



September 9, 2021

Dear Lamoille North Families and Staff,

I hope you had an enjoyable long weekend and are settling into the routines of the school year. We are definitely seeing signs of fall and leaves are beginning to display the beautiful colors we associate with this season. Per my recent newsletter, I am excited to begin the process for forming a community advisory group and will be asking you for your interest in participating. The focus of this group will be to strengthen school-community relationships and collaboration, and this group will provide a way to bring forth the structure for stakeholder input. We will be seeking interested students, parents/caregivers, community partners and any educators to work with us to share ideas and create higher-level engagement among all of our stakeholders. Please access the application [HERE](#). The deadline for submitting interest in this group is Friday, September 24, 2021.

The advisory group will meet from 5:30pm-6:30pm on the first Monday of each month. After applications are submitted, we will review them to ensure there is a diverse perspective and will choose applications randomly in the event there are many. We will ensure a balance of advisory group members representing each of our school communities. You will be notified the week of September 27, 2021, of your application status. Our first advisory group meeting will be on Monday, October 4, 2021, with the hope that members will participate for the entire school year. We are very excited to hear from you and to increase our level of community engagement!

On another note, we are seeking better ways to inform our communities whenever we have a documented COVID-19 case. We received feedback last year that it was alarming for the entire school community to hear about individual cases in all of our schools, even when it was a school your student(s) did not attend. We recognize that any case of COVID-19 within our community is a concern for the entire community and as a result, have adopted the following protocols for notification. LNSU now has a [COVID-19 Dashboard](#). With any active COVID-19 case within LNSU, we will follow this protocol to keep the community informed while protecting student and staff privacy:

1. Any staff or students considered close contacts of a positive case will receive first and direct notification from a school nurse or principal and in consultation with members of the Vermont Department of Health.
2. Principals will communicate directly to the school staff and community affected and will follow Vermont Department of Health recommendations.
3. The new LNSU [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) will be updated every Friday, after those direct communications have first occurred, so that anyone in the community can check the status of cases in all of our schools.

We hope that this new protocol will keep our communities well informed without adding unnecessary alarm to our staff, students and families.

Thank you to all of you for working hard to keep our students safe. I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

My best to you,

Catherine Gallagher, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools
Lamoille North Supervisory Union