

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

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Superintendent's Report

February 1, 2016

Board Chairs:

On January 13 there was an emergency meeting for Board Chairs to discuss the resignation of Elaine Pentelari, the GISU Director of Curriculum and Assessment, effective February 1, 2016. Her resignation was accepted and an interim candidate selection process was put into motion. The position will be posted in the following weeks and the hiring process will be on the March 23, 2016, GISU Board Meeting Agenda for discussion and planning.

Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction:

A primary goal for our teachers and leadership teams is to continue with our work prioritizing our standards and developing proficiency scales. This work has been largely initiated and supported by our SWIFT leadership team, and has included extensive work with consultants from the Marzano Research Group. Teacher teams in both literacy and math did much work on release days and at our January 18th in service. This work will be extensive and ongoing throughout this year, with core leadership teams continuing the process during our final in service day in March and during extended day and extended year hours. Over a three year period, this work will be done across the curriculum and in all grades, advance the development of instructional frameworks for effective teaching, present a standards based system of instruction and assessment, and provide standards based reporting that is universal across the SU.

As this year progresses, we will continue to offer teachers professional development opportunities that support programs in literacy and math. Teachers will benefit from continued professional development with the implementation of Calkins Reading and Writing Units of Study. Teachers will benefit from continued professional development to support implementation of the Engage New York math program 3-8. Work with Next Generation Science and personalized learning will be supported at the March 28th in service.

Additionally, we are preparing for the administration of our SBAC testing in grades 3-8 across all schools this spring. Dr. Kerry Sewell, a seasoned Curriculum Director who has worked in education for over thirty years and who has been instrumental in working with our teachers and leadership teams over the past year, and will ensure that this process is done well.

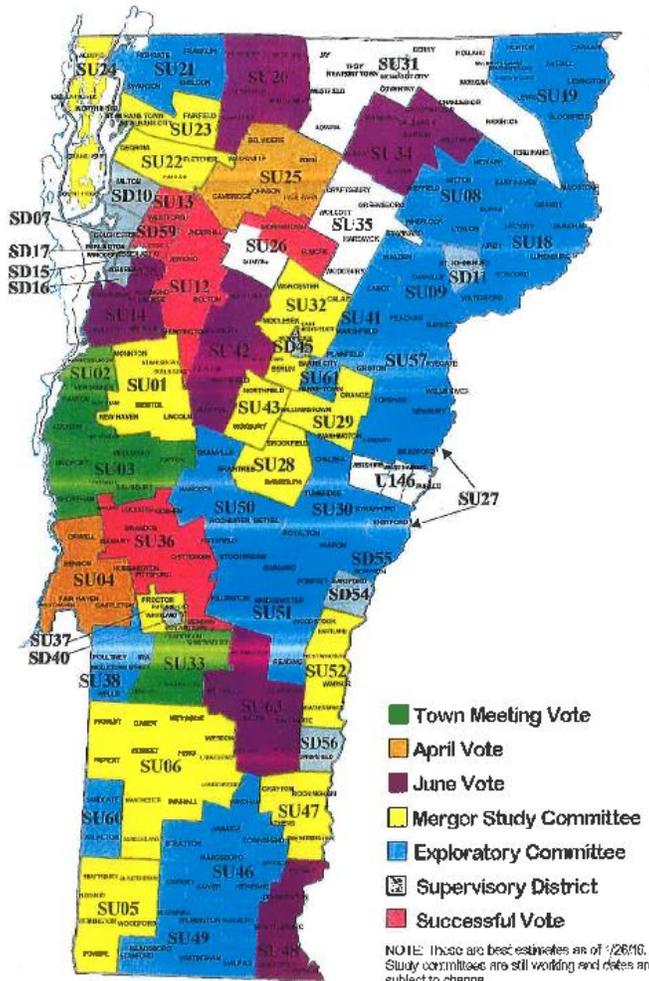
Act 46:

VSA Communication: As you have likely read and heard, the House met in a middle of the night session Saturday at 12:01 A.M. After relatively little debate, the members voted 92-32 to concur with the Senate's proposal of further amendment to S.233. The Governor signed the bill on Saturday.

The bill in its final form:

- Increases a district's original allowable growth percentage by an additional 0.9 percentage points – this will increase the per pupil amount any district can spend before exceeding its threshold.
- Exempts from the thresholds any district with FY2016 education spending per equalized pupil below the FY2016 statewide average education spending per equalized pupil. The FY2016 per pupil figure is **\$14,094.73**.
- Directs the Agency of Education to use the threshold calculation that is most advantageous between the two figures issued by the Agency: the number released in August or the adjusted figures released last week.
- Changes the penalty for any district exceeding its allowable growth threshold to 40 percent of the excess (i.e., if a district exceeds its per pupil threshold by \$100, \$40 will be added to the actual per pupil spending prior to calculating the homestead tax rate).
- **Repeals the thresholds for FY2018.**

Here is a map of Act 46 activities across Vermont, as of January 27, 2016:



Integrated Field Review Pilot:

On January 19, 2016 GISU received correspondence from the Vermont Agency of Education that “due to the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act” (ESSA), the AoE is unable to dedicate the time to complete the State Planning Report for ESSA and also continue with the Integrated Field Review Pilot Project. This is now scheduled for the fall and winter of the 2016 – 2017 school year.

