

THANK YOU CITIZENS OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES FOR SUPPORTING LAMOILLE NORTH SUPERVISORY UNION SCHOOLS!

Dr. Debra Taylor, Superintendent of Lamoille North Supervisory Union Schools is pleased to report that all school budgets in Lamoille North have passed as proposed by the communities of Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Hyde Park, Johnson, and Waterville at all Elementary Schools, Lamoille Union Middle, Lamoille Union High School and Green Mountain Technology and Career Center!

The state of our economy weighed on all of our minds this year as administrators and school board members developed budgets for each of our schools. Overall, with this conservative approach, there was only a slight increase of less than one half of one percent (.47%), collectively, across all of the schools in the Supervisory Union.

This year's school budget increase compares very favorably to what was seen in prior years so I think that it's the closeness of the process - the fact that school boards and administrators are in touch with what's going on in the schools and in the community and the fact that everyone is aware of what's transpiring with the economy. This year also marked the second time that Act 82 was in place - the new two vote budget law. The law requires higher spending towns to present two budgets to voters if the school board wants to increase spending over a certain threshold. None of the budgets in Lamoille North required a second vote. We feel very good about the support that we have received from our communities. Unfortunately, the base education rate (frozen this year), the common level of appraisal and some variation in enrollment, have resulted in tax rates increasing in our communities.

Creating a school budget is difficult, even in the best of times. The Chair of the LNSU School Board, Bill Sander, indicated that the positive results make it possible for us to continue to work hard to provide a quality education for our students. It has been challenging to develop budgets this year, cognizant of the need to balance ability of our community to pay with the needs of our future citizens. In spite of our efforts to present conservative budgets, some of our towns are facing higher taxes. We feel this budget represents a vote of confidence from the community to the board members, administrators and school staff and we appreciate it. We work well together as a supervisory union board and administration and consider ourselves one system when it comes to providing a sound education to our students.

We are observing positive trends from recent student achievement measures, both standardized and curriculum based, and we are making progress toward accomplishing systemic changes throughout our supervisory union in the areas of curriculum, instruction and assessment. Thank you to our hardworking educators for the positive outcomes that have been achieved!

Thank you, citizens, for the investment that you have made for the future of the children in our schools and the future of our communities.