



August, 2018

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Welcome to Greater Rutland County Supervisory Union Schools!

After three years of study and nine months of transition to unification the Greater Rutland County Supervisory Union officially began operation on July 1, 2018. Our supervisory union serves four districts, eight schools and 1,837 students in Rutland County.

Ira School District, comprising 41 students, is a PK-12 non-operating school district with full tuitioning. Through Act 46, Ira School Board proposed their district be a member of the Greater Rutland County Supervisory Union. The plan was approved by the Secretary of Education, State Board of Education and the voters in October, 2017. Ira students attend multiple elementary and secondary schools and achieve at high levels. The Ira School District is governed by a three-member school board which meets quarterly throughout the school year.

Quarry Valley Unified Union School District is a new district comprised of five schools in Poultney, Proctor and West Rutland serving 1,016 PK-12 students. This district, recently formed through Act 46, is governed by a ten-member board including representation from each of the towns where the schools are located. The schools boast high achievement in local and state assessments and have been recognized as High Schools of Distinction by the Agency of Education and as Best High Schools by the U.S. News and World Report in 2018. The newly unified school district was formed through Act 46 provisions, approved by the Secretary of Education and State Board of Education. The voters approved it in March 2017, paving the way for one year of transition before the district became operational on July 1. The Board meets monthly on the third Monday at 6:30 pm and meetings are rotated among member schools. QV student athletic teams perform exceedingly well athletically and collectively they have attained state championships in soccer, basketball and softball in the recent past due to student athleticism, teamwork and drive to succeed. Our students also perform well academically, illustrated by the 100% high school graduation rate this year. Over a half million dollars in scholarships were awarded to our students upon graduation in June. QV schools having been

successfully transitioning to a Project-Based Learning model that engages students in authentic learning opportunities and teaches them life skills. Administrators, faculty and staff have been working together and are committed to continuing to serve all of QV students in the coming school year and beyond!

Rutland Town School District, serving 505 students PK-12, continues as an individual PK-8 school with full secondary school tuitioning and is assigned to the Greater Rutland County Supervisory Union through Act 49. The School Board proposed the SU alignment in a detailed plan, which was approved last fall by the Secretary of Education, State Board of Education and the voters in October, 2017. The school district is governed by a five-member school board which meets monthly on the second Monday of the month. The school has a strong reputation for its excellent faculty and staff who support student achievement. Some examples of Rutland Town School excellence include high achievement in local and state assessments, recently expanded preschool program, elementary Spanish, one-to-one computing program for all students and proficiency-based, personalized learning at all grade levels. Rutland Town students are also well known for their athletic success at the middle school level. Excellent administrators, faculty and staff are dedicated to ensuring students' continuing growth and advancement.

Wells Springs is a newly unified school district comprised of Middletown Springs Elementary (PK-6) and Wells Springs Elementary (PK-6) with full secondary tuitioning school choice. The district enrolls 275 students PK-12. They provide a solid foundation for elementary students who attend numerous public secondary schools in Vermont and other states in the region. Student achievement and social emotional growth are high priorities in the Wells Springs District where students perform above average in assessments and are actively involved in school clubs and recreation activities outside the school day. The Wells Springs School District was formed through Act 46 where the study committee proposed the unification, which was approved by the Secretary of Education, State Board of Education and by the voters in each community last spring. The district is governed by a seven-member board, representing each community, which meets on the first Wednesday of each month, rotating meetings in each school. Wells Springs member schools have much in common - each school is characterized by unique programs and opportunities for student engagement, and each school is moving toward a personalized approach to learning designed to increase student agency and independence. Community support is tangible and ongoing and Wells Springs students will continue to grow and learn in the years ahead.

The Greater Rutland County Supervisory Union (GRCSU) provides centralized administrative, business, curriculum and instruction, student and technology services to member school districts. The newly unified GRCSU brings together the former Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union and

the former Rutland Central Supervisory Union, which have ceased operation effective June 30, 2018. Upon the approval of district mergers and alignment through Act 46 and 49 as described above, the Secretary of Education and State Board approved the creation of the GRCSU to serve the school districts of Ira, Quarry Valley, Rutland Town and Wells Springs. GRSU is governed by a ten-member board comprised of representatives appointed by each member board. This board meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday of each month and provides guidance to administration, centralized services and special education staff and programs. GRCSU offices are located in Rutland.

As Superintendent of the Greater Rutland County Supervisory Union, I look forward to the opportunity to serve our new system of schools! I have ten years experience as Superintendent in Vermont including seven years as Superintendent in Rutland Central Supervisory Union. I have a broad and varied background prior to the superintendency as teacher, consulting teacher, principal, special education director, and curriculum and instruction director. I attained my doctoral degree magna cum laude from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, my master's degree summa cum laude from George Washington University and my bachelor's degree cum laude from Fairfield University. In addition, I have taught undergraduate and graduate education courses as an adjunct professor at four colleges and universities. I also serve on local, regional and state-level boards representing and advocating for our schools and students. I have achieved a number of awards for excellence in leadership and service. I work hard to build strong relationships with school boards, staff and students. I believe in teamwork and collaboration. Most importantly, I believe that all children can learn and I am a strong advocate for the success of every student.

We have completed many transition activities this past year as we initiate our new supervisory union and district operations this fall. Our schools will continue to faithfully serve our students and families. We appreciate the ongoing support of our school communities and look forward to an exciting future for our students!

Thank you to our school board members who had the vision to enact our new system of schools, and to all of our administrators, faculty and staff, who work closely and interdependently to ensure the success of every student, each day. We are grateful for their ongoing commitment to excellence. Together we will make our school system great!

I invite you to visit the GRCSU website for more information concerning our schools at www.grcsu.org. I am honored to lead our new school system and welcome the opportunity to connect with you at your convenience. I may be reached by email at debra.taylor@grcsu.org or by phone at 802-775-4342 ext. 2103.

Enjoy the final days of summer. I can't wait for school to start on August 29th!

Thank you again for your support of our school system and students.

Yours in Education,

Debra J. Taylor, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Greater Rutland County Supervisory Union