

Grand Isle Supervisory Union
Meeting Thursday, March 23, 2017
At North Hero School

Present:

Carol Miller, Grand Isle
Nathan Robinson, Grand Isle
Michael Savage, Alburgh
Ginni Wright, Alburgh
Dave Davis, North Hero
Louise Koss, Isle La Motte
Jane Zera, Isle La Motte
Bridget Timms, North Hero
Bentley Vaughan, South Hero
Melanie Henderson, South Hero
Mason Maltais, North Hero
Andy Julow, CIUUSD
Barbara Burrington, Superintendent
Beth Hemingway, Dir. Of Student Support Services
Megan Grube, Curriculum Coord. (a. 6:15 p.m.)

Meeting called to order by Barbara Burrington at 6:03 p.m.

Barbara Burrington asked for nominations for GISU Board Chair. Dave Davis nominated Andy Julow. Second by Michael Savage. Jane Zera nominated Louise Koss. No second. Having no discussion, a vote took place. All in favor of nominating Andy Julow.

Andy Julow asked for nominations for GISU Board Vice-Chair. Andy Julow nominated Louise Koss. Second by Michael Savage. No other nominations. All in favor of nominating Louise Koss.

Andy Julow asked for nominations for GISU Board Clerk. Bridget Timms nominated Judith Wimble. Second by Michael Savage. No other nominations. All in favor of Judith Wimble.

Truancy officer will be the Sheriff's Office.

Adjustment of Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes of November 29, 2016: Tabled until next meeting

Comments & Questions From the Public Regarding Items Not on the Agenda: None

Authorize the Supervisory Union to Accept Grants, To Administer, and To Act As The Representative Of All Member School Districts: So moved by Louise Koss; second by Michael Savage. Bentley Vaughan asked for some clarification on this topic. Short discussion took place. All in favor.

2017-2018 Calendar: Barbara Burrington walked the board through the calendar. There are 180 student days and 188 teacher days (including 8 in-service days). Other items discussed:

- *New teacher orientation day on 8/23/17
- *Dark orange colored days are district in-service days
- *Bright yellow colored days are local in-service days
- *First day of school is 8/29/17 – we got a waiver to start school on this day
- *Blue colored days are school breaks and holidays
- *Red colored days are ½ day teacher professional development days
- *10/19 and 3/30 are required tech in-service days
- *One change this year is that schools will be closed the whole week of Thanksgiving
- *December, February and April breaks are consistent with other districts
- *11/3 and 2/9 will be full day parent/teacher conference days. It did not seem effective to have 2 ½ days last year
- *June 14, 2018 is the projected last day of school

Tech Audit: Barbara Burrington introduced Megan Grube, Curriculum Coordinator. Megan provided the board with a handout conducted by Kerry Sewell. It covers such topics as Context, Background, Process, Findings and Recommendations. Megan Grube summarized the Recommendations with the subtopics of Vision and Planning, Infrastructure, Personnel and Instruction and Professional Development. Megan also provided the board with two handouts regarding two new committees that will be formed at GISU – GISU Technology Committee and The Curriculum and Professional Learning Leadership Team. Each handout described the purpose, membership and time commitment for each committee.

Integrated Field Review: Barbara Burrington and Megan Grube presented. GISU volunteered to be part of the pilot study. There were 12 people on the team, with every school being represented. The Integrated Field Review had 5 subtopics, with Commendations, Recommendations and Current State (this section was written by Barbara Burrington and Megan Grube).

Academic Proficiency:

Commendations:

1. GISU has prioritized and is actively working towards a coordinated curriculum
2. GISU has adopted a calendar of SU-wide assessments, supporting coordination, transparency and equity

Recommendations:

1. GISU might benefit from pairing curriculum coordination with consistent practices regarding the displaying and communication of learning expectations
2. In the spirit of further growth towards equity and transparency, GISU should consider an SU-wide, proficiency-based report card

Current State:

1. As we build out our MTSS framework, we have and will have an increased focus on best first instruction. The Administrative team, as well as the curriculum leadership being formed, will select high impact instructional strategies that all teachers will employ
2. Proficiency-based grading and reporting is the focus of one of our SU cohorts and is a top priority for the curriculum leadership team to develop
3. There are 18 allowable expenses under ESSA that will shift the way we create our investments

