



School District of New London

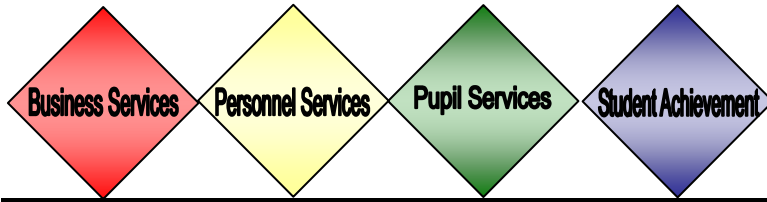
BOARD OF EDUCATION

MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Richard Yerkey

Director of Business Services

Date: February 2010



Outside Bleachers – We have now received our State Approved plans for our new outdoor bleachers. As you may recall State approval was a concern with 3 out of 4 bleacher providers, in fact one of the suppliers refused to bid because they did not believe we could get State approval. Well that concern is now over and the State had no problem with our rest room facilities or our handicapped parking.

Inside Bleachers – While we're talking bleachers, do you realize that it is now State law that our indoor bleachers at both the high school and middle school have to be inspected annually for safety by an outside firm? We have been doing this on a regular basis for over 30 years now. We have been using the same firm, BR Bleachers, formerly B&R Erectors, out of Woodstock, IL. Annual inspection cost is \$300. They inspect for structural soundness and for proper operation of rollers, tracks, and glides. If adjustments aren't made on regular basis damage to our hardwood floors will be a certainty.

New Track Equipment – Another part of the overall track project was the purchase of hurdles, high jump pit cover and standards, pole vault pit cover and standards, starting blocks, and a starter's stand. Total cost of these items was \$37,282. Those items have now been received and are in storage at the new stadium. Again, these items will be paid out of the stadium project funds.

Big Refund in the works – If any of you have been reading either the Hortonia Town Board or the Hortonville School Board meeting minutes you may be aware that the Department of Revenue and Sara Lee Corporation have been discussing an overcharge of personal property taxes. What this means to us is that we will be refunding approximately \$140,000 to Sara Lee Corp in the very near future for this overcharge. The law allows us to levy these funds in the year following the refund but it still goes on the levy and will mean an additional fourteen cents per \$1000 of equalized value.

Bus and Two Way Radios - If you will recall I wrote about a required change coming up in our bus and two way radios. The change is from broad band to

narrow band and must be in place by January of 2013. We have had a survey done of all our equipment and of 49 mobile units that we currently own 32 of those will have to be replaced and of the 22 hand held units we have 17 of those will have to be replaced. Total cost of this will be \$21,000. The good news is that we have three budget years to get this accomplished.

Water Well News – On Tuesday February 2 we had to replace the pump in the Readfield well. It was about 11 am on the second we found ourselves without water at Readfield. Thanks to the quick action of our two maintenance workers and Hintzke Well Drilling a new pump was in place by 7 PM that evening. As near as we can tell by the date stamped on the bottom of the pump this was the original pump from 1961. Other information gained is that the water table has dropped over 50 feet since the well was drilled. Not sure about the replacement cost of the pump yet but amortized over 50 years that pump has paid for itself.

High School Boilers – Most discouraging news is that we have four of ten boilers at the high school that require new heat exchangers. To replace a heat exchanger on one of these boilers is approximately \$20,000. Our heating engineer has done the calculations and is comfortable that we could reduce from ten boilers to eight. We have prices to replace the heat exchangers but we are also looking at total replacement of two of those boilers with either the same make and model that is there (AERCO) or replacement with Patterson Kelly boilers. Replacement won't cost a whole lot more than just replacement of the heat exchangers. More to come next month.

Good News – Bad News – Wish I could provide more of the good news and less of the bad but the issues here is to keep everyone informed. We will continue to search for the best solutions as the items come through the door and update you on them as quickly as we can.