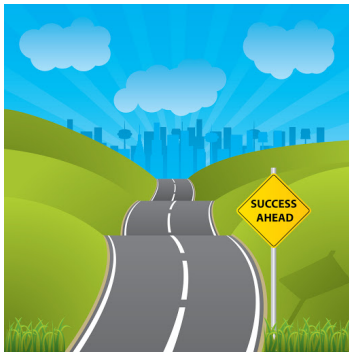




### December 2020

#### District Administrator



#### 2020-2021 Academic Journey

Our 2020 -2021 academic journey continues to present opportunities and obstacles for students, families, and staff to navigate. As we push to the start of a new calendar year and

the end of the first semester grading period on January 21st, continued active involvement by parents/guardians to support student growth is critical. Regardless of the instructional delivery model our students are engaged in (face to face, AA/BB cohort hybrid, or virtual), there is nothing more relevant than positive parent/guardian support to motivate student success. The School District of New London truly appreciates our families and their active involvement.

With the upcoming holiday season near, students and families can reset and establish focused priorities as we venture into 2021.

#### B 212

Our December B 212 extra effort recognition acknowledges our students and staff involved with our winter concert productions. Even with a bit of adversity, students and staff are able to demonstrate their fine arts abilities with expertise. Winter band, chorus, and general music concert programming are in the process of being recorded for publication on our District Youtube channel. I encourage our school community to celebrate our students and staff efforts as they warm up the month of December with their holiday cheer.



#### Recording of Monthly School Board Meeting for Public Viewing

At the December 14, 2020, regular Board of Education meeting, video recording of monthly meetings will again be established. Our ability to record and share the monthly meetings on our District YouTube channel will allow our school community members enhanced opportunity to view regular Board meetings from a remote location, on an independent time schedule, while not physically attending the meeting if they so choose.



Past practice meeting recording protocol will be utilized to document meetings. The public forum, which takes place before our monthly meeting formally begins, will be recognized as an opportunity for community members to share feedback on the agenda related topics. In concluding the public forum, the Board will formally begin the monthly meeting, which will be recorded and loaded onto our District Youtube channel for viewing. The intent will be to have the recorded meeting uploaded to the District YouTube channel within two days following meetings, if not before.

#### Wisconsin Association of School Boards Recognition

School District of New London school board member Chris Martinson has been recognized by the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) for their commitment to professional development.

Martinson has earned Level 1 recognition by attending training opportunities focused on student achievement and improving public education by the Wisconsin Association of School Boards and/or the National School Boards Association.

The WASB's Member Recognition Program tracks the professional development of board members, who may be awarded one of five achievement levels based on a point system. Members receive points by

attending the State Education Convention, participating in workshops and a variety of other professional development activities.

As it stems from a board member's journey to deepen their understanding of school governance and leadership, member recognition reflects the member's commitment to their community.

WASB Executive Director John Ashley recognizes Martinson's accomplishments.

"Board members begin their service with a desire to help children in their community reach their potential," he said. Martinson is taking concrete steps to build on that foundation by developing their leadership and governance skills."

*The Wisconsin Association of School Boards is a nonprofit association that provides information and services to Wisconsin school boards in the areas of school law and policy making, bargaining, legislation and leadership development.*



## **Director of Business Services**

### **Facilities Committee**

The committee met on December 7 and the agenda topics are noted below:

- A. Review and discuss ISMS cafeteria tables purchase
- B. Review and discuss updates to Building Automation Systems proposals
- C. Review and discuss Tennis Courts Proposal at High School
- D. Update on ISMS project planning schedule and budget
- E. Update on HS Tech Ed area meeting with Somerville
- F. Update on deed options for FFA School Forests
- G. Discuss storage needs if Readfield Property is sold

## H. Update on capital projects planning

A summary of these topics is noted below:

The cafeteria table replacement and building automation system update districtwide is on the agenda for approval on December 14.

Tennis courts have been a topic of discussion since 2018 when approached by the City of New London to share in the cost of a maintenance update to courts at Hatten Park.

The Board committee recommended to continue to study options of on-site courts located at New London High School south of the staff parking lot. Look for future discussions with the full Board.

The ISMS PLC team met with Somerville on December 9 to discuss the functionality of needs as instructors in the building. This team is an integral part to the planning process of the scope of work approved by the Board in November. The committee will be a part of the planning process throughout the ISMS project development.

The Tech Ed department's vision for the future of technology education at the high school was shared with the committee. A prioritized list was presented and future discussions will continue on options for updates to that wing of the building for modernized technology education and safety needs. Somerville also reviewed the vision and can be a resource if needed for the planning of any updates approved by the Board. As a reminder, this was a part of the facility plan developed in 2017-18.

The information about the FFA School Forests was sent to a local attorney who works with deeds to review potential deed alterations. Look for an update in January.

If the Board approves a sale of the property at Readfield Elementary, a storage area would be needed. Potential sites and options were discussed and that the funding would come from the sale of the property.



## Property Tax Bills

Property owners will receive tax bills during the month of December.



A few notes to share with taxpayers if asked:

- Mill rate decrease of 9 cents (7.94 - 7.85)
- Levy increase of 2.2 percent
- Equalized value increase of 3 percent
- Private voucher school impact of 16 cents
- Statewide taxes increased on average by 3.0 percent.

