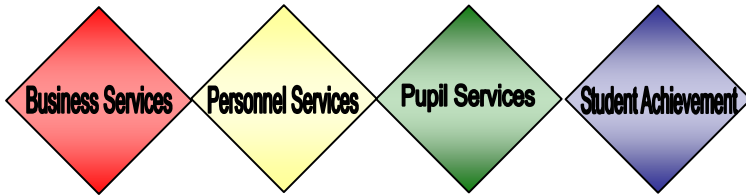


School District of New London



BOARD OF EDUCATION

MONTHLY UPDATE

By: Joseph Marquardt
Director of Business Services

Date: September 2011

Bus Driver In-service

We held a training day for all of our bus drivers on Friday, August 26 to prepare them for the 2011-12 school year. The morning included expectations, non-violent crisis intervention training, route schedules, student discipline guidelines and guiding principles.

It was a great day for our drivers. A special thanks goes to Jessica Rice, School Psychologist, who spent 90 minutes conducting a non-violent crisis intervention refresher. She did an outstanding job walking our drivers through the steps to handle discipline issues on the bus. Specific examples and scenarios were shared during the day and we hope they are equipped with training to handle any difficult situations that may develop during the year.



It is important that if we expect staff to be successful in situations we do provide proper training to be successful. The drivers appreciated the opportunity and I know it was a great kick off to start the school year.

Minimizing the Damage

One important change to our transportation program is an increased effort to minimize damage inside the bus and to the outside of the bus. This will be a collaborative effort between our students, drivers, parents/guardians and other district staff to reach this goal. It will

require our students to be held accountable to damaged seats, windows and other interior components of the bus and our drivers to use more care when operating the bus and avoid exterior damage.

Lunch Program

A few changes to our lunch program have been communicated to parents by a letter sent home in Thursday folders. We moved from Wordware to Skyward Food Service. This platform is much better for the District. It reduces the double-entry of data, has one log-in for parents, tallies more accurate reports and integrates with other requirements we have as a District. Early reports from our food service staff indicate this system is much more user friendly.

We also modified the milk money payment. For years we tracked everything separate. This year we will track both lunch and milk as a "Food Service Payment." This makes sense logistically because it increases accuracy for state/federal aid, makes sure parents don't pay for a milk their child does not drink and eliminates an extra report our office staff needs to keep track of by paper. We were able to pay for this software through the food service fund balance. This is not a part of the local tax levy.



One note to prepare for 2011-12 is that we will be required by federal law to raise our lunch prices. We must meet a certain percentage difference between free/reimbursement. More information will be shared at a later date.