



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW LONDON

Monthly Update

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR • BUSINESS SERVICES
PUPIL SERVICES • TEACHING AND LEARNING SERVICES

April 2025

District Administrator

School Board Member Election

The April election results are as follows:

- Patricia R. Toney - 2232
- Andy Thorpe - 3082
- Holly Schweitzer - 3296



We are pleased to welcome back Holly Schweitzer for her second term on the Board of Education, as well as new member Andy Thorpe. Per Wisconsin Statute Secs 120.06(4) and 120.42(2), new Board members are not legally able to take office until the fourth Monday of April (April 28). As Board meetings have been rescheduled to Wednesdays, and the fourth Wednesday in April falls before the fourth Monday, the first Board meeting that new members will be able to attend will be on May 14, 2025.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mandy Wilz for her years of dedicated service on the Board of Education. We deeply appreciate her time, effort, and commitment to maintaining the high standards of education in the School District of New London.

High School Student Get Hands on Experience With Spring Election

Juniors from New London High School received an up-close, hands-on civics lesson just days before the spring election. On March 24, as part of their American Government classes, 11th grade students visited the city council chambers in the New London Municipal Building. There, New London City Clerk Nicole Ryerson guided them through the voting process and provided an overview of the city's electronic voting equipment.

Clerk Ryerson welcomed the students to the chambers and began the Election Day tutorial by displaying a map of the city's districts, including the five aldermanic districts, 12 wards, and four county supervisory districts. She explained how optical scan voting machines function to accurately tabulate

ballots and unlocked a voting machine to show where paper ballots are securely stored after being cast. To give students a practical demonstration, she provided pre-marked "practice" ballots, showing how the voting machine detects ballots with write-in candidates or those marked incorrectly.



Legislative Forum Held on March 31, 2025

On Monday, March 31, State Senators Rachel Cabral-Guevara and Cory Tomczyk, along with State Representatives David Murphy, Kevin Peterson, Joel Kitchens, Brent Jacobson, and Elijah Behnke, met with school board members and school administrators from the New London, Manawa, Weyauwega-Fremont, Marion, and Wild Rose school districts at New London High School.

The meeting provided an opportunity for school board members to engage directly with state legislators, sharing both local successes and key priorities. Discussions focused on funding sustainability, school safety, academic achievement, and teacher recruitment.



B 212

The April B212 Extra Degree of Effort recognizes High School students Shaye Allen, Tyson Luedtke and Djunie Langel on their recent essay submission on



Americanism to the American Legion Auxiliary. The American Legion Auxiliary comprises nearly 1 million members in 7,500 local units throughout the United States. Originally organized to assist The American Legion, the Auxiliary today volunteers tens of thousands of hours to its communities and to veterans, and it raises millions of dollars to support its programs and countless other charities.

Additionally, the American Legion Auxiliary promotes Americanism to today's youth through its annual Americanism essay contest. "Americanism" can be defined as "promoting an understanding and appreciation of American government, the rights and responsibilities of American citizenship, and activity in the American way of life." Through the Auxiliary's essay contest, high school students are asked to write a 450-500 word essay that exemplifies these ideals. This year's essay prompt was: "What does America the Beautiful mean to me (regarding veterans and our military)?"



Three New London High School students were recently recognized as this year's top Americanism essay writers. Members of New London's American Legion Auxiliary Unit 263 read the student submissions and determined the "bronze," "silver," and "gold" -- Shaye Allen (3rd place), Tyson Luedtke (2nd place), and Djunie Langel (1st place). The Auxiliary awarded \$25, \$20, and \$15 to these three writers, and Langel's essay was entered in the Auxiliary's statewide contest.

Director of Business Services

Total Compensation Committee Meetings

The committee held two committee meetings over the past month: March 12 and April 2.

The two meetings discussed base wage increase options for 2025-26, handbook topics and health and dental insurance discussions.

The base wage topic is included in tonight's board packet for further discussion. There will be additional discussion on handbooks over the next few months to make formal recommendations for potential changes to the employee handbook for 2025-26.



Sub Coordinator and Accounting Assistant Update

Wendie Kronser retired on April 1 after 10 years of service to the District. She has been integral to the district in coordinating our daily sub needs, cash reconciliations, fee management, accounting procedures, activity fund oversight and support, and office procedures. She was also a face many people saw as you entered the district office. This role is an important support mechanism that helps our district support segregation of duties. Her active work in this role has allowed us to grow stronger in those areas mentioned.



We are excited to welcome Alyssa Sullivan to this role. She is already working for the district at Parkview Elementary. She will be working at the district office in the morning and Parkview in the afternoons. She has been training with Wendie the past three weeks and is transitioning well. Please congratulate Wendie if you see her and welcome Alyssa to her added role!

Director of Pupil Services

Multicultural Program

On Monday, March 24, 2025, the bilingual program staff hosted a multicultural celebration evening for the families in our district. The evening consisted of a pizza, salad and a dessert meal for our families.

Every family that attended received a door prize. Donations were made by area businesses for these prizes. There were a number of community resources for the families to connect with.

Families and students also participated in creating murals which will be displayed in schools throughout the district.

Students also engaged in a number of games and activities that were provided throughout the evening. Thank you to the community and school board for supporting this event. The event was attended by the administrative staff throughout the district as well as school board members. Pictured below is the district wide bilingual team. Absent from the picture was Jordan Thompson, High School bilingual teacher. Pictured from left to right are: Kristin Brock, Ana Rosas, Kandi Martin, Kelly Munguia, Nadine Grundy, and Joanna Mertz.



4K Outreach Upcoming Events **4K Day of Fun Event**

On Friday, April 11, 2025, we anticipate approximately 100 people (students, families, and staff) to attend our 4K Literacy Round Up event at the Washington Center. Students who are three and four years old and their families can come to attend and participate in our literacy event. The event involves the 4K teaching staff from our district, as well as our collaborative partners—Head Start and Day Care Center of New London. Students are able to engage in projects involving literacy, gross motor activities, fine motor activities, math—specifically number identification, sorting, patterns, counting and more and family engagement. The staff will receive assistance from the 8th grade student council students as well as the Catalyst Academy staff and students.

4K/5K Family Visitation Day

On Friday, May 2, 2025, the district will host 4K/5K visitation day in all of the elementary schools. All New London families with children ages 3 and older are encouraged to attend. Parents will learn more about what 4K and 5K is all about, be able to see the classrooms and instructional areas, and ask questions they may have about their own children. Additionally, families will also receive a bulldog t-shirt for attending this event.



Director of Teaching and Learning

On Wednesday, April 3, the Board of Education Policy Committee convened to initiate discussions on the development of a student grade-level promotion policy in response to the State of Wisconsin's Act 20. By July 1, 2025, all school boards and independent charter schools are required to adopt a promotion policy for students transitioning from 3rd to 4th grade that meets, at a minimum, the requirements outlined in Wis. Stat. §§ 118.33(6)(a)3. and (6)(b)2m. The policy must specify the date of enforcement, which cannot extend beyond September 1, 2027.

The Board of Education Policy Committee will reconvene on May 5 to review data and refine the focus of the policy development.