

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

April 3, 2017

GISU Board Update:

The SU board met on March 23rd. The board welcomed many new representatives from the districts and elected new officers as follows:

Andy Julow, Chair

Louise Koss, Vice-Chair

Judith Wimble, Board Clerk.

The board reviewed the GISU Tech Audit (final version) which is attached.

The board heard a presentation by Megan Grube and me, summarizing the outcome of the SU's Integrated Field Review by the Vermont Agency of Education. A copy of our PowerPoint presentation is also attached.

The 2017 – 2018 School calendar was reviewed and is also attached.

The next meeting of the SU Board is scheduled for Wednesday, June 6 at 6PM at the North Hero School.

CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT:

On March 22nd, the Administrative Team, in partnership with our state coordinator and SWIFT facilitator, completed our second District Capacity Assessment (DCA). The Admin Team completed this last year and it was through this tool that we discovered and named our big three SU goals. This year we focused our attention on implementation of intervention block. As you know, all five schools committed to scheduling a 30 minute intervention block 5 days a week this year. Through the DCA we discovered that we are very close to formalizing and sustaining this practice with some concentrated focus on long-term planning, communication, and on-going professional learning. Relatedly, I updated our SWIFT grant budget to increase funds supporting the piloting and purchase of Tier I and Tier II intervention materials and programs.

April 21st is our last whole SU in-service. We are excited to have Dave Melnick from NFI with us again for a portion of our day. At our August and January in-services, the focus was on building our knowledge of the impact trauma has on children, their brains and their learning. This session will focus on practicing the strategies that work best with students when they are having a traumatic response to their environment.

Adding these tools to teachers' toolboxes will allow our entire SU to be able to be more proactive and empathetically responsive to all of our students.

Early Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Grant

One of our community partnership preschool programs, Learning Adventure, was accepted to enter into an agreement with the Vermont Agency of Education in June of 2016. For the next five years they will receive coaching, five years of funding (projected) and training. They began the coaching process in October of 2016, began professional development in the model in December of 2016 and have just finished their fourth class (totaling 9 hours). They will finish this year with another 6 hours. Next year, Learning Adventure will complete training in the last module with another 9 hours. Per the grant, a leadership team was created and began meeting monthly January 2017. Along with representatives from the Learning Adventure and the communities they serve, this team includes Beth Hemingway (Director of Student Support), Saunie Williams (Early Education SLP), Nathan Robinson (school board member from GI and CIUUSD) and me.

Attached is an overview of the project from the Vermont AoE.

SPECIAL EDUCATION:

Special Education Expenditure Reports for the period ending February 29, 2017 were due to the Agency of Education by March 15, 2017. The expenditure reports account for 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, 2017. The IDEA-B Grant is the Federal Funds received based on child count (students eligible for special education services). The GISU submitted an amendments on time to the Agency of Education.

Supplemental to IDEA-B Local Education Agency Plan for FY 2017

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-2017).

Grand Isle Supervisory Union Truancy Update:

The GISU Truancy Protocol/Procedure has been implemented throughout the current school year. The GISU Truancy Officer has delivered approximately 25 letters to parents/guardians of students in grades 1st-12th this school year. Currently there are 4 Truancy Hearings occurring at the North Hero Courthouse. There are 2 pending affidavits that will be submitted to the State's Attorney. We thank the Grand Isle Sheriff's Department and Doug DiSabito the Grand Isle State's Attorney in their collaboration to reduce truancy issues with our students.

HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT UPDATE:

Please see attached.

BUSINESS OFFICE

The business office will be submitting third quarter grant reports to the AOE, meeting with principals and administrative assistants to work on correcting audit findings, submitting final budget reports to AOE, submitting insurance reports to VSBIT, hiring and training a new payroll administrator, writing an RFP for copiers.

IMPORTANT DATES:

April 21 GISU Inservice, No School
April 24-28 Spring Recess, No School

ATTACHEMENTS:

Final Tech Audit Report
Integrated Field Review PowerPoint
Early MTSS Grant Overview
High School Enrollment from March 1
17-18 SU School Calendar