

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW LONDON

Monthly Update

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

July 2024

District Administrator

<u>B 212</u>

Our July B 212, "Extra Degree of Effort," goes out to all District staff who are contributing as summer school teachers, coaches, advisors, and administrators. Without



question, learning does not stop over the summer months. My sincere thank you to all staff supporting summer school opportunities for our school community.

Kids from Wisconsin

The Kids from Wisconsin troupe will again perform at New London High School auditorium on Tuesday, July 16, at 7:00 p.m.

New London Lions Club Presents the KIDS from WISCONSIN! Widely recognized for their versatile talents and groundbreaking performances, these entertainer icons impacted the music industry and pop culture into another stratosphere.

The 56th Kids From Wisconsin troupe showcase these "Larger than Life" performing artists in their highly energized and highly anticipated 2024 summer production. Featured is music from historic bands and orchestras that have sold out world stadiums, kings and queens from rock to pop, legendary Broadway stars and classic entertainers that will live forever on the stage and screen.

Congratulations to New London's very own Kayden Kloehn for being selected for his third tour with the 2024 Kids from Wiscoisin troupe.

There's also a free youth performing arts workshop for children ages 7-14. To register, go to <u>https://newlondonchamber.com/event/new-london-lio</u> <u>ns-club-kids-from-wisconsin-2/</u>. Ticket Pricing: General – \$15 / Reserved – \$25 / General @ door – \$20.

General admission tickets are available at these New London locations:

- First State Bank (NL branch)
- Wolf River Community Bank (NL branch)
- New London School District Office
- New London Chamber of Commerce

Transition to the 2024-2025 Academic Year

Although the official start date to the 2024-2025 academic year is over a month and a half away, family conversations about grade level and school transitions are undoubtedly ongoing. The following excerpts from the "National Network of Partnership Schools which is supported by John Hopkins University," shares thoughts and strategies to prepare for the upcoming annual academic transition that are part of every school-age child and family.



Making a smooth transition is a challenge that students meet at every school level. They wonder: Will I be prepared? Make new friends? Be happy? Working with educators, parents can help ease students' transitions from home to pre-k, pre-k to kindergarten, elementary to middle, middle to high, and high school to post-secondary programs.

Changing schools is both frightening and exciting. Leaving a familiar, comfortable school to go to the next—often larger—school may create anxiety for even the most confident students. At the same time, progressing to the next level may bolster children's self-esteem—making them feel more "grown-up" at each stage of schooling. As students and parents/guardians prepare for the upcoming academic year, I encourage you all to actively engage in conversation about expectations, goals, and anxieties that may exist.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact your building principal or school personnel to discuss the transition for a successful 2023-2024 academic year.

Director of Business Services

Total Compensation Committee Meeting

The committee met on June 10 and the following topics were discussed:

Review of 2024-24
Employee Handbook
Revisions



Those recommendations are included in the packet tonight for consideration.

 Discussion of co-curricular activities and activities wage schedules

The committee focused on activities pay for the upcoming school year and will look at co-curriculars next year. The recommended increase for activities pay increase is included in the packet for consideration.



• Discussion of substitute pay

The committee felt the increases and new categories for the 2023-24 school year were important to support the substitute teaching wages. No changes were recommended for the upcoming school year.

Summer Projects Update



The summer projects are progressing well. Here are some reminder notes below:

• The high school flooring and painting project looks amazing, and we cannot wait for

everyone to see it.

• The roofing project at the high school continues to battle the rain but is on target from what they have shared with us. The rain has caused some interior leaks that we continue to address.

- Both gym flooring projects have been completed.
- Sugar Bush electrical switchover will be completed this week.
- The playground project at Parkview that is supported by their PTO is scheduled for this week.
- Readfield phone line switch is complete.

July 1 Equalization Aid Estimate

The July 1 equalization aid estimate was released by DPI (Department of Public Instruction).

The Department releases their best estimate on July 1 to inform school districts



and sends out a media release on the approximate equalization aid they will receive on the October 15 official certification date.

This is a key number because it is the largest revenue in our budget and is used by the Board of Education when setting the tax levy. This number is especially important to New London because state equalization aid is the primary source of revenue for our general operating budget (about 66% of revenue limit authority).

A key element to note is that **more** or **less** equalization aid <u>does not</u> mean more or less money to spend in the district's budget. More equalization aid offsets the contribution by local taxpayers towards the general operating budget if the Board levies to its full authority.

