



Date: February 5, 2025

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

From: Jennifer M. Parsons, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Subject: February Monthly Update

Observations of Teacher Practice and Progress Towards Goals

Evaluators (administrators and department chairs) are finishing up first and second round observations of educator practice. Evaluators are coordinating to observe a range of professional activities from whole group to small group lessons, professional meetings and student meetings. Some of you may even have seen me observing the strings concert last week! Next up are mid year meetings to discuss the progress on observations and towards the educator's yearly goal. Work is well underway to gather feedback on the new system through the Educator Development Committee and through the regular Evaluation and Feedback meetings with the evaluator team. Additionally, staff new to Granby Public Schools this year attended a mid-year gathering last week to hear some inspirational words from our Teacher of the Year and celebrate the halfway point of the year.

Reflecting on Student Assessment Data

Educators are constantly gathering information about their students in all aspects of their learning from academic progress to attendance and engagement data and screenings of social emotional skills. Summative data that shows student learning at certain checkpoints and universal screenings that are normed to national averages are being input into a data management platform called EduClimber. This past month we held two training sessions for key users to learn how to better manipulate data and query information and reports from the system to inform instruction. One of the data points that teams have been closely analyzing is the DESSA data. Teachers answer eight key questions about students in the school setting that help form a profile of students skills in the areas of self awareness, self management, social awareness, social relationships and decision making. This information helps educators develop lessons for both grade levels and groups of students as well as monitor individual student development.

Secondary Scheduling Progress

The Guiding Coalition has met several times and identified the following goals for the 2025-26 school year: Align the bell schedules of both schools to enable more student-centered schedules and prioritize embedding content-specific collaboration time within the school day at both schools to ensure teachers have ample time to collaborate on and prepare rigorous tier 1 instruction. The team

has spent time exploring various shifts to the schedule that would maximize instructional time and academic opportunities. All secondary staff received an overview of the scheduling work at their January Faculty Meetings. The team has decided an eight period day is needed to ensure a breadth of offerings and we are finalizing how that would work with lunch wave options and are running mock schedules to ensure the shifts would help us realize our goals..

Wellness Committee and Events

Our district wellness committee meets four times a year to monitor the implementation of the district wellness policy and reflect on progress in accordance with state and federal regulations. The data gathered is used in our food service audit as the three domains of the committee include food service, nutrition and health and wellness. This year the committee decided to spearhead two initiatives for the community including a districtwide staff wellness afternoon that was held on January 29th and a combined Wells Road/Granby Memorial Middle School field day on May 30th. The wellness afternoon included both a wellness fair with various vendors and services and the ability to sign up for and take two mini-classes ranging from financial planning to packing healthy lunches, and including yoga, aromatherapy and reiki. The afternoon was very well received by staff.