



Superintendent's Report October 2010

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

Goal 1: Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction

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

- The mathematics PK-12 Enduring Understandings and K-8 Grade Level Benchmarks have been disseminated to all the SU's schools. Over the next several months, educators will begin working with the Benchmarks as the Mathematics Curriculum committee continues their work developing Grade Level Enduring Understandings and Essential Questions and Mathematics Learning Principles.
- Science learning goals and principles will be ready for review and implementation later in the fall.
- The Curriculum Council is in the process of developing a framework for the LNSU Comprehensive Local Assessment System. This framework will guide us in developing and coordinating an assessment system that effectively supports teaching and learning across our schools.
- The Superintendent participated in a conference concerning administrator evaluation sponsored by LAPDA. This is the first of a series of sessions which are designed to support school leaders in redesigning their administrative evaluation tools to align with research and best practices in support of improved teaching and learning.
- The Administrative Council met in October to continue work on the supervision and evaluation system. The objective of the LNSU Teacher Supervision and Evaluation System is to ensure high quality teacher effectiveness and student learning. The system is 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 current work focuses on the completion of criteria for effective practice. Following this work, a task force of teachers from all schools will review the supervision and evaluation work and provide input. We anticipate implementation in school year 2011-2012.

Goal 2: Student Achievement

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

- Our school staff have been participating in a variety of professional development activities this month. These include research based reading and mathematics instructional strategies for students who struggle using the Linda Mood Bell techniques. In addition, school teams have been participating in sessions for leaders on the Science of Implementation (change theory) as well as Positive Behavior Support training. Faculty who are new to our supervisory union have received initial training in the AimsWeb web based assessment tool.
- On 9/27 and 9/28, leadership teams from SU schools participating in the Vermont Integrated Instructional Model (VIIM) attended an implementation science workshop, sponsored by the Department of Education. The session provided the LNSU team with the opportunity to plan the initial application of the elements of effective implementation of evidence based practices. Later in the week,

school representatives attended the initial Positive Behavioral Support professional development session. PBS provides the behavioral component of the Response to Intervention (RtI) system.

- Administrators are working together to finalize a draft class size policy for the Supervisory Union and School Districts. This policy will be reviewed by the Executive Committee who will then make a recommendation for adoption of the policy to the full LNSU Board. This policy is a requirement of Act 153 and all boards must adopt the policy by January 15, 2010.
- The Superintendent is working with Lamoille South and Orleans Southwest Superintendents to explore options for collaboration that may qualify for the Act 153 incentive program. Areas under discussion at this time include: curriculum, assessment, student data analysis support, technology integration and coordinated special education services.
- The Superintendent, Curriculum Director, and Director of Student Support Services participated in a day long planning retreat at the Lamoille Area Professional Development Academy on October 8. During this meeting, we shared areas for professional development and support on behalf of LNSU schools. Examples of new areas of emphasis include-technology integration, common core curriculum development, support for classroom teachers implementation of various initiatives, and continuing support for teacher leaders.

Goal 3: Resource Management

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

- Negotiations are underway with Cambridge Board and newly represented Support Staff Representatives and have worked to develop a draft contract under the parameter of balancing available resources while meeting the needs of the entire community; students, staff and public.
- Salary placement and contracts for teachers across the SU are being finalized as schools ratify their new master agreement
- Tuition reimbursement form and process have been revised for all LNSU employees
- We are preparing notices to employees for open enrollment for health and dental that will happen between November 1 and 30.
- The budget development process has been initiated at all schools and the central office. Administrators will use the A,B,C, D budgeting protocol and implement the budget process timeline approved by the LNSU board at their September meeting. In preparation for budget development, all salary and benefit projections have been entered into our system and are awaiting final ratification of contracts before roll-over into the Budget Development Module can occur. Preliminary Budget Development Packet information with class-size and Quality Standard aspects of Act 146, Challenges for Change, has been disseminated to our administrators in preparation for Budget Input Training scheduled for October 26, 2010.
- First Quarter submissions have been made on Federal awards for the Energy Efficiency Grants.
- Inspections are underway to gain more revenues through Efficiency of Vermont for Lighting Retrofit projects.
- E-rate application process has begun for FY12 cost offset in telecommunications of between 60-90% for all districts. Research is continuing on maximizing broadband access at all K-12 locations.
- Modification of spreadsheets to allow projections of impact on tax-rates under Act 153, School Consolidation is being developed to weigh the variables between multiple districts.
- Time Schedules and Time Study work is being conducted to maximize encumbrances for Special Education and provide accurate revenue projections.
- Preliminary Audit Drafts are being reviewed for accuracy. So far, two drafts have been received.
- Special education service plan projections for FY12 are underway.

- The Superintendent and Business Manager took board members on a tour of our Lamoille North schools for the full day on Friday, October 24 which included a lovely, student prepared and served, luncheon at GMTCC's Vincent's Bistro. This tour around Lamoille North will likely turn into an annual event for new board members in the spring following their election at Town Meeting.
- School Boards have initiated conversations concerning the potential impact of Challenges for Change (Act 146) and Voluntary Merger Bill (Act 153). The LNSU Board must make a recommendation regarding whether or not districts in our Supervisory Union will meet the voluntary budget reduction targets for FY 12 in November. The Superintendent must communicate this decision to Commissioner Vilaseca by December 15th. These matters will be included on the upcoming LNSU Executive Committee Meeting (October 27-7:00pm) and LNSU Full Board Meeting (November 29 -6:00 pm).

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