



December 10, 2021

Dear Lamoille North Families,

I hope all of you are enjoying the scents and scenes of this Holiday season. There is likely nothing as beautiful as a fresh snowfall draped over the trees and branches that grace every hill and back road. Having grown up in the city of San Francisco, I feel especially fortunate to experience actual Vermont seasons and snow!

Our Community Advisory Group met this week for our monthly meeting and discussed, as a priority for January, creating and sending to families a survey requesting input around opportunities for parent/caregiver engagement. We sought input at our second Public Forum about school priorities under the three areas of student engagement, social-emotional wellness and academic rigor. We would like to expand on that conversation by asking you what priorities are important for you and our students in the public school system. There will be questions about how welcome you feel in the schools, what you see as special in our schools, what you see as strengths and opportunities for our school system and a host of other questions. Please be on the lookout for this survey towards the end of January.

In other news, our School Board has as one of its subcommittees a Social Justice group. This group is comprised of LNSU/LNMUUSD Board members and convenes monthly with regular input from school staff and any others who might be interested in participating. The group recently finalized its vision statement and goals for the year as follows:

“The safety, dignity, humanity, and lived experience of every student, family, and staff member will be honored, protected, and celebrated equitably regardless of race, color, ethnic origin, sexual identification, socioeconomic status, or any other aspect of identity”.

The subcommittee goals can be summarized as follows: Identifying one or two passionate leaders from each of our schools to form a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Leadership Team. The DEI Leadership Team’s main focus will be to help administrators and staff in each school address issues that arise as soon as they arise. Another goal is to have consistent communication with parents/caregivers to help them engage with students and schools through newsletters, forums, social media, arts and performances, and more. And finally, there is a goal to engage the students, staff, parents/caregivers, and community members by organizing events and public forums on topics germane to the vision identified by this subcommittee.

Please feel free to come to any of the subcommittee meetings. The group meets at 5:30 pm, before the regular LNSU/LNMUUSD Board meeting on the second Monday of every month at GMTCC. There is a virtual link to these meetings as is consistent with all other board meetings this year.

On another note, please be on the lookout for communication about goings-on at our schools during this month of December! Although there are things about this year that have been difficult, we do have much to celebrate. This month, in particular, our school communities are focusing on the bright spots. We are turning our attention to focus on our strengths, assets, and skills. This helps us in general with our outlook and enables us to respond to challenges more effectively. Focusing on our strengths also boosts our levels of self-efficacy, and we feel more

empowered to navigate our surroundings well. It helps us look for the “light”, given whatever comes our way. Thank you for joining us in that effort.

As always, I continue to express thanks to our Lamoille North families and staff for the kindness and support you have shown throughout the last few months to help make this year a better one.

My best to you,

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