



## **Superintendent's Report July, 2010**

The Superintendent's Report is produced monthly to provide a brief synopsis of the current activities in progress in Central Office.

Dr. Taylor was recently elected as President of the Winooski Valley Regional Superintendent's Association and as Secretary of the Lamoille Area Professional Development Academy. This will ensure greater advocacy for the needs and interests of students and families in our communities served by Lamoille North Supervisory Union in the coming year.

### **Goal 1: Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction**

Create a system of PK-12 curriculum, instruction, assessment combined with measurable ends or targets.

- On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>, the LNSU Mathematics Curriculum Committee and Science Curriculum Committee worked on the development of Prek-12 core learning goals in each subject area. Initial drafts of these shared expectations for student learning will be available in the fall. When complete, these enduring understandings, essential questions and grade level benchmarks will become our non-negotiable targets for student learning in the content areas. Together with our Mission Related Learning goals and Learning Principles, they will define the desired results for teaching and learning across the supervisory union.
- Research on the implementation of Response to Instruction [RtI] continues. Both Dave White and Sue Cano have been focusing on the Fidelity of Instruction and Instructional Practices in their research. Webinars, trainings by national experts on the topic and literature available through the web are all being examined. They will share information and materials with LNSU administrators on the topic at all available opportunities.
- Professional development planning continues in conjunction with our building administrators to ensure proper coordination, linking content to achievement and ensuring meaningful participation and results.

### **Goal 2: Student Achievement**

Increase student achievement for all students as well as across all subgroups.

- On July 15, Dr. Taylor, Central Office Administrators, Principals met with Department of Education School Improvement Grant Team. We received tentative approval and are making final budget adjustments. Final approval is anticipated by the end of July. We were complemented on our excellent proposal and were informed that our overall award of \$1.24 million is the largest of any Supervisory Union in the state.
- On June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, the LNSU Administrative Council continued work on the development of a uniform supervision and evaluation system. When completed, the LNSU Teacher Supervision and Evaluation System will ensure high quality teacher effectiveness and student learning. The system will be research-based and designed to be both standards-based, centered on the LNSU Learning Principles

and Teaching Standards and differentiated, providing individualized approaches included a range of directive and non-directive supervisory supports, in order to meet the individual growth needs of each teacher.

- The Read Write GOLD technology based support system for reading, writing and math is moving into Phase 2 of implementation. Increased Medicaid Reinvestment revenues generated in FY10 will be used along with special education revenues to expand use of the system and allow access to all students who need these supports. Webinars will continue for staff from Grades 3-12 to further develop their skills for use of the system. We are waiting for approval from the VT DOE to hire a .5FTE Occupational Therapy Assistant [OTA] using special education ARRA funds for one year. This will enable Carol Lehmann, Occupational Therapist[OT] employed through Eden Central School, to become an expert in the tool and work with individual student teams to expand the utilization of the system. The OTA will deliver OT services to students under Carol's supervision for one year.
- The Department of Children and Families has a new Director, Barbara Consentino. Dr. Taylor and Sue Cano will be meeting with her in July to review the LNSU mission and goals for students. She will then meet with the Administrative Council in September. Our conversations will focus on close collaboration and communication as it relates to student safety, academic success and social growth.
- The annual report of progress made by special education students aged 3-5 who exited the Essential Early Education system has been submitted to the VT DOE. Initial review of the data once again revealed that overall students made good gains.
- Training has been arranged on August 18 for LNSU administrators and designated staff at schools who receive reports of bullying and harassment from students and parents. The training will provide a good foundation for each school to review and refine their practices to collect and investigate these reported complaints. Board members should remind community members, parents and students that complaints of misconduct, bullying or harassment must be submitted in writing to designated staff at each school. Individuals who need assistance with the writing of their complaint can contact the school for assistance. Also, the services of an attorney were utilized to develop legally compliant definitions of misconduct, bullying, harassment and hazing for student handbooks for all LNSU schools. This should improve communication with students and parents on the topic and increase consistency in practices across schools.

### **Goal 3: Resource Management**

Obtain and manage resources to maximize the return on investment as measurable through student success.

- On July 1, members of the Joint Board Negotiations Council met with Attorney Scott Cameron, Dr. Taylor, Marilyn Frederick and Rachel Smith to review draft of Tentative Negotiated Agreement for Teachers. Boards will individually consider the two year agreement for conditional ratification and the teachers will vote on agreement prior to September. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Reorganization of Finance was completed that encompasses a "reengineering" of our operation utilizing the efficiencies in the integrated Human Resource/Finance software and resulting in a reduction in force of 1 FTE in Central Office. (memo attached for your review)
- Annual 504 and Educational Support System [EST] audits were completed for all LNSU schools in May and June. Reports have been sent to principals and are being distributed to all board members by Dr. Taylor at board meetings. These audits enable us to ensure we are accessing special education revenues for allowable expenses and maximizing the revenue source. Questions on the reports can be directed to the principal of each school and Sue Cano.

- Interagency resources and the programs provided by interagency partners are changing. Sue Cano continues to participate in meetings so that we are informed of the changes and are able to refine what is offered through the public school so that students are successful academically and that we are able to maintain a safe school environment. Work is underway in Lamoille Valley to apply for special funding to “Braid” services for families who struggle with alcohol dependency. This target population has a high utilization of agency services and students are frequently less successful in school. Lamoille Community Connections is taking the lead on completing the RFP. LNSU will provide data and support as requested.
- The annual report of Homeless Students is submitted to the VT DOE by Sue Cano and Lois Brown each year on June 30th. During the 2009/2010 school year 12 homeless students attended an LNSU school. This is a noted increase over prior years. We used funds we are required to set aside for these students to assist families with necessary education related expenses such as clothing and foot ware appropriate for school and school related activities, school supplies and fees related to school related activities.
- The Ronald McDonald Dental Care Mobile served students from all LNSU schools at the LUHS campus during the week of July 12<sup>th</sup>.
- In an effort to improve services to our new employees we have been providing human resources supports, assistance and information through interviews of job applicants, providing welcome packets, developing contracts, and benefits counseling.
- We have been preparing required benefits reports and insuring a smooth transition with a change in name of our dental carrier. We have also selected a new Life and LTD insurance carrier that will save over \$13,000/year over our previous carrier. We will be helping employees complete paperwork that includes selecting beneficiaries and updating personal information.
- We are preparing for the upcoming school year with a review of current procedures, processes, forms, and documents. These updates are based on an audit of our current practices with feedback from secretaries and administrators at each school. Additionally we are insuring that LNSU is in compliance with updates in employment law. We are preparing presentations for inservice programs for administrators, teachers and support staff.
- Fiscal year closing activities are underway. Initial review projects all districts but one ended in the black. The one district with a projected negative fund balance results from over \$250,000 in unanticipated, unbudgeted expense from an 18% increase in enrollment.
- Facilities and construction coordination is underway for projects across the supervisory union. Energy Grants are being implemented in Eden, Hyde Park, Johnson, Belvidere, Waterville, and LUSD#18. Final submission of Energy Transportation Grant for purchase of new buses for Cambridge and Eden. Research was initiated for special education transportation coordination to initiate savings to districts.. Conducted RFP award, preconstruction meeting and mobilization of dehumidification construction project at Cambridge. New entry-way, air-lock construction at LNSU for energy efficiency and secure after- hours access to intra-office and inter-office supervisory union mailboxes is nearing completion.

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