



# School District of New London

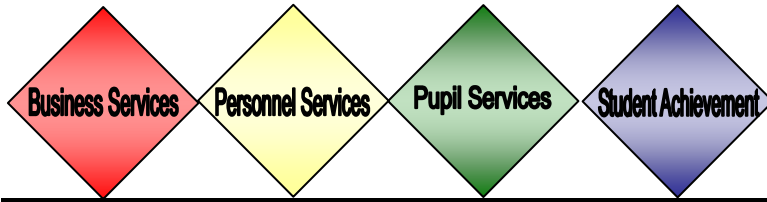
## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Richard Yerkey

Director of Business Services

Date: January 2010



**Phone system for Middle School** – All installed and operational prior to school start on January 4<sup>th</sup>. First voice over IP phone system in the district, now sets the stage for expansion to other buildings and cost savings through better utilization of available phone lines.

Once again we owe Wade Berglund, our systems engineer, a huge thank you for his work in making the conversion a very smooth and painless process. Wade did much of the preparation work which made it very easy for the installing contractor to get the job done.

**Readfield computer network link** - Work is all completed. T-1 phone line previously connecting Readfield and the district network has been disconnected. Throughput, expected to be 20 megabytes or approximately 13 times faster than the T-1 line is actually 84 megabytes or over 50 times faster than the T-1 line.

We are now looking at some bridge (switch) updates on the Sugar Bush wireless connection to improve speed of that connection.

The board will be asked to approve the resolution completing the capital lease for both the phone system and the computer link at the meeting on January 11.

**Bleachers** – Order has been placed for our new stadium bleachers and installation will be completed by the first home track meet on April 15, 2010.

Our current bleachers have already been moved to the visitor side of the stadium.

**Finance** – Just a follow up on phone calls received regarding tax bills. I received a total of five calls (two from the same party) expressing concern with the school tax portion of their property tax bills. Three of the five asked questions, made reasonable statements, and were really interested in the process. The one caller was only interested in extracting a pound of flesh and expressing their

displeasure with most things related to government at any level.

Mr. Fitzpatrick and I also met with Gary Mytton to answer questions relating to budget issues, post retirement benefit liabilities, and State funding.

**Audit Reports** – Were picked up, from our audit firm in Appleton, yesterday. Anyone that would like a copy please let me know. I can supply either an electronic version or a hard copy. I would also like to know if there is any interest in having our audit firm come to one of our board meetings to go over the report.

**Vacation Information** – Most of the time any benefit discussions relate to teachers and administrators so here is a little heads up on support staff.

We have twenty-three full year support employees that qualify for paid vacation. Vacation days range from 5 days after one full year of employment to 20 days after 13 years of employment. For 2010 there are a total of 425 days of earned vacation.

Employees, by contract, may retain (or not use) the value of up to five days of vacation a year. The value of those days is put in a fund which is then paid out at the individual's retirement. Currently we have twelve individuals that have been banking vacation day value since the program began in 2003. The value of those days now totals approximately \$40,000. The value of the days is calculated using the individuals' actual pay at the time earned.

Value may be used to purchase additional months of health insurance or as straight income subject to all withholding taxes.

**What next ?** - Work on 2010-2011 budget. Preliminary numbers are already figured and now it's a matter of getting it in balance and refining actual budget estimates over the next 10 months.