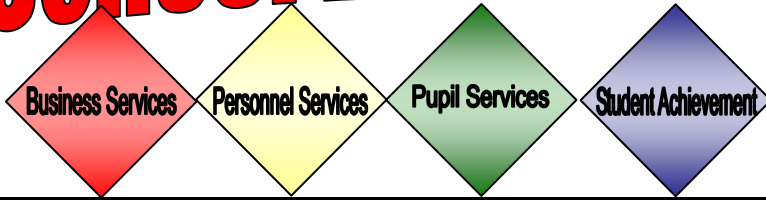




# School District of New London



## MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Bill Fitzpatrick  
 District Administrator  
 Date: January, 2010

### H1N1 Flu Clinics

Waupaca County Health Services Division will be holding free H1N1 school-based vaccination clinics. Clinics are being scheduled for all school districts. No appointment is required. There is no charge. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. The H1N1 vaccine will not be given to any minor child without a parent or guardian's written consent. These are open to the public and have been coordinated with the parochial schools in town. There are no longer any target groups. The H1N1 vaccine is now available to anyone who wants the vaccine.

The current schedule is as follows:

**Sugar Bush Elementary School**, on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, from 3-6 p.m.

**Readfield Elementary School**, on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, from 3-6 p.m.

**Lincoln Elementary School**, on Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, from 3-6 p.m.

**Parkview Elementary School**, on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, from 3-6 p.m.

Please continue to call the Waupaca County H1N1 Information Line at (715) 258-6363 or contact the state's 2-1-1 system for the most current listing of additional school-based clinics.

### Students Asked to Provide Perspective

Earlier this year I engaged the students in Mrs. Colleen Berry-Seaholm's Contemporary Affairs class in a discussion about Public Education. We looked at the purpose and history of Public Education since 1900. The class went on to discuss how Public Education has or has not changed over this time. Together we recognized the need to make significant change in a time of extreme economic restraints. As a culminating activity, I asked the students to describe what New London High School might look like in five years if they could implement changes they foresee. I invited those that were interested to share their findings with the Board of Education.

### Attorney Tony Renning Invited

You are all aware of Wisconsin's Open Meetings and Open Records laws. The attorneys at Davis & Kuelthau, where Tony Renning is a practicing lawyer, provided information about how technology plays into these laws.

I invited Tony to our meeting. Please refer to the Topic Summary in the New Business section under tab # 4. He will be available in the open part of our meeting to answer questions that you may have about open meetings law, electronic communications and open records. He will then stay for the closed session portion of the meeting as permitted under the law.

### Board Candidates

The last date for candidates to make application to run for the school board was by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5. At that time, we had four candidates submit papers for the two open positions on the board. The candidates are:

- John Faucher
- Virginia Schlais
- Tamie Neilson
- Donn L. Allen

### Race to the Top MOU Signed

As you will recall, the State has been actively seeking new federal funding for educational reform. Race to the Top is the name of this program established with stimulus dollars. The funds are being made available on a competitive basis and will be awarded to only fifteen states that meet specific criteria. Should Wisconsin win one of those awards, it would receive roughly \$250 million dollars. If that were to happen, our district's share would be a minimum of \$135,000. In anticipation of winning one of these awards, all school districts have been asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that says we agree to the four key areas of reform. I have included a short series of slides that provides the basics.

In short, we will be submitting the signed MOU to the State by the deadline of January 13, 2010. If any district does not sign, they will be disqualified from the program and will become ineligible for funding. If Wisconsin is selected, those who signed the MOU will have 90 days to look at the specifics of the funding and develop a plan or opt out at that time. The plan may include all or part of the reform efforts. Our Board goals and strategic initiatives are in line with the federal guidelines and seem to be a good fit at this point.

### **January 25 Board Administrator Retreat**

I am completing the planning for the annual mid-year retreat with the leadership team. So that you can make necessary arrangements, Board members and administrators will meet in room B119 at the High School. We will start promptly at 8:00 a.m. Our plans include a working lunch and we will conclude by 1:00 p.m.

The agenda will include:

- ◆ Anticipated Budget Assumptions for 2010-2011
- ◆ Review of Adopted Vision Statements
- ◆ Conceptual Restructure and Implications
- ◆ 2010-2011 Board Goal Development

### **Human Resources**

Based on your input at our meeting in December, we are proceeding with the plan to select a Human Resource Manager by the end of May. I have been meeting with Mary Felton to put the finishing touches on what we are looking for in finding the right person for this position. She will provide a proposal to extend her professional services if we so choose. Although she has provided such services to a number of "for-profit" organizations, we are her first school district client. I will negotiate several options for the Board to consider ranging from no further assistance to a full involvement in the recruitment, screening and selection of final candidates.

### **Teacher Technology Competencies**

We had some discussion about how we would respond if teachers did not meet the level 1 expectations by the February 12<sup>th</sup> deadline. After some discussion with Tony Renning about the issue, I have provided certified staff and the NLEA union with clear communication about how we will respond within the context of the collective bargaining agreement. I have included three communications for your information. The first is a note of congratulations and reminder to staff just before the holiday break. The second is a notice to all certified staff about failure to complete the competencies, and the final memo was to the NLEA to provide notice to the union of our position.