

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

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Superintendent's Report

March 1, 2016

Celebrations:

Eleanor Wallace-Brodeur, a kindergarten student in Molly Terrien's class at Grand Isle School, has been awarded the role of *Champion Ambassador for Vermont's Children Miracle Network Hospital*. This is truly an honor for Eleanor. The Champion is nominated by staff at the Vermont Children's Hospital. In her role as "Champion", Eleanor will be speaking for *all the children* who are cared for at the Vermont Children's Hospital and sharing her experiences there. According to Eleanor's mother, Rachel Wallace-Brodeur, Eleanor has spent a lot of time in and at the hospital due to her diabetes and leukemia. Eleanor will be the Champion for one year and will be traveling locally and nationally on behalf of the Miracle Network. We are very proud of Eleanor and her entire family. Thank you, Eleanor!

Kathleen Cramer, Alburgh Guidance Counselor and current board member of The Vermont School Counselor Association (VTSCA), has an article published in the latest edition of *Vermont School Counselor Magazine*, "How Violence Affects Students". Congratulations, Kathleen.

The Isle La Motte School has been awarded LIREC Grant (Literacy Intervention in Rural Education through Collaboration) for the 2016-2017 school year. The LIREC project, which is funded by the US Department of Education, is working with 17 schools to promote professional collaboration on instructional practices and to increase student engagement and motivation with reading. The grant amount is \$20,000. Congratulations, ILM School.

Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction:

Kerry Sewell, Interim Director of Curriculum & Assessment, met with principals to determine the testing dates for districts participation in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium tests (SBAC). The dates by district are:

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.

High School Enrollment: See attached, updated spreadsheet (2/26/16)

Leadership SWIFT Quarterly Meeting:

The GISU Leadership Team will be attending day long SWIFT meeting on March 16th. Objectives for the day:

1. Reflect on the current status of a high priority systemic practice.
2. Create a plan to advance the implementation of a high priority systemic practice.
3. Understand how to leverage the plans in the Consolidated Federal Programs process.

Inside the newly reauthorized version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA, formerly No Child Left Behind)- An article from Education Week, February 24, 2016 related to Universal Design for Learning or UDL: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2016/02/24/essa-spotlights-strategy-to-reach-diverse-learners.html>

Special Education Expenditure Reports for the period ending February 29, 2016 are due to the Agency of Education by March 15, 2016. The expenditure reports each school district special education spending.

The Special Education Expenditure Report serves the following purposes:

- (1) Provides a summary of special education costs for the fiscal year through the end of the reporting period for each reporting entity;
- (2) shows the expenditures for specific grants to eliminate costs covered by grant sources from amount eligible for State formula reimbursement; reports the amount of Mainstream Block Grant and EEE Grant used and reports expenditures on Regional I-Team Consultant grants so that grant payments can be made;
- (3) reports the costs that are eligible for special education expenditures reimbursement for the reporting entity apportioned to the member school districts so that reimbursement can be calculated ;
- (4) provides, at the end of the year, information on the costs of special education students who are residentially placed at school district expense;
- (5) bills the State for reimbursement for special education costs incurred in providing IEP services to State-Placed students so that reimbursement can be calculated ; and
- (6) provides information on special education costs for students that qualify for extraordinary reimbursement so that reimbursement can be calculated.

IDEA-B Grant Amendments must be received by April 1, 2016. The IDEA-B Grant is the Federal Funds received based on child count (students eligible for special education services). The Grand Isle Supervisory Union Board will meet in June to approve the FY17 plan.

Supplemental to IDEA-B Local Education Agency Plan for FY 2016:

In order for a supervisory union to be eligible to use IDEA-B funds, it must spend the average per pupil expenditures for the special education students from State and local funds during the grant fiscal year. Only the amount in excess of the average per pupil spending amount used for providing special education and related services to children with disabilities may be charged to IDEA-B funds. In order to make this assurance, first the supervisory union needs to calculate the average per pupil expenditures for all students. The calculation applies to elementary and secondary students as those terms are defined in Vermont law which includes students from Kindergarten through 12th grade. The supervisory union must calculate the minimum expenditure amount for the elementary and secondary students based on the most recent year's information (FY-2016).

Business Office Audit Update:

Lynne has approved the first round of all fund based audits (fund based do not include government-wide statements) except for the GISU which has still not been received. She has emailed and called Angolano & Co. repeatedly, asking about the estimated time of arrival for the GISU audit however; was told that though they are aware of the Vermont Agency of Education's deadline for receipt of the final audit report by March 31, 2016, and could offer no definitive date.

The next step in the audit process is for the auditors to add the government wide statements and send them back for Lynne to write the Management Discussion and Analysis (i.e. the explanations of why things are the way they are and our plan for improvement if needed).

Budget Season Analysis:

The Legislature did us no favors this year with all of the constantly moving budgetary targets, right up until the last moment boards could possibly warn local budgets. That aside, we felt that things went well and have many plans for improving the process in the future. The communication between the Business Office and Principals was particularly well executed. Each Principal received a spreadsheet at the beginning of budget season with the accounts that they have "control over" for updates and input, and they were very responsive returning the necessary information. Board level budget meetings were well facilitated by board chairs and Lynne was able to work with board requests and prepare invited scenarios that we hope were helpful. A personal note from Lynne- *"Some of my challenges stemmed from what seemed like an overwhelming volume of work to be done and a multitude of meetings to attend. I think this is the case for the first year in a new place for anyone with six budgets to manage. The good news going forward is that I now know what to expect, and most of the initial set-up is complete. I have also learned that there are many very nice veteran business managers in Vermont that I will turn to for support as needed. I would welcome any feedback you have to make this process better and easier going forward."*

March work to be done:

Special Ed Expenditure Reports are due March 15th.

Audits are due to the Agency of Education by March 31st – See above.

Audit Management Discussion and Analysis needs to be written for all 6 reporting entities.

Audit Requests for Proposal are going out this first week of March.

Food service reports are due to the Agency of Education, Department of Nutrition.

Budget to Actuals – more attention will be on encumbrances now that we are nearing year-end.

A note will go to schools giving them a deadline for spending for FY 2016.

Federal Grants reporting are ongoing and a Full Federal Grants Audit is scheduled for March 29th.

As usual, payroll needs to be done, payables need to be paid and payroll reporting is due to the state on March 31st.

Other Important Dates:

March 15th and 22nd: Act 46 Committee Meetings, South Hero on the 15th and Grand Isle on the 22nd

March 23 at 7:00 PM: GISU Board Meeting at North Hero School

March 11 & 28: Local & District Wide In-service Days