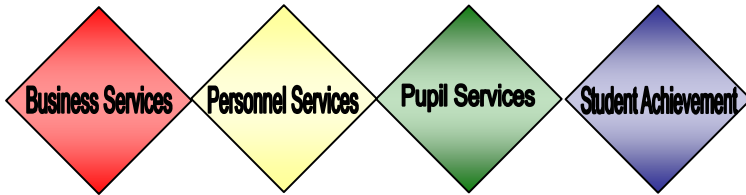


School District of New London



BOARD OF EDUCATION

MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Joseph Marquardt
Director of Business Services

Date: October 2011

Unexpected Expenditures

There are always unexpected expenses that pop up during the year. Some we expend resources on, others we do not. Below are a few examples.

Sometime during the month of August the Weatherbug Camera at the High School was stolen from the roof. Police do not have any leads. The cost to replace is more than \$6,000. This is not in the budget and not under "need" to have so we will not be replacing the stolen camera at this time.

The falling ceiling was removed from gym/cafeteria at Parkview this summer. It was a safety concern, thus the removal. Now the noise level during lunch, class and assemblies is



reaching levels that are more than just an "annoyance." We did not budget for panels, only labor to remove the ceiling.

We researched multiple options for acoustical panels and have settled on a fix. The expenditure will be shared by Parkview PTO and the District. The cost for the panels will run between \$5,000 and \$6,000. The best option ranged between \$8,000 and \$14,000 but that was too expensive. The solution will be covered bulletin "like" boards from School Specialty. A neighboring school district used this fix and it was a success.

The message is that there are always unplanned expenditures that come out of any budget. You can anticipate many expenditures but some you cannot anticipate with thought out decisions. We try and budget contingencies in our budget but

with budgets being very tight this is difficult to accomplish.

Food Service Update and Touch Screens

The first few weeks were crazy to say the least. With the transition to Skyward from Wordware and e-Funds issues it made it frustrating for all involved.

Big thanks go to Wendy Swinton, Janel Pittler Julie Haase, Kathy Schmidt, Connie Laughlin, Food Service Staff, Parents and Students who make this work. It took a lot of work on everyone's end and I know it was not easy at times. This change will be a bump in the road as we move forward.

But, one item that cannot be lost is the need for students to have positive balances in their accounts. At some point, there will have to be a breaking point between multiple warnings and having peanut butter and jelly or a cheese sandwich as an option to eat. It is not fair to students/families that always have a positive balance. It's a hard message, but none of us can go somewhere and eat without paying for it first.

Please rest assured staff has been directed to not dump any trays of students or make a public scene with students without balances.

The Food Service budget was able to purchase touch screens at the High School and Intermediate/Middle School. As many of you know, food service is separate from the local tax levy. The purchase was necessary to ease the transition to Skyward and speed up lines at the schools. Lunch is already rushed. Wade was able to purchase the units for a very reasonable cost and will last for years.