Generally speaking, the school portion of taxes for taxpayers in the district will have a slight increase because even though the mill rate is lower, property values are higher and so is the total levy.

There are a few municipalities that saw more growth in comparison to others so they may see a higher increase than others. Overall, New London is well below the state average in the property tax rate.

Please encourage anyone with questions to visit the business services webpage or call the district office at 920-982-8530 and we can answer more questions.

## Director of Pupil Services

### Bulldogs of Character at the Reverse Parade

The Bulldogs of Character organization participated in the “reverse parade” that was sponsored by the New London Chamber of Commerce. This was the annual Holiday of Wonder parade which was run in



reverse this year. Citizens received maps to locations that had been decorated and put on displays for the parade. Citizens then got in their cars and

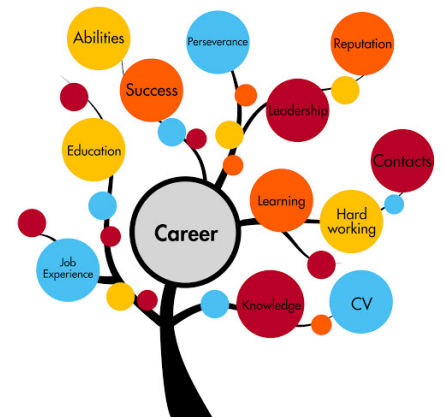


drove by the locations to look at the holiday decor. Percy the Bulldog and the Bulldogs of Character groups were present on the parade route on North Water Street. The parade was held on December 5, 2020.

### Academic Career Planning for 2021

All future freshmen and their parents will be receiving information about the Academic and Career Planning process soon. This will occur near January 11. The information will be presented virtually this year. New London strives to engage our students in a variety of opportunities during their high school career. Our goal for the Academic and Career Planning Process is to make sure all students and families are informed consumers of the educational options New London High School has to offer. An overview of the scheduling process, graduation requirements and career and college readiness advice will be available in the Academic and Career Planning materials.

The first focus will be on 9th grade scheduling and ACP planning. The high school counselors will be creating a presentation to share with parents with all the resources included.



The high school counselors will share the slide show with everyone. They will also create a scheduling video with step-by-step directions on how to schedule classes. The presentation will cover scheduling, pathways, academic planning, and a variety of other information. The counselors will also be presenting something similar on a smaller scale to all 8th grade students the week before January 11, 2021. The counselors will inform all parents/students about the scheduling process; they will also visit the middle school on January 19 and meet with each student individually to discuss and check their schedule selections.

## Director of Teaching and Learning

### ACT Results from Fall Practice

Students in grades 9-11 participated in an ACT practice event on November 21 and 22 this year.

Unlike other years, they took a released copy of the ACT test so their results will be more reflective of their performance on the assessment they will be measured on in the future.

New London is proud and impressed with the reports our students received showing their results and strategies for improving their ACT scores. Reports were shared with all participants December 6-10 during IE. Our partnership with the Academic Tutoring Center has surpassed our expectations with reports showing both student and system areas for improvement. Students will still take the state required assessment this spring. Sincere thanks to the families, students and staff that made this fall session a success.



### Free and Reduced Lunch Applications



Although current policy allows free meals for all students without an application, New London would appreciate all

families who believe they may qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch to fill out the paperwork. Our district receives additional funds and benefits based on the percentage of families that qualify for this support, this helps keep all costs down.

Families who have not already filled this paperwork out for the 2020-2021 school year, please do so. The application can be found on the school district website at; <https://www.newlondon.k12.wi.us/parents/freereducemeals.cfm>, in all school offices including the district office, or you may request a copy from Lesley Baehman [lbaehman@newlondon.k12.wi.us](mailto:lbaehman@newlondon.k12.wi.us).

Thank you in advance for filling this application out to assist our District in our confidential records. If you have questions about your application or need any further assistance, please call (920) 982 - 2011

### Instructional Committee Meeting

Our next Instructional Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday December 15, 2020 at 4:15 p.m. at the District Office.



### High School Scheduling

#### Course Selection



It is hard to believe, but New London will kick off our planning and registration for next school year in January. Many

events have been flipped to a virtual model. This includes getting our 8th graders information about registration/scheduling for high school as well as current student course selection. All high school students will rotate through scheduling and planning meetings and begin to select courses of study for next year during the months of January and February.

### Registration and Enrollment

Registration packets for 4K will be sent the week of January 4, 2021, for children who will turn 4 by September 1, 2021.

Students who did not attend 4K but are interested in 5K next year will also be able to register if they will turn 5 by September 1, 2021.

Families who do not think they are in our census or are new to the area, can call Lesley Baehman at (920) 982 4447 or email [lbaehma@newlondon.k12.wi.us](mailto:lbaehma@newlondon.k12.wi.us) to request a packet be sent. Please return these packets as soon as possible to the District Office or school buildings so we can begin to prepare for next year.





Please notify your building principal if you have any questions about 4K, 5K enrollment or if you have concerns or a request for your child to repeat their current grade level.

**Tyson's Donors Choose**

Again New London would like to thank Tyson Foods for their \$30,000 of support for classroom instructional materials! Watch for future details on these projects in the Bulldog Bulletin, eNews and Facebook!