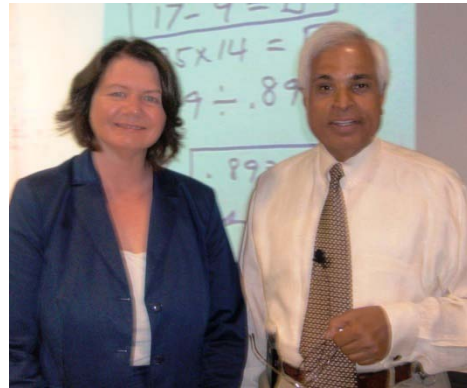


Superintendent Dr. Debra Taylor
Lamoille North Supervisory Union
95 Cricket Hill Road
Hyde Park, VT 05655
888-3142

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Renee Affolter of VT Science Initiative and Dorothy Finlay of Eden Central School
Superintendent Dr. Debra Taylor and Mahesh Sharma

Math and Science and More at Lamoille North

Teachers, administrators, and staff at Lamoille North Supervisory Union spent time together during in-service activities learning approaches and techniques in teaching mathematics and science.

Well known mathematics expert, Mahesh Sharma, conducted an invigorating and well received training for over 125 staff members at Lamoille North during in-service on August 26. The focus was on improving math instruction for all students by exploring how we learn.

Renee Affolter of Vermont Science Initiative assisted by Eden Central School's Dorothy Finlay, conducted a full day session of August 27 focusing on engaging students in scientific inquiry as they develop and refine their understanding of the natural world. The session explored how science can provide a foundation for the development of language, logic, and problem solving in the classroom.

In addition, staff members participated in two professional development opportunities with national expert Rich Reid. Training in AIMSweb, which is a benchmark and progress monitoring assessment system covering literacy, mathematics, spelling, and writing for grades K-8, was the focus of one training. The other prepared special education teachers to administer the Woodcock Johnson III Cognitive assessment. This will enable LNSU schools to diagnosis students who have a brain based specific learning disability and allow us to use Response to Instruction for special education eligibility decisions. The current eligibility process requires students to experience a substantial period of failure with learning before meeting the criteria for special education. Both of these approaches are supported by extensive national research.

During the in-service week, all teachers from Lamoille Union Middle School, High School, and Green Mountain Technology & Career Center came together to begin collaborative discussions and planning across the three schools. The initial goal of the dialogue was to develop a shared understanding of curriculum,

assessment, and instructional practices. Ongoing opportunities to continue this work will be scheduled throughout the school year.

The trainings are intended to foster communication and collaboration within and across all schools in Lamoille North with a shared understanding of curriculum, assessment, and instruction strengths and resources with a goal of bringing common language for all our students as they transition from elementary school to middle and high school.

In addition to collaboration within Lamoille North, the alliance is extending to neighboring Orleans Southwest and Lamoille South supervisory unions with a partnership with the Lamoille Area Professional Development Academy coordinated by LAPDA Executive Director Bob Stanton.

Lamoille North Supervisory Union proudly serves the six towns of Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Hyde Park, Johnson, and Waterville with five elementary schools, the Lamoille Union Middle School, Lamoille Union High School, and the Green Mountain Technology and Career Center. Student enrollment is 2,045 and 450 staff members are employed. GMTCC receives students from five sending high schools serving the sixteen towns within the boundaries of Lamoille North, Lamoille South, and Orleans Southwest Supervisory Unions. Dr. Debra Taylor has served as Superintendent of Schools since October 2008.

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If you would like more information, please contact Superintendent Dr. Debra Taylor at 851-1178 or email debra@lnsu.org