Special Education:

The GISU would like to welcome a new Speech and Language Pathologist, Carissa Hallam, to the SU. Carissa begins her new position at Grand Isle School on February 3, 2016. Carissa has over eight years of experience in school based settings and extensive experience across all areas of speech and language acquisition, assessment, communication and treatment. She received her Master of Science from Eastern Illinois University and comes to us from the Ogle County Education Cooperative in Byron, Illinois. We are very fortunate to have found such a bright and experienced SLP to join our SU.

Special Education News:

The Vermont Counsel of Special Education Administrators (VCSEA) 2016 Legislative Priorities will be:

1. Funding Structures to support the Multi-Tiered of Supports
2. Models of Service Delivery
3. Mental Health Service for Children and Families

If you would like more information on the VCSEA and their priorities please contact Beth Hemingway-Director of Student Support Services for GISU.

Preschool-Act 166:

School board members are encouraged to read Act 166 as full implementation starts July 1, 2016. A school board has already received a request to have a child attend a prequalified preschool program outside their school district. We do not have an approved region and parents/guardians can request placement outside of the school district and supervisory union. Local policies will need to be updated to reflect the new rules.

SWIFT (Schoolwide Integration Framework for Transformation):

Individual schools have been working on continued improvement in their Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Systems. Each school’s leadership teams have prioritized their individual needs. The SWIFT Center Technical Assistance will be having Dawn Miller come and support schools on their priorities. Dawn Miller, Ph.D., currently serves as the Innovative Projects Facilitator for the Shawnee Mission Public Schools. In this role, Dr. Miller serves as a district team member leading planning, staff development, implementation, and evaluation for response-to-intervention efforts around academic and behavior supports. Prior to joining Shawnee Mission, Dr. Miller served as a project director for statewide implementation of the problem-solving process and developing a tiered system of support for literacy. As part of the statewide efforts, Dr. Miller was involved with a statewide committee which led state regulation changes regarding child find and eligibility and has helped to translate these changes into district procedural changes linked to the School Improvement Process. Dr. Miller has applied her skills to work as a special education teacher, a school psychologist, adjunct faculty member for administrative programs in Kansas, and district and building consultant/trainer. She has authored or coauthored published work regarding the problem-solving process, assessing written language, and family communication and involvement.

Each school will be taking part in the FIT (Fidelity Implementation Tool) that measures how individual schools are doing at implementing the 5 SWIFT Domains and Features. These will be completed prior to April break.

Business Office:

GISU Business Manager, Lynne Carpenter, created this “Budget Cheat Sheet” for general budget information and questions.

GRAND ISLE SUPERVISORY UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGETS FY 2014 - FY 2017 PROPOSED

	FY 2017 Alburgh	FY 2017 Isle LaMotte	FY 2017 North Hero	FY 2017 Grand Isle	FY 2017 South Hero
Proposed Budget	6,010,248	1,206,327	1,634,963	5,357,400	3,485,703
Local Revenues*	1,414,392	322,863	314,447	909,560	580,244
Ed. Spending	4,595,856	883,464	1,320,516	4,447,840	2,905,460
Equalized Per Pupil Spending	14,991.49	15,714.41	13,948.62	15,404.84	14,308.96
Equalized Pupils	306.36	56.22	94.67	288.73	194.91
% Increase in Per Pupil	1.31%	1.06%	-4.00%	-1.27%	2.02%
	FY 2016 Alburgh	FY 2016 Isle LaMotte	FY 2016 North Hero	FY 2016 Grand Isle	FY 2016 South Hero
Budget	5,386,420	1,166,367	1,620,998	5,175,401	3,424,805
Local Revenues	771,464	272,111	262,217	512,967	469,286
Ed. Spending	4,614,956	894,256	1,358,381	4,662,434	2,955,519
Equalized Per Pupil	14,797.00	15,549.57	14,529.69	15,603.34	14,026.00
Equalized Pupils	311.89	57.51	93.49	298.81	201.98
% Increase in Per Pupil	5.82%	-15.18%	0.21%	5.72%	5.02%
	FY 2015 Alburgh	FY 2015 Isle LaMotte	FY 2015 North Hero	FY 2015 Grand Isle	FY 2015 South Hero
Budget	5,305,513	1,327,719	1,609,866	5,190,950	3,239,616
Local Revenues	1,061,110	235,128	248,803	716,761	444,043
Ed. Spending	4,244,403	1,092,591	1,361,063	4,474,189	2,795,573
Equalized Per Pupil	13,983.00	18,332.06	14,499.45	14,759.00	13,356.14
Equalized Pupils	303.53	59.60	93.87	303.15	209.31
% Increase in Per Pupil	6.33%	43.80%	2.17%	19.11%	10.59%
	FY 2014 Alburgh	FY 2014 Isle LaMotte	FY 2014 North Hero	FY 2014 Grand Isle	FY 2014 South Hero
Budget	5,066,193	1,180,079	1,694,999	5,035,232	3,190,214
Local Revenues	1,153,024	392,749	318,609	1,198,577	570,733
Ed. Spending	3,913,159	787,330	1,376,390	3,836,655	2,619,481
Equalized Per Pupil	13,150.86	12,748.22	14,191.05	12,391.00	12,076.91
Equalized Pupils	297.56	61.76	96.99	309.64	216.90
*FY 17 Local Revenues include the following Surpluses:	415,216	69,638	14,878	172,541	120,330