spring! It has been a long winter season and it is wonderful to finally see clear signs of the new season. I hope you are taking some time over this break to spend with those you love, doing the things that are important to you.



We have much to celebrate this year and I am taking the opportunity to share some celebrations with you.



### EDUCATION QUALITY REVIEWS

Lamoille North participated in a pilot study of our education practices this year which included extensive review by a team of educators and administrators from two different supervisory unions, as well as staff from the Agency of Education. The visiting review team, comprised of 22 members, was tasked with looking at how well our schools are implementing the Education Quality Standards (EQS) within our system related to academic proficiency, personalization, safe healthy schools, high-quality staffing, and financial efficiencies. The team spent time at each of our schools, interviewing and observing staff, administrators, students and community members. In addition, the review team members collected evidence our students, teachers and administrators put together to address the areas being reviewed. In general, the review team found our practices to be excellent.

In the area of Academic Proficiency, the team commended the supervisory union schools for having a high degree of curriculum and assessment coordination at the middle and high school levels, and applauded the work at the elementary level on the report card that is being piloted and is proficiency-based. We will continue to explore more ways to increase the coordination of curriculum across all supervisory union buildings. We have paved the way for this to happen easily with the consolidation of many of our towns under Act 46.

In the area of Personalization, the visiting team found present a vast range of flexible pathways to graduation, academic supports and enrichment for all students. Again, under the tenets of Act 46, we are positioned well to share and develop more enrichment and tiered support opportunities across all our buildings.

In the area of Safe Healthy Schools, the Education Quality Review team found that our schools are characterized by high levels of communication with parents and families and recognized heartily that our staff embraces the "whole" child approach and a collective responsibility for the well-being of all.

In the area of High-Quality Staffing, the team applauded our collaborative, data and needs-based approach to choosing professional learning activities. In addition, the team found that our goal-based evaluations are aligned with best practices across the state.

And finally, in the area of Financial Efficiencies, stakeholders reported to the team that they believe we have adequate resources and well-cared for facilities. The team is in support of our efforts to increase efficiencies without relinquishing excellence in our instructional practices as we continue our journey to consolidation.



### ACT 46

Waterville community members will be voting again on whether to join the Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District (LNMUUSD) on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Waterville Town Hall. Last week, we held a public information meeting in Waterville and invited Donna Russo-Savage, an attorney for the Agency of Education (AOE), to facilitate discussions about concerns of the townspeople. Much of this discussion centered around how to amend the Articles of Agreement, should Waterville vote to join. This has been a long and emotionally-charged issue for many and our goal was to provide assurances for some topics for which there had previously been no clear answers. The decision is now in the hands of the voters and we look forward to continued discussions and collaboration with our Waterville citizens, in addition to community members from our entire supervisory union.

As always, I am happy to serve you and the greater communities and I look forward to developing our District Strategic Action Plan based on final results of our Education Quality Review. I am so proud of the work that our teams have accomplished this year in the areas of curriculum coordination, professional development, and development of personal learning plans and proficiencies. This work truly honors what is best for student learning and growth. I encourage us all to recognize the importance of serving the "whole" child, which includes supporting and honoring both academic and social-emotional wellbeing.

Please feel free to reach out should you have thoughts or questions. I love to hear from you!

My best to you,

Catherine Gallagher, M.Ed.  
Superintendent of Schools