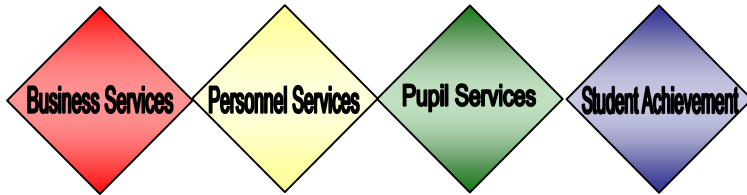


School District of New London



BOARD OF EDUCATION

MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Joseph Marquardt
Director of Business Services

Date: March 2011

Building Services Group

We have had some questions on who is responsible for cleaning what, how often, where, etc. The owners of BSG met with me in February and we have planned a future meeting to have a walkthrough of each building to make sure everyone is on the same page.

The hope from our walkthrough is to bring me up-to-date on the program we are utilizing and how to best create efficiencies with our own staff and building services group. I think it will also be great to provide an update and zone map to our building principals so everyone can be aware of the relationship structure with BSG.



becomes a little clearer. I will keep the Board abreast of the plan as we move forward.

A note that I wanted to share is that we have great custodial/maintenance staff in our buildings. They work hard to understand our buildings and to make them a safe and functional environment for our students, staff and community members. It is tough to balance the improvements we can make with the resources that are available. As we are all aware, the budget cannot incorporate everything.

Budget

Speaking of the budget, the Governor just completed his budget address and we are working as a team to analyze the proposal and modify any assumptions we have made in the planning process for the 2011-12 budget.



There is no doubt the widespread uncertainty and fear on the impact of the next biennial budget on our school district. The next few months will be challenging, however, the importance of working collaboratively and creatively with all stakeholders to create the best opportunities with the available resources is not an insurmountable task. I know we are committed to doing what is best for our students and this challenge is an opportunity to look at doing things differently.

Debt

One of the items for the second March meeting will be to bring the Board up to speed on some debt restructuring that I am working on. I have met with Hutchinson Shockey, Wisconsin Public Finance Professionals, and will meet with RW Baird to see if there are any possibilities to restructure any debt. The goal is to maximize savings and provide flexibility for the school district.

I have stated before, the lack of fund balance has forced our hand in many situations. I feel it is important to develop a debt management plan in the next three year strategic plan and with our impending budget shortfall, to maximize our resources in the best way possible.

Building Visits

I have completed my initial visits to each of our buildings and met with each principal to go over any structural/maintenance concerns they may have. I have met with each custodian to do a walkthrough with them. The plan of attack is to put together a list for each building and develop a budget for necessary improvements during the summer. I have generated a list in each building and hope to prioritize these throughout the next few months when our budget

Lincoln Property

Asbestos abatement will begin on March 2. This will create quite an eyesore for the next few weeks and possibly into April, but when the project is completed the additional green space will be valuable to Lincoln. As soon as the abatement is complete, WE Energies will schedule a time to remove the gas lines and then we will schedule Dorschner Excavating to complete the demolition of the two sites. Road bands and weather could create a staggered timeline during the next month.

As usual, if there are any questions about anything, please feel free to contact me at any time.