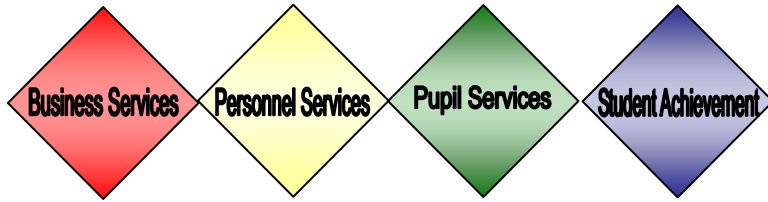


School District of New London



BOARD OF EDUCATION

MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Joseph Marquardt
Director of Business Services

Date: February 2012

Evening Cleaning Hours

The District has altered the allotment of evening cleaning hours at Lincoln and Sugar Bush. We were able to budget 12 ½ hours of cleaning at Lincoln and 8 hours at Sugar Bush for quite a number of years. In an effort to create efficiencies in our budget we reduced the number of hours at those buildings as of February 1, 2012. Lincoln now has 8 hours while Sugar Bush has 4 hours.

This decision was made after months of discussion with facility directors from other school districts and professional cleaning companies on industry standards for cleaning buildings. Building custodians were consulted for feedback, when appropriate, to carefully study the changes on the reduction in hours. This topic was also discussed with our building principals and Capital Projects, Energy Efficiency and Facilities Committee at the Board level.



The main change to the reduction in hours puts a time limit on cleaning an area. For example, new schedules limit time to 20 minutes for cleaning a classroom. Thus, areas have been given a standard.

The most difficult part of this decision was the impact on longtime staff members who have been providing nightly cleaning. Norb Meshnick, most recently at Lincoln, served the district since 2000. We thank Norb for his years of service and 12 years of dedication to the district.

Judy Fink will remain at Sugar Bush until May when she will retire after almost 22 years of service to the district. We also thank Judy for her years of service and dedication to the district.

Change in expectations is difficult for anyone to handle but as an organization we are responsible to all of our stakeholders to evaluate all of our areas on a continual basis. This process will continue across our district to maximize efficiencies.

Food Service Accounts

The beginning of February marked a significant change for our high school food service accounts. Earlier in the year we discontinued the practice to allow students to accumulate a negative balance by purchasing a la carte. We also are strictly enforcing a policy with family accounts that have more than a \$25.00 deficit and the student(s) now will receive an alternative meal. (High School Only)

All parents with more than a \$15.00 deficit received a personal letter from me indicating this change and I also made a personal phone call to all free/reduced families indicating this change. We have installed a spare computer in the high school commons for all students to be able to look up balances and posted signs three weeks in advance to the effective date.

The district is willing to accommodate families in need, when appropriate, but there has been some abuse that made action necessary. Future considerations are being made to accounts at the Intermediate/Middle School and Elementary Schools after this initial change has been analyzed. We will get to a point, with proper communication, to require this at all levels.

I will note that this change has created some unhappy parents and students. It has been communicated that staff interaction with students must be appropriate when a meal is being sought without proper funds.