



# School District of New London

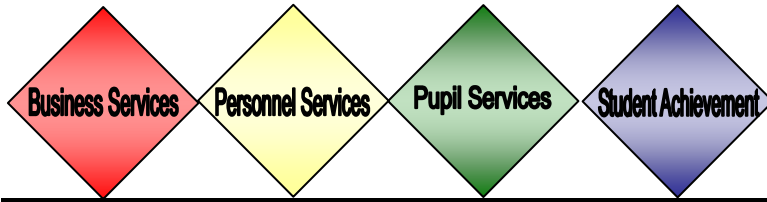
## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Richard Yerkey

Director of Business Services

Date: December 2009



**Phone system for Middle School** – Parts and pieces have been arriving and everything is a go for installation over the holiday break. Preliminary prep work has been on going.

**Readfield computer network link** - The towers are up (Readfield, Floral Hill Water tower and the high school gymnasium roof). Wiring should all be completed by the time of our December meeting.

**Bleachers** – If approved at the December 14 board meeting we hope to have them installed by April 1, 2010.

**Finance** – I'm sure that by now you have all received your 2009 property tax bill as have I. I live in the City of New London, Waupaca County have a property assessed at \$127,300 and my overall tax bill has increased by \$183 or 6.91% over 2008. County, city, and school taxes have all increased but unfortunately the school tax is the largest increase and specifically on my bill \$137 or 75% of the total.

I received a phone call from Mr. Raymond Wosinski of New London expressing his concern for the increase in taxes. While his social security income is not increasing his property tax is. He called me and he plans on calling his State representatives as well.

We're all on the same pages with increasing taxes unfortunately we are mandated to continue to provide all types of programming for students. Even worse the two lines on the graph (State funding which keeps local taxes down and cost) are headed in opposite directions. Cost is going up and funding is headed down.

None of us want to cut programming for our children which then adversely affects our schools and then our community.

In 1993 our legislature implemented what they called revenue limits. Revenue limits set the amount of increase per student that schools were allowed to go up. As part of the revenue limits the State promised to fund 66% of those expenses and the balance

would come from the local taxes. In addition the State instituted what they called the Q.E.O. or qualified economic offer to help regulate wage increases for school professionals.

Well for sixteen years we lived with those regulations and in most years had a tough time staying within the limits. Reason being is that all schools were not spending the same when the rules were set in place. Those districts spending more to start with continued to spend more and get more from the State. Those that started on the low side including New London were held at low spending levels.

For this current school year with revenue limits still in place the State has done away with the Q.E.O. and also, because of their budget problems, has reneged on paying their 66% of the total cost. If they don't contribute their 66% the difference is made up through the local property tax.

So, here we are, spending limits set by the State, salary limitations pulled by the State, and less State funds to support the spending. Most agree that the formula is broken and needs to be replaced but no one has yet figured out with what. In the mean time the taxpayers suffer and the programs serving our students and community will eventually suffer.

Surprisingly enough my school taxes this year after 16 years of State jury rigging is exactly \$29 more than it was in 1992 prior to the start of revenue limits. Funny how that works!

Since I am the business manger for the district I will personally apologize for the increase in taxes but I will never apologize for being a part of providing programs to our children.