

Co-Principals' Report to the BMU School Board
March 3, 2021

- I. Congratulations to Julie Gandin for receiving the 2021 Vermont School Counselors Association Lifetime Achievement Award! The award was presented to Mrs. Gandin at a BMU virtual staff meeting on February 1, 2021. In addition to the BMU staff and representatives from the Vermont School Counselors Association, we were able to surprise Mrs. Gandin by having her family present (via Zoom) when she was presented with the award.



- II. Winter Local Assessment Report

Due to the 2 weeks of remote learning (step 1) prior to the February break, we have made the decision to extend the administration window of the STAR Reading and STAR Math Assessments until **Friday, March 19, 2021**. This will allow the teachers in grades three through eight enough time to continue with the administration of the winter local assessments for these grades. We will present our data report as part of our April Co-Principals' Report to the Board.

- III. Responses to the Board's questions.

Angeline Alley sent us a list of questions from our last Co-Principals' Report. Responses were sent to Angeline. We wanted to include the questions and responses as part of this month's report.

The board was excited to see the new course offerings and the type of course offerings!

The concern was staffing, how will the courses be staffed, are we hiring new staff? We will not need to hire new staff. We can offer these classes with existing staff. Some of the courses at the high school level are on every other year rotations (for example, SNHU History, SNHU Intro to Sociology, Intro to Cal. vs. Statistics, etc.) so we are able to use current staff and not have to hire any additional staff. When Dawn and I (John Barone) meet with the high school teachers to talk about scheduling for the next year, we look at the cohort of students by grade levels and the rotation of classes and try to match the needs of the students in each grade level with the courses to be offered.

Is there a curriculum for these new courses? The curriculum for the new courses is being developed and must be approved by me (and for SNHU courses by SNHU) prior to the start of the next school year. SNHU Intro. to Sociology is done. We were going to offer the course this year, but it did not fit into the teacher's schedule and there was not enough of a student demand, so we decided to wait a year.

With Mrs Blanchard taking on the master schedule, there was some concern about her helping with college prep and SAT courses. Scheduling has been under the Director of Guidance in the past. I took it on when Mrs. French was in the position of .5 Guidance and .5 Health teacher. I am working very closely with Mrs. Blanchard and giving final approval to all decisions - such as the layout of the master schedule matrix, the curriculum for new courses, the Program of Studies, etc. However, I believe the actual scheduling of students and oversight of their credits should be with the HS counselor.

Where are we hiring a spanish teacher.. We are not going to hire a Spanish teacher. Kimberly French is working on her Level 1 license (she is currently on a provisional and meets with the Vt. Peer Review Panel this Spring). Mrs. French will teach Intro to Languages, Spanish 1 and Spanish 2 next year (as well as MS Health - Casey R will take over the HS Health classes - she has certification in both PE and Health). I will do the Advanced Spanish class next year.

Last but certainly not least; has anyone from the current kitchen staff discussed filling Dena's role? No one from the Kitchen staff has come forward and said anything to either of us (co-principals) about taking over for Dena.

- IV. Remote Wednesdays: On February 3rd, our COVID-19 Planning Team met to discuss whether we should keep remote Wednesdays or consider bringing students back for 5 days in-person, beginning March 29th (for the 4th quarter). **The team made the decision to continue with Remote Wednesdays for the remainder of this school year.** Below, you will find some of the information presented from a variety of team members:
- A. *"Looking at attendance, there are only 7 students absent today (Wednesday), which is no different from any other day."*
 - B. *"POA data - overall it is similar to what we see in our Winter scores other years. Overall there are things kids need to work on. COVID in general has impacted our kids/progress overall."*
 - C. *"It is a nice mask break for kids and adults. It does seem to help with the times we have to go back to Step 1. The kids are ready to get to work. There is screen fatigue. But, they are used to how Zoom works."*
 - D. *"We have established routines and schedules for families and students. We did ask at the beginning of the year if this schedule was going to stay the same and we were told that, yes, the schedule would stay the same."*
 - E. *"Sounds like we are seeing progress. I worry about the transition if we have to go back to remote. I worry if we take this away completely."*
 - F. *"Attendance data supports continuing with remote Wednesdays."*

G. *“Fall data suggests that we had a problem (POA, STAR). And that there was a high level of regression from the following winter. So far, for the Winter data, the STAR Reading and STAR Math data show good progress. This data shows that progress is being made.”*

V. Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences

BMU will be holding Parent/Teacher conferences for the spring semester. The focus weeks for conferences to be held are the week of March 29th and the week of April 5th.

For Grades PreK through 4: Teachers will set up parent/teacher conferences for all of their students via individual Zoom meetings.

For Grades 5, 6, & 7: Teachers will set up parent/teacher conferences for all of their students via individual Zoom meetings. 8th grade parent/teacher conferences will happen on Wednesday, May 19th from 1:00pm - 6:00pm as part of the 8th Grade Exit Process.

For Grades 9-12: All parents are to be invited to schedule a parent/teacher conference. The emphasis shall be on students who have current grade in any high school class of D+ or below and/or for a student who is in jeopardy of failing a class for the year OR failing a class that is needed for graduation.

Teachers are required to schedule/plan for a total of 8 hours of conferences (the equivalent of one work day). Conferences to be held during the week of March 29th and/or the week of April 5th.

John and Scott will send out a communication to parents when we get back from break.