Personalization:**Commendations:**

1. All GISU schools have implemented some form of tiered academic interventions, with some opportunities for enrichment during "flex" periods
2. Many stakeholders report a personalized approach to meeting student needs and fostering student interests, including early steps towards personalized learning plans

Recommendations:

1. GISU should consider increasing staff and student knowledge concerning the use of technology in instruction and learning
2. GISU may want to explore formalizing its MTSS framework across buildings, including systems for progress monitoring and data-driven decision-making

Current State:

1. One of the focus areas for the SU Tech Committee will be researching and creating proposals around the meaningful integration of education technology. We have started to look at tech integration/use in intervention blocks this year. To that end we have SWIFT grant funds for pilot programs/materials
2. We are proud of the commendation around MTSS as this has been a primary focus of our systems and structures work this year. On 3/22/17 the administrative team completed a District Capacity Assessment specific to the current status of intervention block status and ongoing development
3. Part of formalizing MTSS includes looking into a new data management system, researching and purchasing research based intervention programs, assessments and progress monitors. This is work happening in cohorts, at the Administrative team level and across the two committees that will form

Safe, Healthy Schools**Commendations:**

1. GISU stakeholders interviewed report a school culture that emphasizes shared responsibility for all students and fosters the well-being of the whole child
2. GISU parents interviewed report being pleased with school-level communication and the responsiveness of staff

Recommendations:

1. GISU should consider formalizing the implementation of PBIS in schools that have adopted this approach
2. GISU should consider increased SU-level communication with families

Current State:

1. GISU received coaching funds for PBIS coaches to help schools with their implementation of PBIS
2. There has been some preliminary discussion of having an SU level PBIS team where each school's coordinator can discuss what is going well and what their school is struggling to implement
3. Part of the work of the tech committee will be to redesign the website, choose a platform with parent portals, and design social media PR
4. We plan to find out from families what sort of SU-level communication is desired and the best ways to deliver the information, including the improvement of the SU web site

High Quality Staffing

Commendations:

1. GISU has adopted an SU-wide cohort model for professional development, enabling a degree of individualized, need-based professional learning and coordination of practices
2. Staff report that Central Office leadership is providing positive momentum to GISU

Recommendations:

1. GISU should explore new ways to recruit and retain staff and remain mindful of the demands that understaffing places on current employees
2. GISU should develop a consistent, transparent schedule for formal evaluations of administrative staff

Current State:

1. Our goal of developing an internal coaching service deliver plan will address the first recommendation by creating a career pathway for our most skillful teachers
2. This year we began to do 360 reviews of administrative staff to inform personal growth goals. This process will continue with 360 principal coaching sessions and more aspects of the 360 next year

Financial Efficiencies

Commendations:

1. GISU demonstrates a commitment to fiscal responsibility and the optimization of resources through consolidation and efforts to control spending and debt
2. GISU provides readily accessible technology devices and uses available space creatively

Recommendations:

1. GISU would benefit from exploring new strategies for providing more equitable access to social-emotional support staff and balancing classroom staffing ratios
2. GISU would benefit from increasing the quality of internet access in some locations, leading to greater equity in student experiences with technology

Current State:

1. With the formation of the Champlain Islands School District we will be looking at resource allocation and reallocation according to student needs. This work will be informed by the District Management Group
2. The Tech Committee will work on problem solving and resolving all connectivity issues

There will be additional field reviews in 2018 and 2019.

Louise Koss asked if the Executive Committee should be formed to discuss Central Office contracts. She pointed out that it would be much easier to get the Executive Committee together, rather than the entire GISU Board. Barbara Burrington advised that contracts have been sent to Pietro Lynn to review. They are looking to standardize contracts. Louise Koss moved to authorize the Executive Committee to meet and discuss Central Office contracts. Second by Carol Miller. All in favor. Individual boards will need to discuss and decide who their representative will be on the Executive Committee.

Executive Session if Needed: Not needed

Set Date, Time & Location For Next Meeting: June 7, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at North Hero School
Motion by Michael Savage to adjourn. Second by Dave Davis. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.