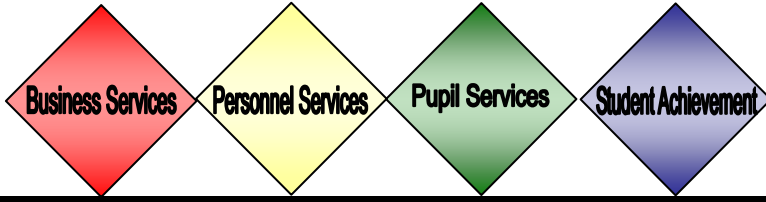




# School District of New London



## MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Bill Fitzpatrick  
 District Administrator  
 Date: June 2009

### Technology Grant

You will remember the major focus for the referendum was to update our current computer technology on a regular and recurring basis. This will happen during the summer when all computers that are not H.P. (more than 3 years old) will be replaced. This expenditure will be spread out over a four-year period. After this period, we will again refurbish our computer technology inventory.

In addition to the replacement of computers, budgets were established in the following areas:

- Switches and Servers
- Instructional Software
- Teacher Training
- Innovation Grants
- Classroom Technology

The majority of teacher training funds for the coming year will focus on having all staff achieve a Level 1 certification by February 12.

Innovation Mini-grants have gone through a preliminary review and will be awarded after a second review by partners in the Brown Deer School District.

An allocation for each school was determined using a simple per student amount, current level of technology already in each facility, investments associated with the implementation of Project Lead the Way or similar programs were also considered. Unfunded mini-grant applications as well as school needs will be scrutinized by members of the building technology committee and building administrators. They will make recommendations regarding the use of the allocation to that building.

### 4-year-old Kindergarten

Our community partners agree that making the program available to all children rather than only those that can afford the current quality programming available in their facilities is a great goal. To qualify for state funding, program space must be made available to any 4-yr old child wanting the service. Secondly, DPI requires each classroom to have a DPI licensed teacher. All of the current providers expressed concern about their ability to meet the second requirement because they have long-standing employment relationships with current employees who are not currently certified. We are exploring options for those employees to become certified. This will be a major sticking point. A

second issue revolves around the current deliberations on the State budget. There is some indication that the funding for 4-K may be drastically reduced or eliminated. This would effectively quash further progress in this initiative.

### New Hiring On-Hold

With the continuing developments in Madison regarding state funding for schools, a hold has been put on any new hiring until there is a clear indication of the impact on our local school budget. Two teachers that were previously notified of possible layoff have been recalled. The net reduction in certified staff is 5.5 FTE which includes full layoffs, partial layoffs and reductions in any overloads. We continue to monitor this situation closely. We have posted or will be posting the following positions to complete necessary staffing for next year.

- Bilingual Teacher – Parkview
- Phys Ed – High School
- 70% English – High School
- 40% Speech & Language Pathologist – Multiple School assignment

Although posted, we will not offer contracts for these positions until the state funding issue is resolved or federal stimulus funding can be used to fill the posting. This may be a matter of weeks or several months. The administrative team is preparing for this contingency.

### Prescription Drug Abuse a Concern

Local television has reported that the occurrence of abusing prescription drugs by youth is increasing. The practice of youth raiding the medicine cabinet at home and using, sharing, or selling for recreational purposes is happening at an alarming rate throughout the Green Bay and Fox Valley region. We are not immune to this phenomenon which is sometimes called "Pharming". Incidents over the past several months are a stark reminder that we in New London are not immune. Although much of this activity happens outside of the school property, we experience the effects at school. We believe that a community and parent education component is an essential response to this problem.

We will be investigating how other districts are addressing this issue during the summer months.