Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of the Slate Valley Unified School Board and all of us who work with and support your children, I want to welcome you back for another school year! Our educators are the very best in Vermont and we all have been working hard to prepare for the start of school. On July 1st, our Supervisory Union became a single school district. The Addison-Rutland Supervisory Union is now the Slate Valley Unified School District. As a result, there have been many changes again this summer. These changes represent an opportunity to strengthen community and move forward with a unified vision.

We hope that you all notice some updates to our buildings in terms of security and maintenance. As you may be aware, many of our buildings will require significant infrastructure upgrades in the next couple of years. For the time being, we are trying to address what we can within our current budget process. Looking ahead, we will need to consider bond in order to address many of the underlying issues.

Safety and security of our staff and students remains our number one priority. To this end we have enhanced our existing visitor and security procedures throughout our buildings. While these enhancements may seem inconvenient, the safety of our students comes before convenience. We continue to encourage regular community involvement in our schools, we just need to do so in a thoughtful manner.

Our Board of Education in collaboration with the Slate Valley Leadership Team continues to guide our collective focus in ways that provide your children with the very best we have to offer:

- We are committed to making improvements to our system that help us provide equity and more opportunities for all of our students.
- We continue to offer faculty and staff high quality professional learning opportunities in order for them to better meet the needs of the students they serve.
- We continue to refine, explore and expand academically rigorous pathways aligned to Vermont’s proficiency/personalized based learning system with a focus on flexible pathways and experiential learning.

Throughout the fall, the Slate Valley Innovation Committee will continue to consider our Innovation Project, which includes the current state of our facilities, program capacity, demographic changes and major capital equipment requirements in order to protect our community’s investment in its schools and to best preserve the legacy of educational excellence in the Slate Valley Unified School District.

The Board will also engage in thoughtful conversations about the possibility of asking local voters to support a bond election in the spring of 2020 to make this vision for our students’ future a reality. We will keep you updated as these conversations continue and we hope you will join in the conversation. You will be invited to Community Forums again this coming fall.

It is an exciting time to be in the Slate Valley Unified School District, and it is my great honor to serve as your superintendent. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to do our very best for our community’s children. They deserve it, and we simply cannot do this important work without you. We look forward to seeing you and your children soon.

Warm Regards,

Superintendent