

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

5038 US Route 2 North Hero, Vermont 05474

Phone: 802-372-6921 Fax: 802-372-4898 Web Site: www.gisu.org

Superintendent's Report

May 2, 2016

Celebrations:

Our Federal Monitoring Audit was completed by the Vermont Agency of Education on April 28th. The auditors said they were "very pleased to see the progress that we have made since their visit last May". There were only a couple of findings. One is that our accounting software, ADS, is not set up to directly charge employee benefits to the federal and state grants so currently, they need to be done manually with journal entries. Grant regulations now require expenditures to be direct charged. To prepare ADS to do this takes quite a lot of ADS expertise that none of us currently has. We will need to work with someone from ADS, or someone from another supervisory union which is already set up to do this, to help us get up to speed. Also, our grant "time and effort documentation" needs to be completed on updated forms by all staff paid by grant funds and some of our procurement forms need to be updated for new grant requirements. Overall, the audit went extremely well and the lead auditor said the GISU visit was completely "normal".

Instrumental Music and Choral students from Folsom and Grand Isle Schools participated in the regional musical festival in St. Albans on Saturday. I had the pleasure of attending their rehearsal on Friday afternoon and was very impressed with their performances. Special thanks to Jessica Ochs (Grand Isle) and Karlee Kauffeld (Folsom) music teachers for going the extra mile with their students- it was truly inspiring.

Congratulations to Isle La Motte for being awarded a Ronald McDonald Grant of \$5000 to continue improving their playground.

Congratulations to Alburgh for being awarded a \$10,000 Vermont Department of Health Equipment Grant for their school lunch program.

School Nurse Search-

Interviews were held on Friday, April 29. Thanks to board members John Goodrich, Alburgh, and Dave Davis, North Hero, for joining the interview team along with staffers- Barb Larvey (ILM), Kit Daniels (GISU), Eric Arnzen (GIS), Barbara Burrington (GISU) and Meredith Plumpton (VT Dept. of Health). A School Nurse Leader should be announced soon.

Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction:

The GISU Leadership Team and the SWIFT Team will be meeting all day on May 27th to complete the GISU's annual Data Snapshot. This data will guide the ongoing development of the GISU Multi-tiered System of Support and our Title IIA Professional Development investments for next year.

The Innovation Course for Personalized Learning and New Technologies, paid for through our Act230 Innovation Grant, is in the final phase of planning. This will be offered, free of charge, to any teachers in the GISU who commit to creating Personalized Learning Plans with their students during the 2016 – 2017 school year.

Interim Director, Kerry Sewell, will be scheduling interviews for his replacement this week. Dates will be forwarded to board members ASAP.

Special Education:

The Grand Isle Supervisory Union just confirmed with the Agency of Education the Child Count Verification for December 1, 2015. Currently there are 139 students Pre-K through grade 12 that qualify for special education services. The Primary Disabilities are: Autism (11), Developmental Delay(27), Emotional Disturbance(19), Hearing Loss(1), Intellectual Disability(4), Multiple Disabilities(4), Other Health Impairment(23), Specific Learning Disability(33) and Speech or Language Impairment(17) . The data shows that 49 females and 90 males are eligible for special education. The breakdown for towns responsible for the education of these students is Alburgh (47), Grand Isle (44), South Hero (21), Isle La Motte (18) and North Hero (9). Our Child Count Data as of December 2015 compared to July 2015 was reduced by 10 students. This is because of students moving and students no longer being eligible for special education.

According to our data, GISU students with disabilities are in the regular educational setting 91% of the time. Professional development work will continue around strengthening First Instruction and the incorporation of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Differentiated Instruction for the remainder of this school year and next school year. We will continue to refine the collaboration between regular education and special education to meet all students' needs.

If you have any questions regarding Child Count Data or special education please contact Beth Hemingway-Director of Student Support Services at bethemi@gisu.org or 372-6921 ext. 104

High School

The June Superintendent's Report will have the final numbers for the 2015-2016 school year with anticipated numbers for the 2017 school year.

Business Office Updates:

We are happy to announce that we have new auditors for our FY 16 and FY 17 audits. We have selected Corrette and Associates of St. Johnsbury. The managing partner's name is Randall Northrop. Randall will be visiting the GISU office on May 18th at 10:30 if any board members are interested in meeting him. Lynne has worked with Randall in the past and reports they do excellent and timely work. For more information go to <http://www.corrette.com/>

FY 17 budgets that have passed (all but Isle La Motte, scheduled revote in June) are due to the state this month. We are also in the thick of year end planning for budget spending, etc. This is the time of year when the new federal grants are being written that need to get approved and entered into both Grantium and ADS.

David Crawford has completed a draft of the transportation contract which has been reviewed and sent back for a final edit and will be completed soon.

As always, we are working on the day to day business of school finance. Payroll, payables, board reports are an on-going part of what we do. The GISU office is running smoothly, with everyone happy and motivated to do our best work.

Important Dates:

May 16 – 20- Abenaki Week for all 6th graders, Camp Abenaki, NH

May 17- Act 46 Meeting, 6:00 – 8:00, Alburgh School

May 30- Memorial Day, No School

June 10- Last Student Day (proposed)

June 22- GISU Board meeting, 6:00 PM, NH School