DPI's <u>estimate</u> for New London is \$18,171,578, which is 6.55% <u>more</u> (\$1,116,837) than 2023-24. If the estimate holds true, the mill rate will fall. It's very important to note this is an estimate at this time.

Please note, spending authority is determined by the state imposed revenue limits which are slated to increase for New London because the district is a low revenue limit district (\$11,325 per pupil).

I will keep the Board posted as we get closer to the budget hearing in September when more definitive data will be available.

Director of Pupil Services

Crisis Training

The New London Police Department is in the process of conducting their annual building



walk–thrus for each school in the district. Each building annually runs multiple safety drills throughout the year to allow the staff to train and practice on how to respond in case of an emergency. The district has the procedures posted in each room and on the back of each staff member's ID badge. These trainings are overseen by the New London Police

Department and the Waupaca County Sheriff's Department. They annually receive an update of all of our building's updated procedures. These are also shared with the Department of Justice, as part of our safety grant (ACT 143).

Secretary Training

On July 31 and August 1, the secretary and health aide staff members will participate in several trainings which include medication administration and updated procedures regarding specific students' medical plans, including seizure plans, diabetic care plans and proper first aid procedures. The New London Police Department will also be present at one day of the training to provide some training to the secretaries on safety procedures that NLPD assists the district with.

Summer Bulldogs of Character Events



The Bulldogs of Character, accompanied by Percy the Bulldog, have been visible around the community all summer. Percy started his summer activities by participating in the Sturgeon Shuffle.

Percy has attended all the Concerts in the Park sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Percy has also been seen distributing freeze pops to all concert goers and anyone else enjoying the park during the concert series in the



evenings. Additionally, Percy has also been participating in the summer reading program offered to all children at the public library this summer.





Continue to watch the school Facebook page for Percy's latest adventures.

Director of Teaching and Learning

Rollover Successful

One of the biggest events of the summer is the rollover of our systems to promote data to the next school year. This impacts fiscal, enrollment, instructional and efficiency areas in our system. This year's rollover is complete. Sincere thanks to Lesley Baehman in leading and coordinating this effort with all team members.

Family Access Online Registration



The next impact on our data quality will be online registration for families. This annual event will open later this month. During this process parents acknowledge policies, pay fees, confirm health and safety information

for their students as well as confirm enrollment plans. Having accurate information in our system is imperative to our mission of Success for All Students. Families new to the district or needing online support or a device to complete this process can contact our enrollment specialist, Lesley Baehman, or building secretaries. Bilingual staff coordinates efforts to support our Bilingual families each year including personal appointments to assure understanding and accuracy.

Free and Reduced Meals Eligibility

Online registration is also the first window for families to apply for Free and Reduced Meals qualifications. This process is not only helpful for our families in reducing cost, but remains the driver for many grant allocations including Title IA. All information is kept confidential and staff is available to assist if form assistance is needed. These forms remain available throughout the school year should circumstances change, but once identified for the school year, the benefits remain. This would also be an appropriate time to share challenges with homelessness. Families should apply each year to assure the benefits remain active.

https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/program-requireme nts/free-reduced-meal-eligibility

Thank you for those who apply to allow our district to receive additional grant funding to keep programs available in our district.



Forward Results

As a reminder this year's state assessment results from the Forward Exam will be released later than usual; July 29, 2024. As always, they will be shared with families during open house in the first weeks of school. Further information on the Wisconsin Strategic Assessment System can be found online with WI DPI. <u>https://dpi.wi.gov/strategic-assessment</u>



Summer School

Our largest enrollment period for Summer School begins July 8, 2024, and has programs being offered at Lincoln Elementary, our Intermediate Middle School and our High School. There are still openings in many course offerings and parents are encouraged to enroll their students even if a few absences may occur. As a reminder, our summer school program allows us to capture additional Full Time Equivalent numbers into our budget calculations. Student participation in summer programs allows us to maintain staffing and program goals for the regular school year when faced with declining enrollment.

Structured transportation and free meals are also available during this 3 week window. Further clarification and enrollment support is available through our summer school coordinators:

Elementary: Dani Kamba dkamba@newlondon.k12.wi.us

ISMS: Josh Murnane jmurnane@newlondon.k12.wi.us

High School: Philip Sloma psloma@newlondon.k12.wi.us

