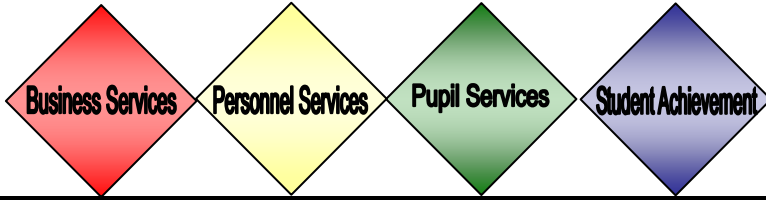




School District of New London



MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Bill Fitzpatrick
 District Administrator
 Date: September 2009

Start of School

My message to staff to start the new school year was quite simple. We have accomplished much over the past year in spite of some extremely challenging circumstances. We want to be seen as the "Can Do District." I shared the Board goals and objectives for the coming year. All staff were challenged to help us stay focused on the important work outlined in the goals. That message was followed by a session for certified staff presented by researcher and consultant Jane Pollock. She reinforced the Clear Learning Target goals and objectives and laid out the expectations that we have for classroom instruction.

Presidential Speech to School Students

The President of the United States, Barack Obama, addressed students across America on Tuesday, September 8. We recorded this address in order to minimize disruptions as it occurred live during several lunch periods. We rebroadcast his speech in our schools on Wednesday, September 9, at selected times in each of our schools.

His message was to "challenge students to work hard, set educational goals, and take responsibility for their learning." It is a message that resonates with our District Mission: Success for All Students. The complete speech can be viewed at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/MediaResources/PreparedSchoolRemarks/>

If, for some reason, a parent chose not to have their child(ren) hear this message from the President, they could exercise their right to excuse them from school or request an alternative activity. I am aware of only one family that chose that option.

H1N1 Flu Communications

In an effort to stay ahead of this issue, I am sending a letter to all parents about our position regarding preparedness. I have attached a copy for your reference. We have posted a number of resources for staff and parents to access from our website. I referenced the following site in the body of my letter. <http://www.newlondon.k12.wi.us/parentresources.cfm>

We remain in contact with county, state and federal agencies on the topic. We will host a seasonal flu shot clinic on September 24 for staff. I also have a meeting scheduled for October 8 with representatives from all of our schools, including the parochial schools in town, to meet with Linda Behm from Waupaca County and representatives from New London Family Medical Center to share information and coordinate efforts in the community.

Police School Liaison Program

Last week we met with our new Police Chief, Jeff Schlueter, to discuss several issues including traffic control at our new athletic site as well as the direction of our PSL program. At that meeting, I shared our Board goal #3 to Pursue Early Intervention and the Chief shared his ideas about his long-term plans for the program which we found to be very much in sync. Chief Schlueter informed us that he plans to replace our current PSLO in January 2010 rather than the August 2010 replacement that we had anticipated. Because of the shorter timeline, we have begun redefining the PSLO Guidelines and Position Description. We will flush out the program goals to be more focused on early intervention and prevention of crimes by or against children. We will share our work with the Board at an upcoming meeting prior to posting for the position.

Fall Superintendent's Meeting

I will be attending the annual Fall Superintendent's Conference in Madison on September 24 & 25. The theme of the conference is: "You Can't Cut Your Way Out of This." 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.

This year's Fall Conference will challenge public school superintendents to think outside the box and look for new and dynamic ways to lead their districts while serving their students. The Fall Conference will look from a national, state, regional and local perspective on the challenges and changes facing public education.