

Grand Isle Supervisory Union

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Superintendent's Report September, 2016

WELCOME: NEW STAFF

Sarah Ricard	Elementary Teacher	Alburgh
TBH	Library Media Specialist	Alburgh
Erin Oliver	K-8 Math Specialist	Grand Isle
Erin Potvin	Behavioral Interventionist	Grand Isle
Coori Sellers	School Counselor	Grand Isle
Cynthia Walker	EEE Para-Educator	Grand Isle
Suzanne Blain	Art Teacher	Isle La Motte
Frank Langr	Music Teacher	Isle La Motte
Marjorie Nyland-Funke	School Counselor	Isle La Motte
Sera Hyjek	Elementary Teacher	North Hero
Lincoln Martin	LT Sub for Physical Education	North Hero
Dorothy Niss	Library Media Specialist	North Hero
Hannah Pelkey	Elementary Teacher	North Hero
Julia Augustino	Instructional Assistant	South Hero
Leonard Badeau	Principal	South Hero
Jamie Bedard	Art Teacher	South Hero
Megan Bessette	Elementary Teacher	South Hero
Samantha Cantell	Science Teacher	South Hero
Ariana Middlemiss	Food Service Manager	South Hero
Thomas Nolan	MS Humanities Teacher	South Hero
Terry Seekamp	Home School / PBIS Coord.	South Hero
Kay Shutt	Instructional Assistant	South Hero
Carol Egan	Special Educator	GISU (North Hero)
Megan Grube	Director C.A.&T.	GISU
Deborah King	Title I Interventionist	GISU (Isle La Motte)
Thomas Maclay	Physical Therapist	GISU
Angela Voerman	School Nurse Leader	GISU

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING:

Monday's SU-Wide in-service was a success! We were so excited to welcome back all faculty and staff. The focus of the SU-Wide in-service was to situate all GISU staff in the current state of our SU and talk about where we are going this year and beyond. All staff learned about our top three priorities and what we are doing to make and measure progress.

- 1) Continue to build and refine our Multi-Tiered System of Supports Model.
- 2) Strengthen our assessments and use data-based decision making to support decision making at all levels of the SU.
- 3) Continue to strengthen Family and Community partnerships.

Particularly exciting, is that we rolled out a new way to deliver on-going professional learning to all staff. In years past, teachers stated that either there were not enough opportunities for them to engage in professional learning, or there were conflicting trainings that caused folks to miss out on essential trainings. Taking this feedback and more, reflecting on our priorities and goals, and leveraging our common faculty meeting day (Tuesdays) the principals and SU leadership designed a cohort based professional learning delivery plan. There will be five cohorts focusing on different areas that are considered to be essential for all staff, not just teaching staff. The cohorts are:

Data Literacy (Megan Grube and Lenny Badeau)

The purpose of this cohort is to help teachers understand the different types of data that are used for decision-making within an MTSS framework. The main focus of this group is how to use data to inform instructional decisions such as differentiation, instructional groupings, accelerating or slowing down instruction and selection of instructional practices.

Trauma-Informed Instruction (NFI, Barbara Burrington, and Tom Tregan)

The number of students experiencing persistent trauma in the state and our SU is rising dramatically. In order to ensure that all students who walk through our doors feel secure enough to learn, GISU has contracted with NFI to focus on trauma-informed practices in an effort to become a trauma-informed district through sustained implementation of practices for students, adults and families experiencing trauma.

Proficiency-Based Practices and Assessments (Joe Restighini)

Vermont is moving towards Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements (PBGRs) rather than the traditional grading system of credits for seat time. The high schools we send our students to are all in the process of transitioning to a proficiency based grading systems and we need to prepare our students and families for this transition. In addition, proficiency based grading allows teachers to more fully understand where students are performing on the continuum of learning.

Universal Design for Learning (Eric Arnzen, Annie Brabazon & Charlie Farrell)

Universal Design for Learning is a framework for designing and delivering high-quality and accessible instruction to all students regardless of ability or disability. By providing students with multiple means of engagement, representation and action and expression, teachers remove barriers to instruction and create classroom communities where all students can learn, achieve, and engage in curriculum at a high level.

Co-teaching (Beth Hemingway and Jim Ross)

The purpose of this cohort is for teachers and teams of teachers to learn about different, research based strategies for co-teaching. Co-teaching is when a general education teacher and a special educator collaborate and teach a group of students together leveraging each learner’s strengths and expertise.

Finally, we anticipate that the Agency of Education will release the official state averages soon as well as the official school by school results. Once those have been released, I will share how we compare to the rest of the state.

FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE:

Our auditors are here this week, August 29 – September 1, as well as additional days throughout the month, and have begun the audit fieldwork. Audit work will take up a lot of our business office hours during the entire month of September. This means that we will have our audits in time for them to be useful in the budgeting process. Randall Northrop, our new auditor, will be attending the GISU September Board meeting on September 7.

We will begin sending out budget sheets for principals to use to prepare the parts of the budgets that they have control over. As always, salaries and benefits will be prepared at the SU Central Office.

We will have the draft GISU budget completed for presentation to the GISU board in October.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Labor Day (no school):	September 5
ACT 46 Meeting	September 7 at GI, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
GISU Board Meeting:	September 14 at NH, 6:00 PM
½ Day PD for Teachers:	September 30