

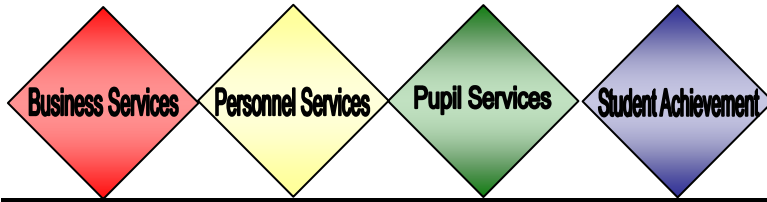


# School District of New London

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Bill Fitzpatrick  
District Administrator  
Date: February 16, 2009



#### **Technology Committee Recommendations**

Last week the Technology Committee received priority reports in the following areas: Technology Replacement Plan; Teacher Competency; Professional Development and Innovation Grants. We will be updating the board on each of these issues at our special meeting in April. Of significance is the work being done with the establishment of teacher competencies. The work related to this priority is based on an initiative currently in practice in Brown Deer. It involves establishing levels of certification expected of all staff as a condition of employment. A subgroup is planning a site visit to Brown Deer in the near future.

#### **Reduction In Force**

As you are aware, we are preparing various scenarios by which staff reductions for next year are being considered. I have placed the issue on the closed meeting agenda for this Monday to discuss. I have drafted a memo to the staff explaining the situation, as we understand it today. I will be sharing the draft document with the Board prior to publication and distribution. In addition to any staff reductions, plans may involve the need for voluntary and/or involuntary transfers for some staff as the factors of seniority and licensure may dictate. It is fair to say that things remain very fluid and may change as conditions change. There are many unknowns that will affect the final decisions. These unknowns range from the level of state support generated by the state budget debates, to the retirement plans of staff, which need to be declared by April 15. We believe that it is necessary to start the process now, as there will be a need for staff training yet this year to accommodate the anticipated changes. We also think that early notice may help those being laid off in exploring their options for the future.

#### **American Recovery & Reinvestment Act**

Last week Rep. Steve Kagen discussed the House version of the economic stimulus package with local school officials. The Senate version of the bill is being debated as I write this. The final legislation will in all likelihood affect the state budget and in return our own school budget. It is another piece to the puzzle that must be factored into the decision making process.

#### **Show Choir**

On Saturday, February 7, the New London High School Show Choir *VISION* hosted their annual competition. This extravaganza is a major fundraising event that generates a substantial revenue stream that supports the travel and costume needs of the group. Ms. Flury and Mrs. Solsarek are to be commended along with the many parent and student volunteers who made the day a grand success.

#### **Moodle Training**

Another training session for high school staff was conducted on Wednesday February 11. CESA 6 conducted the training at our high school. I attended the training that gives teachers the competencies to create on-line options for their students. This can range from a full on-line course to making homework and instructional resource materials that support the face-to-face instruction students receive available on-line anytime/anywhere.

#### **Lincoln Students Going Green**

Several 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Lincoln School have engaged Dick Yerkey and representatives from Werner Electric in conducting an informal energy audit with them. The group toured the building with the students and identified possible energy saving strategies. Werner Electric has agreed to put some numbers to the ideas and will meet again with the students. In the months ahead, I am encouraging them to prepare a report and recommendations to present to the Board and PTO. It is exciting to see the level of understanding and commitment to this very relevant topic.

#### **4-year-old Kindergarten**

Ruth Chvojicek, an expert on the topic, will join the directors and elementary principals to discuss the concept of Community Collaborative and what it might mean for New London. Ruth, a state level facilitator, will help us develop a plan to engage our community stakeholders in a discussion of this issue. Board members are invited to attend and ask questions. We will be meeting at the District Office from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2009.