**LAMOILLE NORTH SUPERVISORY UNION**

2016 Superintendent’s Report

Dear Valued Community Members,

I continue to be honored to serve as your Superintendent of the Lamoille North Schools. I remain fiercely proud of our team of administrators, Boards of Directors, community partners, our incredibly talented staff, and most importantly, the reason we are here…our children and families. We believe that our every pursuit, every project, and every passion is in service to all of our students and communities. It is our goal to provide all students with equity, access, and rich opportunities so that they successfully graduate and will be able to productively pursue their passions, whatever those may be.

This year has been one of great change, and with that change, comes the promise of continued opportunity. Four of our towns voted on April 12, 2016, to consolidate under Vermont’s Act 46 and two others are considering again whether to join the Lamoille North Modified Unified Union School District. Whatever the outcome, we must remember that we are all part of one supervisory union family. We acknowledge and respect our communities as being rich in their history, traditions and unique heritage. The consideration of all coming together through consolidation into one District comes with strong emotions and the understandable fear of the unknown. Nevertheless, at the core of every action we take is doing what is best for all of our students.

Even in the wake of challenges we face with Act 46, we have cause to celebrate progress across our system. In September 2016, Lamoille North expanded prekindergarten offerings for all three- and four-year-old students in full implementation of Act 166. This Act provides for universal access to publicly funded prekindergarten education. In addition to five school-based early education classrooms, we established nine partnerships with high quality programs in child care centers in Lamoille and Chittenden counties. These partnerships provided access to high quality programs for 27 additional children who are now more prepared for success in kindergarten.

At the elementary level, our focus has been strengthening our core instructional programs and unifying them across the district. Common math and literacy programs enable us to ensure that our students transition to middle school having had access to consistent sets of skills and concepts no matter which elementary school they attended.

At the middle school, high school, and Technical Center, personal learning plans and proficiency-based learning dominate the stage. This personalization allows all students to demonstrate proficiency by directing their own learning and pursuing their passions in multiple ways. Finally, we continue to build strong student support systems, in conjunction with our community partners, to ensure that our students are effectively able to access learning. Academic and social-emotional skills are assessed continuously to make sure we meet the needs of all our students.

I find immense satisfaction in working with all members of our school community, including administrators, staff and school board members; however, my greatest joy comes from my interactions with our amazing students through events such as officiating the Spelling Bee, celebrating National Honor Society inductees, reading to kindergarteners, or solving math problems with students in Algebra class. I extend a heartfelt thank you for your support in my efforts to serve you well.

Respectfully yours, *Catherine Gallagher*, M.Ed. Superintendent of Schools