



July 23, 2025

Dear Stockbridge Valley Community,

We are writing to inform you of an important update regarding the leadership of the Stockbridge Valley Central School District.

Following the announced departure of Mr. Graves, the Board of Education explored several options for filling the superintendent vacancy. After careful deliberation, we are pleased to share that we will be entering into a shared superintendent agreement with the Madison Central School District. Mr. Jason Mitchell, who has served as Madison's superintendent for the past 5.5 years, will assume the role of shared superintendent for both districts.

This decision reflects our commitment to both fiscal responsibility and strong educational leadership. While a traditional superintendent search was considered, the Board ultimately determined that this shared agreement offers the best path forward. Mr. Mitchell is widely recognized throughout our region for his collaborative leadership, clear communication and student-centered approach. His experience and leadership style align with our values and vision for Stockbridge Valley.

Please know this is not a school district merger. It is a shared superintendent agreement between two small, rural school districts that face similar challenges—chief among them the uncertainty of federal and state education funding. This agreement represents a fiscally responsible and forward-thinking step by both Boards and is projected to save Stockbridge Valley over \$50,000 in the 2025–26 school year. While this financial benefit is significant, we want to be clear that our highest priority remains ensuring the best possible outcomes for our students. It is our hope that this partnership with Madison will lead to more opportunities for our students. The agreement is for a 12-month period and will be reassessed by both Boards before determining next steps.

Mr. Mitchell is committed to being present in our buildings and at school and community events. He is eager to build relationships with our students, families, staff and community members, and to listen and learn as we take this step together. Strong leadership from others within the district allows us to move forward with confidence, even when Mr. Mitchell is not physically present.

The Boards of Education will make the agreement official at a special Board meeting to be held on Monday, July 28 at 6:00 p.m. in the Stockbridge Valley CSD library. A reception will follow, where faculty, staff and community members will have an opportunity to meet Mr. Mitchell. His shared work with the two districts will begin officially on August 1.

We thank you for your continued support of Stockbridge Valley and look forward to working together in this new partnership.

In partnership,

The Stockbridge Valley Central School District Board of Education