



School District of New London

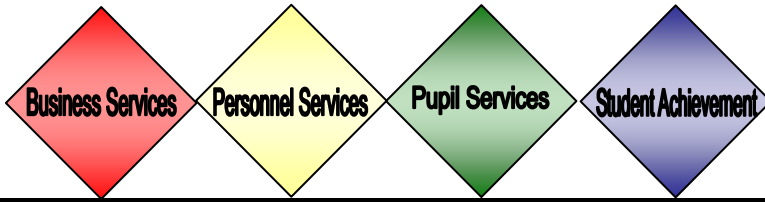
BOARD OF EDUCATION

MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Richard Yerkey

Director of Business Services

Date: March 2009



Sugar Bush water treatment system. The new filter media is now installed and our first water test is well within the Federal limits for arsenic. Federal standard says that 10 is the maximum reading and our reading is 3.5. The DNR wants us to continue using bottled water until we have one more good reading under our belt (at least another month).

Snow removal last report we were at \$45,000 in expenditures and Thursday/Friday (Feb 26/27) will add about another \$7,000 to that amount.

Our **diesel and gasoline prices** are now at the lowest price since prior to January of 2007. We are now paying \$2.22/gal for diesel and \$1.76/gal for gasoline. (remember we're Federal Tax exempt which would add 24.4 cents to the above prices for diesel and 18.4 cents to the price of gasoline)

Six new busses, ordered for the start of the 2009-2010 school year will be delivered the first week in April. Requests for bids for the leases with which to finance the busses went out last week. The School District finances school bus purchases the same as most folks would purchase a new car or truck but in school business the loans are referred to as capital leases.

Three firms have requested information to bid for the opportunity to manage our **food service operations for the next five years.** Those firms are; Aramark Education (Downers Grove, Ill), Food Services Incorporated (Milwaukee, WI), and Taher Inc. (Minnetonka, MN) Taher has been our food service management company for the last twelve years. The next step in this process will be receipt of the bids on March 19, 2009. Just a note that our food service department has maintained a positive operating balance for the twelve years that Taher has been on board.

While were on the topic of food service we just completed a **review of our food service department** by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. This review covered everything from

how we handle applications for free and reduced meals, to how we count the number of meals served at individual buildings, how we count the number of 1/2 pints of milk served for the recess milk program to how we plan our menu's, and do the menu's meet the Federal governments standards for nutritional content as well as portion sizes. DPI findings were all positive. **Thanks to Julie Haase** the lady that receives and processes all the free and reduced meal applications. **Thanks to Kathy Schmidt** and **all the food service ladies** that serve over 1800 lunches a day plus breakfasts and after school snacks. To them goes the credit.

Budget, budget, budget !!! Have you heard anything else on TV these days, or on the news? Federal budget, State budget, local budgets. Us too! Even though New London Schools budget year begins July 1, 2009 we started work on that document in November. We start in November and in reality the budget makes its final revisions and Board Approval on October 31 of the following year. Our budget is updated constantly by educational needs, utilities, insurances, repairs, fuel, State and Federal mandates, personnel changes, programming changes and last but certainly not least the final dictates of our State legislature. Talk about your job security, this job never ends.

Speaking about budget, did you know that the School Districts entire **budget is available** on our **web site**. Just look under Business Services and click on 2008-2009 Approved Budget.

What's next? As part of the budget process we begin to look at what things have to be done over the Summer for the start of school in the Fall. **Maintenance, repairs, minor remodeling, painting.** We need to start putting the lists together now because once Summer begins its way too busy and way to late to cram in last minute projects. Did I mention that in addition to everything else going on in the Summer that we have approximately **40 acres of lawn to cut and trim every week.** Also we apply over 3 million gallons of water to our athletic fields during the Summer so they stay alive, green and usable by league sports as well as school sports.

