



Date: March 5, 2025

To: Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee of the Granby Board of Education

From: Jennifer M. Parsons, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Subject: March Monthly Update

Professional Learning

On Friday March 7th Granby Staff will convene for their second to last full day of professional learning this year. In the morning our K-12 Vertical teams will meet. In these teams, teachers spanning all grades in a single content area come together to discuss content specific topics including curriculum development, best instructional practices and developments in the field. Teachers will then gather with their buildings in the late morning and cover topics related to building achievement goals including restorative practices and social emotional learning. Lastly, the day will conclude with a self directed learning session related to the yearly professional goals that staff set through the new teacher evaluation and support plan. The plan for this day is created with the Educator Development Committee and District Leadership Team.

Continuing Work with Open Choice

As we prepare for the upcoming year we are also working on our recruiting of Open Choice participants. Our Family Engagement Specialist is the main point of contact, attending recruiting fairs and monitoring applications. This year placement of siblings and Open Choice Only applicants will begin in mid March, earlier than in past years. The district aims to recruit ten students for each class by opening ten Kindergarten seats each year. These have been harder to fill in recent years since the pandemic and so we reopen seats at the transition year: grades 3, 6, and 9 as space allows to round out our enrollment and participation. Recently, our Family Engagement Specialist accompanied two of our high school Open Choice participants and additional students from Simsbury High School on a trip over President's Weekend to visit Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the Washington D.C. area. We are eagerly awaiting one of our senior's decisions to see if she chooses one of these schools where she has been accepted!

Secondary Scheduling Progress

The Guiding Coalition met again to finalize the committee's recommendation to adopt an eight period day with 30 minute lunch waves built in between periods 5 and 6. This schedule is similar to the existing high school schedule but additional instructional minutes will be allocated to each instructional period through the elimination of the dedicated Thursday morning PLC and the lunch study block that was added for the logistics of lunch waves. This schedule is also similar to the

existing middle school schedule but will pull lunch out of an assigned period and allow students a full period for additional support and enrichment instead of the 30 minute block that currently exists for AE (academic enrichment). Aligning the school schedules will allow both students and staff to span the two schools without missing instruction. The team will meet one more time in late March to decide which day of the week will house advisory/CREW and what the frequency and model may be for extended learning blocks based on the core schedule established. Course selection is well underway in both buildings!