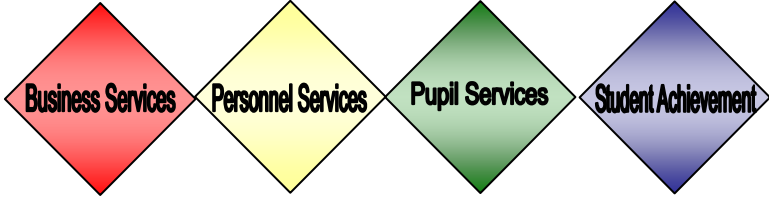




School District of New London



MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Bill Fitzpatrick
District Administrator

Date: August, 2009

Staffing for the 2009-2010 School Year

As I explained in last month's report, staffing for the coming year continues to remain in flux. There continue to be changes in the assignment of staff due to recent resignations. We have also had some discussion in anticipation of the departure of several staff who have been interviewing for other positions. These events may necessitate further changes in assignments.

Elementary Dean of Student Positions Discontinued

In response to the need to make further adjustments to the budget, the Dean of Student positions at Readfield and Sugar Bush elementary schools have been cut.

As you will recall, we added these positions to assist with the transition back to one principal serving the two schools. Based on the number of referrals and the fact that Kristin has had the opportunity to establish her presence at both schools, I believe that the cost benefit associated with the dean positions can no longer be supported.

New Teacher Inservice

New Teacher Inservice is scheduled for Thursday, August 20. We have changed the format in order to more individualize the experience since we will only have five or six new hires. The purpose of the day will be communicate our expectations and to assist them in transitioning to our district. We will also get them started on completing their technology proficiencies. Unlike past years we will not host a luncheon for the new teachers, mentors and Board members. We will simply take them to lunch at one of our local establishments. We will invite them to the September board meeting to introduce them to you.

Start of School

In the next few days, you will be receiving a copy of the communications that I will be sending to staff regarding the start of school. All certified staff will report on Tuesday, August 25, for a full day of training and meetings. Wednesday, August 26, the support staff will arrive for training and to assist with

preparation for the Open House activities at each of the elementary schools and the Middle School later that evening. Thursday is a workday for teachers to complete final preparations for the arrival of students.

All K-8 students will report for school on Tuesday, September 1. Only the freshmen will report on that day as part of their transition to the high school. The 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students will join them on September 2.

Middle School Schedule

We continue to modify the Middle School program for students. These modifications are necessary to maximize the instructional day for students. In doing so, we have deviated from the house structure for some of the related arts classes. This has helped to free up staff to cover a section or two in another building thereby using available staff more efficiently. The current staff assignments seek to increase Language Arts instruction (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) to 90 minutes per day. We have also added additional math for those who are behind in their skill development. These are in response to the board goal of achieving 90% of our students demonstrating proficiency in reading and math.

In the year ahead we will consider getting all schools on a semester set-up with similar time schedules which will allow for sharing of staff between buildings.