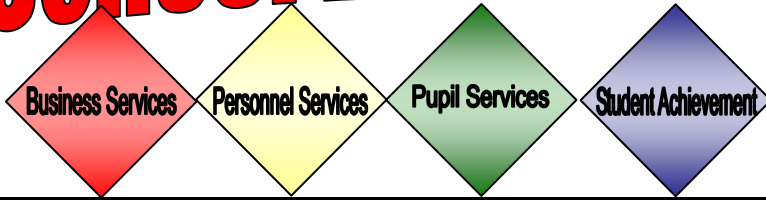




# School District of New London



## MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Bill Fitzpatrick  
District Administrator

Date: March, 2010

### Human Resources

I have sent out a Request for Proposal to solicit proposals from at least three other HR consulting firms. I have attached the RFP for your information. Please note the criteria that I will use in making my recommendation to the Board. If there is not a significant difference between the proposals, I will be recommending that we continue with the services of HR Business Partners and Mary Felton. Her knowledge of the current situation and employees will allow us to move forward without delay.

### 5th Grade Listening Session

We held a listening session on Tuesday, February 16 for parents of students entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade next year. We made the case that we must do things differently in order to reduce costs while providing new opportunities for their children. The most frequent concerns raised, centered on recess and transportation issues. People seemed comfortable with the general design and the concept of a 5-6 intermediate school once it was explained that the student experience would be much like the current experience for 5<sup>th</sup> grade along with the increased opportunities for foreign language and band/chorus. We were also able to reinforce the separation of 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from the new middle school experience for grades 7 and 8 only. We addressed questions for nearly two hours. Many of the questions to still be answered will come in the detail following your approval of the plan. Many of those attending were very supportive of the 4-year-old Kindergarten initiative that came out of this planning effort.

### 4-K meeting with Day Care Providers

We hosted a meeting with current day care centers and preschool providers on Thursday, February 18, to share our plan and to encourage their partnership in the community collaborative approach. All recognized the need for this program in our community. They were upset about the short notice and time line. We acknowledged their concerns and explained how this idea was generated out of the urgency to act. It appears that the Day Care Center of New London, Head Start and Kuddly Kids of Dale are interested in partnering with us. Kids First has only one four-year-old registered for next year and is not interested at this time. Most Precious Blood and Emanuel are hopeful that they can continue to

operate their programs but will consider partnering if that is not possible. Cindy Schaefer of the New London Community Preschool recognizes that the school district needs to act and that this is good for the families of the district in general. She is concerned that she will be unable to continue her current operations. She is a tremendous advocate for kids and is well connected in the community. I am hopeful that we will be able to incorporate her passion and expertise in planning and implementing this program.

### Budget

Approval of the 5-6 and 4-K proposal will get us about half-way to a balanced budget that will minimize property tax increases. It is clear that if we do not adopt this plan, we will need to cut very popular programs and we will increase class sizes as well. While approving the proposed plan will eliminate the necessity of doing so, there is still a significant budget gap that needs to be addressed. The balance of these adjustments will most likely have to come from the negotiation table. We will not be getting insurance rates until July. We may need to make some assumptions for 2010-2011 related to staffing prior to the May layoff deadline.

### Teacher Technology Competencies

All certified staff were able to meet the deadline for demonstration of Level 1 Technology Proficiencies. Several needed a little prodding and others a little tender loving care but all met the standard. A subcommittee of the Technology Committee is completing collection of data from staff and student surveys this week. They will bring the findings to the full Tech Committee for use in finalizing the 2010-2013 Tech Plan for Board approval later this spring. With your authorization it will be submitted to the state by June 30 for their approval. A state approved plan is necessary to qualify for e-rate funding. An approved plan is also necessary as a prerequisite for a number of grant opportunities. Finally, this plan will direct the technology investment and professional development decisions for the district in the coming years.