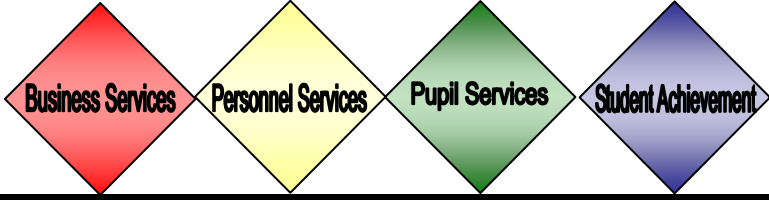




School District of New London



MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Bill Fitzpatrick
District Administrator
Date: October 2009

Death of Former Students

Last week we lost two former students in a fatal car accident. Mitch Hankey was a student in our district for a short time. He was home-schooled for most of his academic training. Nathan Scott was a member of the 2009 graduating class. Nathan's mother, Dorothy, is a para-educator at Lincoln School. Nathan has a sister who is a student in the high school. We received spotty information at around 7:00 a.m. on the day after the accident and our pupil services department implemented their trauma response. Members of the team including our school counselors, nurse and school psychologists under the direction of Ann Christopherson met to address the needs of students and staff that could be identified. I asked Ann to provide you with an overview of the process in her report.

These circumstances can be difficult to manage. Rumors needed to be sorted from solid information. We need to develop an understanding of the relationships and touch points for our trained professionals. A level of confidentiality and respect for the families' wishes need to be considered. The desire for news media to extract their story in these situations can add to the challenges. All of these things must be accomplished while dealing with the emotional response to such a tragedy. The team is to be commended for dealing with yet another incident in a professional yet caring manner.

Human Resources Consultant

I have secured the consulting services of Mary Felton, a human resource professional and owner of HR Business Partners LLC, to assist us with addressing the Board goal to better provide for the human resource services in our district. Mary has been given the task of:

- 1) Conducting an assessment of our current situation.
- 2) Assisting in the identification of a preferred future.
- 3) Providing at least three options for consideration to achieve the preferred future.

To achieve these tasks, she will be conducting interviews with central office personnel and principals on Thursday of this week. I would like to schedule a late afternoon session for interested Board members to meet with her at a later date as well. If you are interested in being a party to that process please identify several dates that you would be available at 4:00 p.m. I will then schedule the best times with Mary.

WASB Convention

At this time of year the Wisconsin Association of School Boards begins the process of putting together the resolutions that the delegate assembly will consider at its annual meeting in January. Unless the board wishes to consider the development of a resolution, we will be sent the slate for the convention in December.

Jill has reserved four rooms for the convention. Connie, Terry and I have claimed three of them. Please contact Jill if you are interested in the final room reservation.

We have been selected to make a presentation at the convention this year. The title of the presentation is:

WASB Idea Exchange

An opportunity to make 1 + 1 = 3!

COLLABORATION BETWEEN BROWN DEER AND NEW LONDON SCHOOL DISTRICTS

In these challenging days of diminishing funding, rising budgets, limited resources and a pace of learning change not seen in eight decades, how do you keep up? For Brown Deer and New London forming relationships and exploring collaborative efforts is one way to overcome some of these challenges. In this case, the Idea Exchange at the 2009 WASB Convention provided the catalyst.

With a recently passed referendum for reoccurring technology funding, New London was seeking benchmarks for optimizing these funds through staff development. Brown Deer had just implemented a Teacher Technology Proficiency policy which they were presenting at the Idea Exchange. Following the Idea Exchange program last year, New London took the initiative to seek additional insight and Brown Deer was gracious enough to accept New London's request. During this initial dialogue other opportunities for sharing emerged.

Current collaboration efforts:

- Brown Deer provided New London with a blue print for designing and implementing Teacher Technology Proficiency.
- New London provides Brown Deer with training on Moodle and access to their existing Moodle programs.

October Special Meeting at the High School

Topics to include: Recent Program Changes
SEM Charter School Monitoring