



February 16, 2024

Dear Lamoille North Families and Staff,

Please note important upcoming events set forth below*:



February 19, 2024, LNSU/LN MUUSD Special Board Meeting, 5:15 pm, at Green Mountain Technology & Career Center (GMTCC)

February 19, 2024, Annual Meeting, 6:00 pm, at GMTCC

February 21, 2024, Lamoille Union High School Winter Concert, 6:00 pm, Auditorium

February 23, 2024, Cambridge Elementary School (CES), Celebration of Learners, 8:20 am

February 23, 2024, GMTCC Winter Carnival, 12:15 pm

February 26, 2024, Budget Information Meeting, 6:00 pm, at GMTCC

February 26 – March 5, 2024, LNSU Winter Break

****Please make sure you check for updated changes or additions to dates of events listed on your school(s) website. Your school website is updated daily.***



Per my letter last week, we are in the midst of a very complicated budget cycle. This year, we are operating under a new budget formula created by our Legislators, commonly referred to as Act 127. This Act represents years of work and stakeholder engagement to ensure that all students in Vermont have the underlying funding necessary to support their education equitably. You can read about the Act [HERE](#).

There has been a Bill in the works that proposes to replace the 5% district tax rate increase cap with a five-year tapered tax rate discount for “disadvantaged” districts. This Bill also provides for changes to the budget process as we currently know it. We are not certain what that means in terms of process and timing, but the intent is to move the Bill as quickly as possible. As of this writing, nothing has been finalized by the Governor and our plan is to move forward with our already warned timelines, with budgets that we consider to be responsible, sound and driven by student need.

As a result of the conversations that are happening in the Legislature, and the timing of those conversations, it is important to note that we are confident in how Lamoille North budgets have been developed and want to reaffirm that they are sound, responsible and centered on what we need to run a school system that serves our students. We indefinitely postponed building and renovation projects, and most repairs, and have focused on the resources our students need to access support for their education, engagement and wellbeing. We are not seeking millions in capital improvements that we see other districts in the state proposing. We are proposing a budget that supports the basic entitlements to education that all of our students deserve.

If the proposed changes to Act 127 are accepted and signed into law, the impact to Lamoille North is as follows:

The Yield is estimated to **increase** to \$9,769 from the \$9,452 that was used on 12/1/23 in our budget development, which will in turn, bring the tax rates down.

If the Yield rises to \$9,769, the LNMUUSD combined district rate drops from a 5% increase to a 2.65% increase.

Important for us to note is that whether Act 127 stays as is or is changed, our budgets are sound. Our Boards did an excellent job of balancing the opportunities presented under Act 127 to broaden and enrich services to our students without overburdening the statewide education budget and our local communities. They were thoughtful, methodical, and they met with all stakeholders via meetings, where public comment was heard, and for numerous budget presentations. Our Boards have proposed sound, reasonable budgets. And, as we have seen, we cannot predict how our property taxes will behave, but we can influence how our school budgets are developed. Please view our Annual Report [HERE](#).

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm at GMTCC in the CEC on Monday, February 19, 2024. The event will be livestreamed by GMATV and that link will be widely shared on Monday. Dinner and conversation with our School Board members, administration and several students will begin at 6:00 pm and will be a time for us to talk about our schools. The warned Annual meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 pm. Although the Annual Meeting is open to all community members, we ask that you register should you want to have dinner with us or are in need of childcare. You can register [HERE](#). We will continue to update you with any further budget information as it becomes available.



On a completely different but important note, please view our regional Lamoille North calendar for the 2024-2025 school year [HERE](#). This calendar will also be posted on our school websites for your ease of access.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend and look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting on Monday.

Very truly yours,

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