

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

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Superintendent's Report

April 3, 2016

Celebrations:

The GISU officially launched the work of the Innovation Grant! At the March 28th GISU In-service there were all day sessions dedicated to the integration of technology and personal learning plans, across all age and grade levels. Teachers were introduced to Google platforms and a variety of examples of personal learning plans from other schools and districts. The feedback from teachers was overwhelmingly positive and the work will continue during in-service in June (after school is out) for those choosing to participate for credit, and throughout next year as well.

GISU Board Meeting:

Board Members in Attendance: Trevor Creller, Alburgh, John Goodrich, Alburgh, Mallory Ovitt, Alburgh, Louise Koss, Isle La Motte, Bridget Timms, North Hero, Judith Wimble, North Hero, Dave Davis, North Hero, Carol Miller, Grand Isle, Don Bartlett, Grand Isle, Gary Marckres, Grand Isle

Board Reorganization-

Louise Koss (ILM), Chair

Trevor Creller (ALB), Vice Chair

Ellen Norris (GISU), Clerk

Director of Curriculum, Assessment, Data & Technology-

Position and Hiring Process: Currently we have a Memorandum of Understanding with Kerry Sewell for this position. Responsibilities on the MOU include: Collaborate with AOE and SWIFT partnership; Oversee CF Grants, Health and Tobacco; Participate in the Federal Grants Audit; write new grants; lead the search for a new Director of CADT. Barbara has made a draft job description and the position will be posted the first week of April. Historically, the pool of candidates is slim state-wide. Candidates will need to understand curriculum, instruction, finances, Consolidated Federal Programs and other grants, and data & technology. A committee will be formed to look at the pool of candidates. Kerry said the schools need to "connect the dots" between each other. What he has seen that expectations, what's being taught, when it's taught, assessing, etc. is different in every school. Kerry Sewell has agreed to serve as a mentor the new Director during the 2016 – 2017 school year.

2016 -2017 School Calendar-

The Regional Calendars have been approved and sent to the AoE (see attached).

School Nurse Search-

Our current SU Nurse, Kit Daniels is retiring at the end of June, 2016. The SU will be moving to School Nurse Leader Model as required by the Vermont Education Quality Standards. The SU Board voted to move the Nurse Leader position to a GISU contract. Relatedly, the current federal Health Education grant runs out this year and we will be out of compliance with EQS for Health Education.

Audit Bid Update-

We have begun receiving bids from auditing firms for future audit services.

Agenda Building for June:

- Operational Guidelines: Laws and regulations have changed since GISU procedures were created in 1989 and most are no longer relevant. Chris Leopold will be drafting new Guidelines bring it up to date. It needs to spell out the functions of the SU Board and the roles and responsibilities. We can adopt the Operational Guidelines in June.
- We will need to review the Preschool Policy and Behavior Policy.
- The board will need to review the IDEA-B plan and approve it. Beth Hemingway will present at the June meeting.
- There will be a Tech Audit update presented
- There will also be a Curriculum Coordinator update

Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction:

Smarter Balanced Assessment Calendar for GISU-

Alburgh- April 4 – April 8

Isle La Motte- April 12 – April 15

Grand Isle- April 11 – April 15

North Hero- March 28 – April 1

South Hero- April 4 – April 8

Buildings will manage make up tests on an individual basis.

Special Education:

What is H.850? H.850 is a change in the current special education funding system an exploration of practices with increased student outcomes and decrease in spending. Change would occur where the current education funding system would shift special education payment to the supervisory union level, instead of the school level.

Currently there are three funding sources associated with special education. The Block Grant based on the number of special education students and Extraordinary Reimbursement that school districts received 90% state subsidy for students who receive intensive supports and cost more than \$50,000 to educated. These two funding sources work on a reimbursement system that requires schools to record every special education dollar spent. This also requires special education staff to complete Time Schedules twice per year documenting that their time is spent with special education students to allow for reimbursement. The Vermont Legislature provided \$40,000 for the Agency of Education to contract with University of Vermont to explore a census block grant model.

This model would look at using the school population, not just the students receiving special education services. This model would allow school districts to include best practices and innovations in the delivery of services to special education students.

Under the Schoolwide Integrated Framework for Transformation (SWIFT) the Grand Isle Supervisory Union school districts have been encouraged with approval from the legislature in December 2014 to use the block grants received to service all students on the Multi-Tiered System of Support. What this means is special education staff have been able to work with students in Tier 1 or Tier II and have a more proactive approach prior to identifying the student with special education needs.

The Grand Isle Supervisory Union Child Count has had a small decrease in the number of students identified for special education services using this model. The Director of Student Support Services would like to explore being part of the UVM study. SWIFT will be ending at the conclusion of the 2017 school year. The current model using block grant funds to serve all students would come to an end.

Any questions or comments, please contact Beth Hemingway-Director of Student Support Services at 372-6921 ext. 104 or bethemi@gisu.org.

Business Office Audit Update:

- The audit Management Discussion and Analyses (MDA) Reports for the five schools were submitted to the auditors. We still have not received a draft of the GISU audit. We have been told that we will receive it during this first week of April. The Agency of Education is now holding our funds and the auditors are aware of this fact. We are hopeful that this will be resolved within a week or two.
- We are also in the renewal phase for our insurance with VSBIT. They will have our revised report on April 4th. Thank you to everyone who helped us update the assets section of this report.
- Our indirect cost rate renewal is also due to the state on Friday, April 8th. The indirect cost rate is the administration percentage that can be charged to grants.
- Lynne will be attending VSBIT's spring conference and the Vermont Association of School Business Officers (VASBO) on the 7th and 8th.

Important Dates:

April 6- CANCELLED, Act 46 Committee Meeting NH

April 18 – 22- Spring Break (Schools will be closed, Central Office will have reduced hours)

April 26- VEHI is presenting upcoming changes in health care options to school board members, administrators and other interested parties, 4:00 – 6:00 PM at the Center for Technology Essex. Registration is available on line at VEHI's website.

April 26- Act 46 Committee Meeting, 6:00 – 8:00, Isle La Motte School

April 28- Full Federal Grants Audit

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

July 21 & 22, 2016: National SWIFT Conference in Arlington, VA. We have 10 -12 seats at this national training. There is a grant to pay for travel, room, meals, and conference cost. If any school board member would be interested in attending, they are welcomed. This would be a great learning opportunity.