

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW LONDON
Monitoring Report to the Board of Education

Program Title: Sustainability	Schools Affected: All Schools # Of Students Affected: All Students	Timeframe: 2010 -2011
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Mission Target(s):
 Actively engage in efforts to reduce expenses and maximize resources over the long-term while working to secure a sustainable revenue source for Public Education

- Program Goal(s):**
- √ Actively engage in the process of changing the State Funding Formula to achieve fair and sustainable funding for Public Education.
 - √ Seek alternative funding sources to supplement and extend available resources.
 - √ Seek ways to use emerging technologies to provide new options for learning while reducing costs.
 - √ Continuously monitor operations and seek sustainable use of energy, water, and other resources efficiently and effectively.
 - √ Establish an expectation that graduates will have an understanding of “green” skills related to occupations and responsible citizenship.

Goal Rationale: To operate efficiently by managing expenses and maximizing resources while working to raise quality. Over the long-term, advocate for greater flexibility in the use of resources as well as sustainable revenue sources for Public Education.

Personnel Allocated to Goal Achievement:
 Director of Business and Human Resource Services and supporting staff

Budget Allocation to Goal Achievement:
 Approximately 15% - 20% of the district budget is considered to be within cost management scope. The balance of the budget is considered to be fixed costs with reduction possible only through staff reduction or negotiated contracts.

- Highlights/Accomplishments Since January 2011:**
- * Hired new Director of Business and Human Resource Services.
 - * Adopted a Budget Forecast model that has become more standardized, automatic, and meaningful in terms of long-range planning.
 - * Nearing completion of the necessary budget adjustments to meet the statutory limits related to revenue caps (\$2,000,000 reduction).
 - * Negotiated a 1 year extension of the CBA with certified staff which meets the statutory goals for WRS and insurance premium sharing while maintaining acceptable working relationships with our employees.
 - * Completed an energy audit.
 - * Eliminated or modified bus routes and adjusted school calendar to minimize transportation costs.
 - * Developed a banking arrangement to substantially improve interest earnings.
 - * Piloted an on-line solution during summer school at the high school level. This pilot is seen as a possible way to create a virtual school experience for those seeking such a solution rather than using open enrollment to access this type of learning.

Concerns:

- * Resources in the second year of the state funding plan will require significant reductions again for the 2012-2013 school year.
- * Our reliance on leasing as a solution to meet the immediate needs of the district is cause for concern over the long term as new funding laws and revenue limits have been put in place. This solution should continue to be an option but an option of last resort if at all possible.
- * Open Enrollment continues to drain resources from the budget. We have an opportunity to capture more from other districts but more importantly keep resident students through Career Academy development and establishing an on-line presence to better serve those seeking a virtual school experience.
- * Federal ARRA and Jobs funding will be expended and no longer available to support district budget.
- * District fund balance is below recommended percentage of total budget. This causes increased cash flow borrowing and associated interest costs forcing the district to rely upon leasing options.

Suggested Next Steps:

- Finalize budget documents and update with accurate data when available in October.
- Look to maximize e-rate funding.
- Operationalize Facilities, Capital Projects & Energy Conservation Committee.
- Develop plan of action to minimize or eliminate long-distance charges for calls made within the district.
- Set a goal to reduce controllable expenses by 20% and engage staff at each building to achieve that goal via an incentive plan.
- Use the Employee Benefits & Wellness Committee to drive down health care costs while improving the health of our employees.
- Continue to evaluate our debt obligations to be able to act if and when opportunities present themselves.
- Assess Open Enrollment decisions of families and develop a targeted response plan by December 31.

Completed by: Joe Marquardt, Bill Fitzpatrick

Date: August 1, 2011