



School District of New London

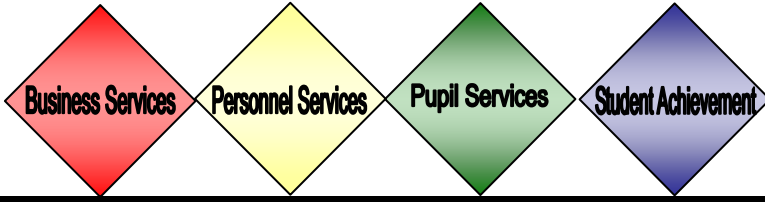
BOARD OF EDUCATION

MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Kathy Gwidt

Director of Teaching and Learning

Date: March, 2009



K-5 Math: Groups of K-5 teachers have worked to learn more about *Math Expressions*. This elementary math program offers strength in both the instruction of concepts and algorithms. A team of K-5 teachers recently observed the implementation of *Math Expressions* at the Waupaca Learning Center. Teachers in this school have successfully worked with the program over the last three years, and are realizing successes. An added bonus was that we observed several classrooms that integrated technology into their math lessons to reinforce and extend student learning. It was extremely beneficial to talk directly with teachers to learn about the strengths and challenges of this implementation.



March 11 Early Release:

Plans are being finalized for Doug Buehl's presentation to the 4th-12th grade staff on Wednesday, March 11. He will share research recently published by the *Harvard*

Educational Review that highlights the importance for all teachers to teach literacy.

Doug has been actively involved at the state and national levels sharing the message that the ability to read is essential for success in all academic subjects. He recently served as co-chair of the DPI Adolescent Literacy Task Force for Wisconsin.

His common sense approach combined with decades of experience as author, researcher, presenter and teacher for the Madison Metropolitan School District will help us understand the importance of teaching reading in all that we do.

Doug will meet with a small group of Building Leadership Team members prior to this presentation to share how his message can positively affect the way we approach adolescent literacy in our schools. I will provide a follow-up session with the High School BLT in April.

If you are available, please join us in the high school auditorium from **2:00-3:45 on Wednesday, March 11** for this presentation.

WI Knowledge and Concepts Exam: We just received Individual Profile Reports and will be sending them home to parents. We look forward to the availability of school and district reports which should be released in mid-March. Summary data can't be shared prior to the April 28 embargo date, but that is a much earlier release date than in past years.

Clear Learning Targets:



On Friday, February 27 Jane Pollock led us through the process of reviewing standards and agreeing on benchmarks and

specific content in the areas of language arts and health. We now have clear learning target drafts for language arts in grades 1-12 and health in grades 6-8. I will continue to work with team members to connect unit plans with these documents.

Mission Leadership Team:

Action Teams have met independently and have continued their work between sessions. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4. We will briefly share accomplishments, highlights, concerns and next steps. We will continue our efforts in the areas of:

- Understanding Response to Intervention
- Composition of Report Card Rubrics
- Enriching Certified Staff Evaluation
- Publication of a Substitute Teacher Handbook