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Be 212 “The Extra Degree”



The month of December presented numerous examples of our District employees giving the extra degree of effort to ensure “Success For All Students.” I would like to

recognize all professional and support staff who assisted with the recent success of our winter concert series held at the New London High School auditorium. Without question, the extra degree of effort was given by all involved. From transportation coordination, rehearsal schedules, staging, lighting and sound, building supervision, safety, flexible student scheduling, instructional preparation, and friendly faces to greet our community; all should be commended. Thank you for creating a brilliant environment to showcase our student talents!

Director of Business Services

Fitness Center Donation

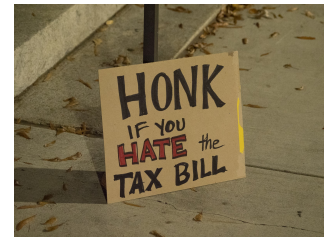
Mark and Patty Grossman donated \$500 to the district for the purchase of items needed in the fitness center.



We always appreciate gifts to the district to support ongoing needs. Please join me in thanking the Grossman family for their generosity!

Property Taxes

The district office and board members often receive feedback once property tax bills are received.



Below is a good summary of what the Board approved.

- The Board approved the levy in October with a 21 cent increase or 3.1% per \$1,000 of property value. Thus, the average taxpayer will see a 3.1% increase in school taxes.
- The total tax levy increase was 6.5%. The mill rate is the most common way taxes are communicated, while the total levy is the overall dollar increase from the prior year.
- The primary increase in the mill rate and levy was not because of the 2018 referendum. The Board levied an additional \$470,000 because New London qualified as a low spending district. That amount was budgeted for maintenance projects.
- This additional amount spent does not receive state aid until the next budget year. The Board will have similar authority in next year's budget, too.
- 2018 Mill Rate = \$7.73, 2019 Mill Rate = \$7.94
- In the last two years, the mill rate has been below \$8.00 per \$1,000, lowest since 2006. The state average is \$9.37 per thousand of taxable property.

Sometimes equalized property valuations change significantly in local municipalities creating an increase/decrease different than what was approved by the Board. This creates confusion that is different than our general communication.

Please encourage anyone to contact the district office for more information and we will continue to improve our communication if possible.

Milwaukee Public School District Referendum (MPS)

MPS has a \$87 million referendum on the April ballot for consideration by voters. Why does this matter to New London?

MPS receives approximately \$551 million in state equalization aid each year. This equates to about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the MPS' revenue for revenue limit purposes. This is about 11% of the State of Wisconsin's appropriation for general equalization aid. If the referendum passes, it will impact all school districts that receive state aid. Other school districts pass referendums as well and it has an impact, but since MPS is so large, the impact is more noticeable.

The less state aid we receive, the more local property taxes are needed to offset the decrease in state aid. I will keep the Board posted as we know more because the impact would not be felt until the 2021-22 budget.

Director of Pupil Services

Child Development Days

Our final child development day screening is scheduled for Friday, January 24, 2020 from 1:00-6:00 p.m., at Lincoln Elementary School. This developmental screening is designed for children 2½ to 4 years old. The screening process allows children to separate from their parents to participate in a play-based screening to observe speech/language, cognition, gross and fine motor, and self-help skills. During the screening, parents are able to chat with our elementary principals and then directed to our community area to speak with our school nurse, 4K staff, and gather resources from the public library and other community partners. Parents interested in setting up an appointment for Child Development Days are invited to contact Linda Kruzicki, Pupil Services Administrative Assistant, at (920) 982-8447.

ACCESS Testing



Federal and state laws require that students identified as English Learners (ELs) be assessed annually to determine

their level of English language proficiency (ELP) and ensure that they are progressing in achieving full English proficiency. This includes students who receive special education services.

The ACCESS assessment window is December 2, 2019-January 31, 2020. The School District of New London has over 100 students taking the ACCESS assessment. At this time, our district is over 70% complete with testing. Our bilingual teachers and tutors complete this testing with our students.

Program Donation for High School Special Education

Jill Spencer's classroom in the high school received a donation of \$1,000 from Craig and Jodi Benzel. The donation was directed to be put forth for use in the high school special education program for student needs and student opportunities. Thanks goes out to the Benzel family for their generous donation and support of our student programming.



As a response to the Benzel's donation, the Green Bay Packers organization donated an additional \$500 to the high school special education program in New London.

Director of Teaching and Learning

February In-Service Training

The next district-wide in-service training is scheduled for Monday, February 17, from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. That will be a no school day for students. The current agenda for the in-service training is a variety of small sectionals addressing teachers' needs at each of the grade levels and across various content areas. This year the in-service training will take place at Neenah High School. CESA 6 is sponsoring the entire training and has put together sectionals for our staff to attend. Over 20 other Fox Cities and CESA 6 region

schools will be attending along with our staff. We will transport our staff down to the training via school bus. The entire professional staff will attend this year's training opportunity in Neenah.

Semester Transition

Just a friendly reminder that the end of the semester is January 16, 2020.



There is professional development (no school for students) the following day to allow for records and grading updates as well as sessions to promote wellness and balance with our staff. The first day of second semester is January 20, 2020. Well wishes to all in the second half of the school year!

4K Enrollment/Registration



Based on our census and local family information, families will soon be receiving information regarding 4K enrollment for our community collaborative program. If you know anyone with students eligible for 4K, please encourage them to fill out paperwork or call our

offices to get the process started! Questions can be directed to Lesley Baehman at (920) 982-8447.