

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

January 4, 2016

Celebrations:

- VEHI/Path- Wellness in the Workplace Grant: Building leaders requested \$10,000 to create a walking path on school grounds in Grand Isle, reconstruct the walking trail throughout the wooded area on school grounds in ILM, upgrade and repair the existing paths in Alburgh, South Hero and North Hero and if funds permit, there will be exercise stations added to existing walking paths.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in partnership with the Vermont Department of Health, offered a grant opportunity for funding to purchase supplies/and or technology for physical education and/or physical activity. Lisa Newhard, P.E. instructor at Alburgh Community Education Center requested funding of \$3,800 to obtain heart rate monitors that feed directly to an I-pad and a large screen interval timer and was chosen as that equipment would be used as part of a sustainable, quality program. This project was fully funded. Congratulations!
- Jenny Perry, Folsom Principal and Eric Arnzen, Grand Isle Principal, have agreed to pilot a new Vermont Schools Farm to Table Marketing Campaign aimed at increasing participation in school breakfast and lunch at the middle school level. Stay tuned for more information.

Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction:

- December 7th in service was a highlight.
 - Science teachers worked to strengthen instructional practices with **Next Generation Science Standards** through credited coursework offered through the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS).
 - Middle School teachers continued their work with **Personalized Learning** with Claudine Bedell.
 - Literacy teachers had an opportunity to advance their understanding of **Lucy Calkins Reading and Writing Units of Study K-5** with Lisa Italiano and Rebecca Cardone from UVM's Green Mountain Writing Project.
 - Math teachers had an outstanding session investigating best **instructional practices in math** with Judi Maynard.
 - Additionally and importantly, we had especially strong participation among our K-5 literacy and math teachers to begin the work of **prioritizing our standards and developing proficiency scales**.
 - The work sessions were productive and highly successful.

3 Year Plan:

We are fortunate to have Dr. Tina Boogrin from the Marzano Research Group, sponsored by SWIFT joining us to move us forward with our work prioritizing standard and developing proficiency scales. In January, Tina will spend two full days with us.

- On January 11th, she will assist our middle school teachers as they begin prioritizing standards.
- On January 15th, she will assist with core K-5 teacher leadership teams to develop proficiency scales for each of these standards.

We will continue with this work at our January 18 in service and throughout this year.

Integrated Field Review Pilot:

We are looking forward to participating in the pilot **Educational Quality Review** by the Vermont Agency of Education this spring. The **EQR** will include two components: a Snapshot and a Field Review. The GISU is one of the 19 SU/SD's participating in the Vermont Agency of Education Field Pilot Project. Our group of SU/SD's has been announced and they include: GISU, Burlington SD, Washington West SU, Washington Central SU, Franklin NW SU and Lamoille North SU. We had anticipated being part of the Winter Session however; our cohort will begin in March and be completed in early May. The EQR will offer an excellent opportunity for genuine and rich dialogue and reflection. It will allow us to assess the success and efficacy of our programs and policies, and to celebrate our strengths, and to shape plans for necessary improvements. For more information go to <http://education.vermont.gov/education-quality-review#resources>

Special Education:

The Grand Isle School District will be looking for a Speech and Language Pathologist-CCC for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year. A letter will be sent home to parents of students receiving speech and language services from the administration regarding a plan as to how their child will be receiving such services as outlined in their Individualized Education Plans.

Child Count Data Reports:

The Child Count data collection reflects the status of children with disabilities eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) on December 1 of each year. The data is collected at the Supervisory Union level, according to state and federal statute and regulations. The collection includes demographic information, as well as information regarding placement (educational environment), educational location (facility) and compliance indicators which include Individual Education Plans (IEP's) and evaluations completed on time. The Child Count Data Report was submitted to the Agency of Education prior to the December 15th deadline.

Business Office:

- All boards have completed the first round of draft budget reviews.
- We are still waiting for draft audits from Angolano & Company. Once the draft audits come into the Business Office there is a lot of work still to be done reviewing and writing the management discussion and analysis.
- We have received most of the information from the state to begin our revenue side of the budget equation. Currently, we are waiting on estimates for transportation revenue, but we have received CLAs, equalized pupil numbers, special education revenue estimates, and the six semester numbers for technical center tuition. Lynne will have tentative (until the transportation estimates are received) revenue numbers for January Board meetings.
- Food Service Bids for North Hero and Grand Isle - We received one food service bid and it was from the Abbey Group. They are proposing a change from a break-even proposal (where they cover any deficit) to a contract where the school districts assume a portion of any deficit. Their proposal is \$14,900 for GISD and \$15,290 for NHSD). Contract Manager, David Crawford, has spoken to the Abbey Group and they are willing to negotiate. We have a meeting scheduled for January 6, 2016 and will be reporting back to the GI and NH Boards ASAP. In the meantime, David Crawford is preparing an Executive Summary for the Agency of Education and completing paperwork for a 30 day extension on the current contract. The bid is being held open for an additional 30 days as well.
- The AoE requested announced tuitions be reported to them no later than January 15, 2016.
- David Crawford completed the first draft of the transportation bid for school buses for FY 17 – FY 19. Once it is in more presentable form, Lynne will review it with each Board to ensure we have anticipated all needs (i.e. cameras on the busses, communication devices / radios, etc.).
- The second GISU assessment bills have been sent and will be included in current accounts payable vouchers.