

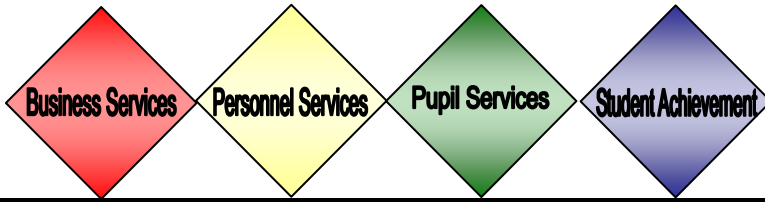


# School District of New London

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Bill Fitzpatrick  
District Administrator  
Date: March, 2009



#### Technology Committee Recommendations

The work related to the establishment of teacher competencies is based on an initiative currently in practice in Brown Deer. It involves establishing levels of certification expected of all staff as a condition of employment. A subgroup is planning a site visit to Brown Deer on March 12. We will be updating the board on these issues at our special meeting in April.

#### Parent Advisory Council

The PAC will next meet on Monday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m. Our Library Media & Technology Specialists will demonstrate a number of the skills that we will be expecting our students and ALL staff to demonstrate. They will also share how our new technology needs to be supported by changes in instructional delivery. It should be an interesting evening if you can attend.

#### Elementary Instructional and Prep-Time Issue Resolved

Elementary Principals and Kathy Gwidt met with representatives of each building to resolve the issues raised by staff regarding the restructuring of the instructional day. Although it was made clear that this is a management right and not negotiable under the contract negotiations, it is in the best interest of both parties to arrive at a mutually acceptable resolution. The instructional day expectations were explained and a framework for resolution that increases planning time within the current terms of the contract was achieved. Elementary principals are now charged with creating a master schedule that achieves the objective while assuring that we have not strayed from our instructional goals and making sure that all teachers have been treated fairly as described by the contract.

#### Fox Valley Technical College Board of Trustees

As you know, I have been serving on the FVTC Board of Trustees for the past two years. I have submitted my application for re-election to that role representing K-12 education on the Board. On the evening of March 25, the School Board Presidents from the 24 school districts in the FVTC boundary will review applications and ask questions of the candidates. They will then select and make

appointments from the pool of candidates making sure that various groups are represented on the Board.

#### TeenServe

TeenServe is a 501 [c]3 non-profit corporation from Wisconsin that organizes large scale home repair projects for needy individuals. The home repair is done with one-week workcamps for junior and senior high school students and their adult leaders. A workcamp is an event where teens and adults leaders come together to “work” on needy residents’ homes and “camp” out in a local school. We have agreed to become a host site for such an event in late June of 2010. Several local churches are sponsoring this event. I have invited Chris Martinson to give you an overview on the event and to answer questions that you may have at our April 13 Board Meeting.

#### Project Lead the Way

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is a nationally recognized pre-engineering curricula for middle and high schools. With its strong partnership concept, PLTW leverages the collective knowledge and efforts of secondary schools, colleges and universities and industry to give students a rigorous, relevant, reality-based knowledge to better prepare them for college. A representative from the Milwaukee School of Engineering will be here at 2:00 p.m. on March 25 to discuss the curriculum and professional development with some of our science, math and technology education teachers. We hope to determine the extent to which we might be able to incorporate this curriculum into our middle and high school course of studies.

#### 4-year-old Kindergarten

Ruth Chvojicek , an expert on the topic, joined board member Ginny Schlais, the directors, and elementary principals to discuss the concept of Community Collaborative and what it might mean for New London. Ruth helped us understand the collaborative approach. She also helped us develop a plan to engage our community stakeholders in a discussion of this issue. We will be contacting them in the near future to discuss how we might work together to meet the needs of these children in our communities.