

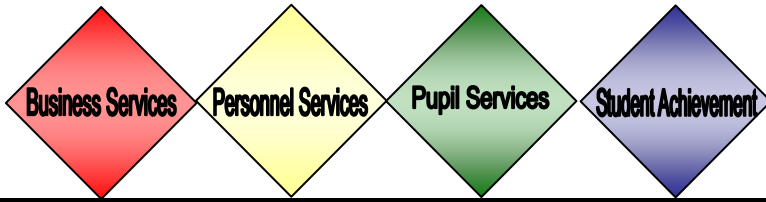


# School District of New London

**DIVISION**

## **MONTHLY UPDATE**

By: Bill Fitzpatrick  
District Administrator  
Date: May 2009



### **Swine Flu**

We continue to receive guidance from the CDC and Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Our School Nurse is attending regular County sponsored meetings with up to the minute information shared. We continue to be vigilant in our efforts to make sure we minimize the opportunities for germs to spread. I shared several communiqués on this topic. Questions regarding field trips have occurred. Our response has been that unless we hear from our county health department that travel should be restricted, we intend to continue with scheduled field trips.

### **4-year-old Kindergarten**

We continue to explore 4-year-old options for our community. We hosted a dinner meeting for child care providers on the evening of April 15. Ruth Chvojicek, an expert on the topic, facilitated the discussion around the concept of Community Collaborative and what it might mean for New London. We have a general commitment from potential partners to further investigate expanding the wonderful 4 year old programs being offered at these private sites to all students. The biggest road block to proceeding is the DPI requirement to having licensed teachers at all participating locations. Funding for the program is dependent on meeting this requirement. We will be contacting the DPI and licensing universities to problem solve on this specific issue.

### **Parent Advisory Council**

The PAC will next meet on Monday, May 18, at 7:00 p.m. The topic for the evening will be the Career Portfolio and Advisement Program that was shared with the full Board at our last meeting.

### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) appropriates significant new funding under Special Education and Title 1. The overall goals of the ARRA are to stimulate the economy in the short term and invest in education and other essential public services to ensure the long-term economic health of our nation. The direction given by the

Department of Education rests on four guiding principles.

1. Spend the funds quickly to save and create jobs.
2. Improve student achievement through school improvement and reform.
3. Ensure transparency, reporting and accountability.
4. Invest one-time ARRA funds thoughtfully to minimize the "funding cliff" when the funds are no longer there.

We are in the process of exploring several options. One such option is to use most of the nearly \$600,000 one time funding to build classrooms and for equipment. We are exploring this as an opportunity to make a bold reform to rethink our approach to teaching and learning. We can also address space concerns and the growing inequity of need between schools.

### **Certified Staff**

I will ask that the Board convene in closed session to review the employment status of specific individuals for 2009-2010. I do not anticipate further reductions in staff beyond those already announced. However, ARRA funds related to this topic may have some implications. As we have new Board members and a notice deadline of May 15, a review is appropriate.

### **Track Project**

If you have not already noticed, earth is being moved at the high school site. We have planned an understated ground breaking event for 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11 at the High School. This event is to highlight the combined community efforts of the School District, the Athletic Complex Fundraising group and First State Bank. Although we are proud of the fact that this phase is becoming a reality, we believe that we should be conservative in our approach to marketing this project.