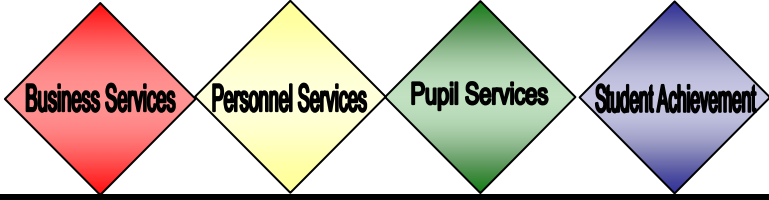




School District of New London



MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Bill Fitzpatrick
District Administrator
Date: November, 2009

Open Enrollment Survey

In an effort to better understand the impact of Open Enrollment on our district, I will be sending out a voluntary survey to those families who are New London residents who are attending school in another district and a survey to those living in another district that are open enrolled to attend school in New London. Although they are not required to complete the survey, any information that can better inform our decision-making with regard to program development will be helpful.

Student Snowmobile Club to Continue

After a successful implementation of the student snowmobile club program, I have given permission for the club to continue to bring their snowmobiles to school and to park in a designated area. We had positive reports from all building administrators. The club members will again be seeking access from neighbors and posting the trail in the next few weeks. We will continue to monitor the situation and have reserved the right to discontinue should problems arise.

Blame School Tax Hikes on State Budget

I have attached a recent editorial submitted by State Senator Mike Ellis which does a pretty good job of summarizing the circumstances which have led to a pretty hefty hike in property taxes across the state. Although there is some posturing along party lines, he does fairly make the case that local property taxes for school purposes is a direct result of action taken at the state level to balance the state budget. You can use the information should you be questioned about our recent levy adoption.

New Police School Liaison Officer Named

Officer Dave Klinzing has been assigned as the new PSLO for our schools. Officer Klinzing was selected from a pool of three candidates. Terry Wetzels, Joe Green and I joined four members of the police department to conduct the interviews. All three candidates offered desirable qualities. However, Dave's connection to the community, his involvement with youth activities and his 25 years of

experience helped to guide our selection. The Department has made a renewed commitment to work collaboratively to achieve the early intervention focus that we desire from the role. He will begin his new duties in January.

Pending Judicial Actions Affecting School Boards

In a ruling that could lead to changes at school districts across the state, a Dane County judge ordered the Madison School District to provide educational services to a student who was expelled and is under a juvenile court order to continue his education. Students who are expelled from school are given no services unless they are eligible for special education. The order could set a precedent for juveniles in the same position. This case is being studied and analyzed as this could have a significant monetary impact of requiring a teacher to provide instruction outside of the school day and facilities.

The board should also be aware of a case that will be argued before the Wisconsin Supreme Court this month. The court agreed to hear the case that will determine whether the public's right to know what its government is doing extends to reading personal e-mails. Although this case specifically deals with e-mails sent by teachers while at work, there are implications for Board members. If personal e-mails are used to conduct school board business that could be construed to circumvent the actions reserved for the entire school board, they could give rise to an open meeting violation and confiscation of your computer. Oral arguments are scheduled for November 10. This may be a good topic to review at an upcoming meeting.