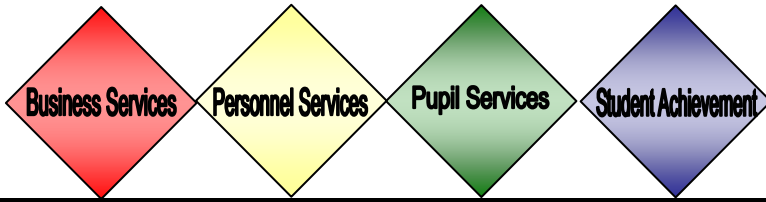




School District of New London



MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Bill Fitzpatrick
District Administrator
Date: May 5, 2010

National Honor Society

The local chapter of the National Honor Society recently held its induction ceremony. The following students were added to the ranks of this prestigious group.

Juniors: Scott Bellile, Dan Bessette, Wendy Bricco-Meske, Courtney Casey, Kathrine Chaudoir, Taylor Crain, Jordan Deall, Beth Denzel, Zach Diley, Alex Elliot, Niki Euhardy, Michelle Evers, Taylor Farrell, Koral Handschke, Michael Heise, Ashley Kiesow, Taylor Kindschy, Drew Larson, Tanner, Mastaw, Marissa Meagher, Anna Moser, Katie Pence, Cassandra Phillipon, Kaitlyn Rickert, Andrew Schlais, Page Schlieve, Kayla Schuh, Kellie Solberg, Brady Schmitz, Mackensie Steinert.

Seniors: Haili Gutoski, Katie Sweedy, Suneet Dewann, Zachary Solberg, Curtis Gilman.

Tech Fest

The technology committee has done a wonderful job of planning our first ever Tech Fest. A number of vendors and those teachers that have been awarded an Innovative Mini-Grant this past year will be sharing findings with colleagues during the final early release day on May 12. The high school gymnasium will be the site of this event which will run from 2:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. The day promises to be an eye opening experience for all and is meant to be a catalyst for ideas as well as an opportunity for our staff to see the innovative experiences that are available to the children across the district. Please try to stop by during that afternoon to share in the excitement on new learning. I promise you will leave energized.

Winchester Request

It would be appropriate to provide some sort of response to Matt Olson. I do not believe that it is in the best interest of the district to seriously consider the proposal as presented. The funding generated by the proposal will not come close to covering the continuing operational costs of the school. There is a strong likelihood of creating political turmoil in our district over this issue which is not desirable and will only serve to divert our attention and energies from our established goals. We will continue to be receptive to those wishing to avail themselves of open enrollment opportunities to Readfield.

I will put this on the May 24th agenda if you wish to engage in a debate on this topic or I can simply respond by saying that the board is not interested in pursuing the idea and therefore does not intend to take further action on the issue.

“Race to the Top” Phase 2

Last January the State of Wisconsin made a bid for federal “Race to the Top” funding. Their proposal was not funded in the first round. Yesterday I was informed by the Governor’s office and DPI that they remain committed to securing these competitive funds and will re-submit an application on June 1, 2010 under Phase Two of the competition. Wisconsin’s Phase Two application will aim to secure up to \$250 million of the \$3 billion available.

They have reviewed the feedback from their first application and plan to make revisions to the original plan. Therefore, they will be providing a revised MOU for all districts to consider prior to the application deadline. It is their hope to have the MOU in our hands by the end of the week and returned to them by May 21. To demonstrate a broad commitment to the MOU, districts are asked to obtain the signatures of the Superintendent, school board president and the local teacher’s union president or their authorized representative. By signing, we give ourselves the opportunity to participate in the state plan and funding. There is no obligation to do so, however, failing to sign the MOU automatically eliminates the district from funding if the state is successful in being awarded the federal grant.

Spring Superintendent’s Meeting

I will be attending the annual Spring Superintendent’s Conference in Wisconsin Dells on May 6-7. The theme of the conference is: “Never Waste a Good Crisis.” Our current economic crisis presents opportunities for school leaders to develop creative solutions. As in other industries, the right investments in technology can lead to cost savings and even improve quality. This year’s conference will highlight the fact that local superintendents will need to be creative and take a whole new approach to leading their districts in these extremely challenging social and economic times.