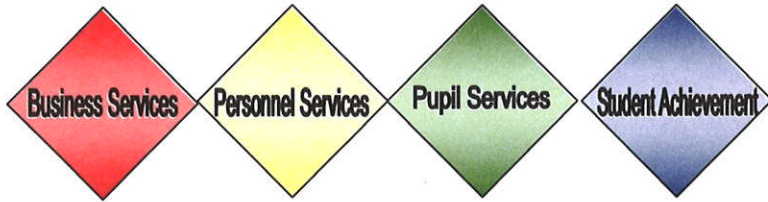


School District of New London



BOARD OF EDUCATION

MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Joseph Marquardt
Director of Business Services

Date: November 2011

Transportation Updates

A letter went home last week (see Board Packet) to parents/guardians of students that ride Bus # 7002 for drop off after school. Students from Parkview, Lincoln, MPB and Emanuel ride this bus. The bus is extremely crowded and that creates a safety concern for the District.

The solution is to be proactive with this concern and use multiple buses to transport these children. This is an option because we already have drivers waiting at the Intermediate/Middle School due to staggered release times. We can utilize the time they wait to transport students after school. This bus has too many distractions and as winter months approach safety is a primary concern.



Thanks to Adam and Laurie in the Transportation Department for working on routing changes and our Elementary Building Staff for the help on communicating this change. Also to our Intermediate/Middle School staff as students may need to remain in the building an extra few minutes. This will not effect any other route times.

Change is difficult – especially mid-year but sacrificing safety concerns is not worth it.

Another update relates to the number of spares we keep on hand. My report earlier this year indicated we have more spares in our inventory than necessary and we would be looking at ways to change that. I wanted to see how the route modifications would impact our transportation fleet and be sure we have enough information to make a strategic decision that will be positive long-term.

Two weeks ago I contacted private vendors, including Nelson's, and schools who own buses to solicit bids for our used buses. I let them know we were looking at selling at least four buses and to make an offer. Two vendors did so and they will be sold as soon as we can work out the paperwork. We are receiving a fair price compared to our normal process of returning buses to Nelson's.

Lincoln Fencing

We have acquired fencing form the Shalom House in New London. We appreciate their donation and will put the fence up next spring. We are waiting to put this up until we can assess how far back from the sidewalk to install it after Patrick Korth plows the sidewalk this winter.

District Financial Reports

The Budget Report, Special Education Annual Budget, Tax Levy Certification, Annual Report and MD&A for the audit have all been completed. These reports put the final touches on the 2011-12 budget for operations, wrap up the 2010-11 fiscal year and now allow us to start focusing on the initial stages for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

2011-12 was a challenging budget cycle but collaboratively everyone (students, families, staff, and community members) made it work. We have 2400+ students that we provide great educational opportunities to every day. Everyone involved deserves kudos for continuing to fulfill our mission of *Success for All Students*. 2012-13 will be equally as challenging but we will again work together to make it work. Thank you again on behalf of the District!





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November 9, 2011

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To the Parents/Guardian of:

<StudentNameFull>
<StudentMailingAddress>
<StudentMailingCityStateZip>

Dear Parent/Guardian of 7002 PM Route:

The School District of New London takes tremendous pride in providing safe, efficient and reliable transportation for students attending our schools. We continually monitor routes and analyze safety concerns that are brought to us by the drivers.

As we approach winter, safety becomes even more of a concern because of hazardous conditions that are very unpredictable. That brings us to the point of this letter. Bus # 7002 which transports Elementary students from Lincoln, Parkview, MPB and Emmanuel after school, has become very crowded. These students are often energized after school and this leads to more distractions on an already crowded bus.

This creates a safety concern the District needs to address. We have come with a proactive modification that will hopefully alleviate this concern. Instead of using one bus to transport these students, we will use multiple buses to drop off your children. The District has the flexibility to utilize more routes because of the staggered release times between schools. Therefore, we already have drivers waiting at the Middle School for the end of the day. We can use their wait time to transport students home instead of waiting in a parking lot for dismissal.

What does this mean for you? Your child may be dropped off earlier than they have this year. For some it will be very little change, for others it may be a big difference in time. Drop off locations and pick up times will not be changed. This will take effect on November 28, 2011. Below is your new driver for the afternoon route and approximate drop off time. We will also follow up with a phone call by November 18, 2011.

This change may disrupt your normal schedule and we apologize, but the safety of our students cannot be sacrificed. We appreciate your understanding and hope this creates minimal conflicts for you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Adam or Laurie at 982-8543.

Student: <StudentNameFull>
School: <StudentSchool> **Grade:** <StudentGrade>
<RoutesWithPickupTimesAndDriverInfo>

Thank You,

Adam Marlett
Transportation Supervisor

Jo Collar
Parkview Principal

Pete Schulz
Lincoln Principal