# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW LONDON



# Monthly Update

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

# March 2024

# **District Administrator**

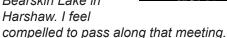
#### B 212

The March B212 Extra Degree of Effort recognizes the High School ice fishing team. Recently, the team competed in the state ice fishing tournament at Big Bearskin Lake in Harshaw, Wisconsin.

The following email excerpts are from an ice fishing angler on Big Bearskin Lake on the same day our High School ice fishing team competed. The individual was compelled and inspired to share his experience with our

District.

"I had an encounter this past weekend with the New London High School fishing team on Big Bearskin Lake in Harshaw. I feel



I was fishing by myself and enjoying the solitude when two trailer loads of young men pulled up next to me. My first reaction was honestly "good grief, what did I do to deserve this?!" Immediately, a coach approached me very politely and explained who they were and what they were doing. That eased my apprehension a bit, but I was enjoying the solitude.

Anyways, as the day passed along, I couldn't help but become impressed with the character of these young men. They were very polite and gracious. Their spirit and enthusiasm were contagious and by the end of the afternoon I was enjoying their nearby company and cheering them on.

I don't know if the fishing team is an active school function or if this is a club organized outside of the official school structure. Regardless, the school district and parents should be proud of these young men.

I have to also give credit to the coaches/mentors that were part of this group. They did a fantastic job teaching, and it was obvious they were having a positive impact on the young men.

Take care and thank you for your time!"

Congratulations to our High School ice fishing team who demonstrated their B212 Extra Degree of Effort. The High School ice fishing team is advised by Bob Smith, Joe Gruentzel, Riley Schussler, Chris Doran, and Jason Liegl.

#### **Public School Week**

February 26 through March 1 was recently recognized as Public School Week within Wisconsin. As a public school district, the School District of New London is proud of its commitment to serving all students and families to meet its Mission of Success for All Students.



Time and again, the School District of New London has supported educational and growth opportunities for students that provide:

- Safe, secure, nurturing environment
- Establish and maintain school family, community partnerships
- Foster students' development assets
- Ensure that students master the essential curriculum
- Recruit, develop and retain a highly qualified staff
- Model what is expected
- Value diversity
- Meet the needs of the future.

#### 2024 School Board Candidate Forum

Meet the 2024 School Board election candidates on Monday, March 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the New London High School auditorium. The public is welcome to attend. Candidates will be given the

opportunity to respond to relevant questions, which will provide further perspective to support the School District of New London as a School Board representative.

#### New London Area Chamber of Commerce Educator/School Personnel of the Year Nominees

The New London Area Chamber of Commerce recently released the 2024 Educator/School Personnel of the Year nominees. Nominees were selected from the New London Area Chamber of Commerce membership based on their active involvement in supporting Chamber members and the greater community.

Congratulations to the following School District of New London employees recognized as nominees:

Kevin Spindler Brian Yerkey Erin Marsh Joe Gruentzel Laurie Laubenstein Scott Bleck Tara Korth



The New London Area Chamber of Commerce Educator/School Personnel of the Year nominees will be honored with the winner selected at the annual Chamber Banquet on April 11, 2024, at Crystal Falls Banquet Hall in New London.

#### **Director of Business Services**

#### **Spring Break Project Work**

The weeklong spring break allows for special projects to be completed by the custodian, maintenance and technology teams that are difficult to accomplish

Examples include painting, floor finishing, addressing hazards,

during the school year.



replacing a main breaker, deep cleaning, lift work in high traffic areas, running data and communication lines, and Chromebook testing preparation are all scheduled tasks for the week. Additionally, uninterrupted workflow allows for a lot of work to be efficiently accomplished.

### Pupil Count (Membership) Audit



The district was selected by DPI to have a membership audit for the 2023-24 school year on student count data. This includes data compiled from summer school 2023, 3rd Friday count in September, and 2nd Friday count in January.

Membership audits are required by Wis. Stat. §115.28(18) for at least 25 percent of school districts each year. Under this random selection method, all districts will be audited at least once every four years. Our last audit was in 2020 and is completed by the district's auditing firm, Erickson & Associates. We will update on the results once we have them after the due date of April 30.

# **Facilities Meeting**

The Facilities Committee met on February 27. The topics are noted with summary notes after the items.

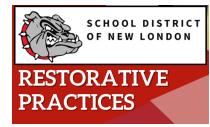
- A. Review of Food Service Management Company RFP Process
  - i. RFP is out and site visit has taken place
  - ii. Review by a committee in late March or early April for a recommendation to Board
- B. Review of Athletic Complex Sewer and Water timeline
  - i. Contracting with a civil engineering firm to design underground utilities
- C. Discuss bus purchasing replacement standards
  - i. 100,000 mile target was discussed
- D. Discuss high school fitness center updates through donations
  - Enhancements to equipment and flooring through donations was discussed
- E. Discuss 2024-25 Capital Projects Budget
  - i. Continue HS roof planning
  - ii. Continue LN boiler, chiller and HVAC options
  - iii. Continue HS flooring updates
  - iv. Parking lot maintenance projects

# **Director of Pupil Services**

#### **Restorative Practice Training**

On February 19, 2024, approximately 40 staff members attended Restorative Practices Training

representing each of the schools across the district at all grade levels. Katie Moder, from CESA 6, came in to provide this training to our district staff that included administrators,



teachers, and paraprofessionals. Restorative Practices focuses on building a school culture that actively invests in relationships among students, staff and the community.

# **Safety Bot Alert Updates**



The School Social
Worker continues to
monitor and report all
the Safety Bot alerts
that are received within
the school district.
These come up

whenever the system alerts of a troubling email or message in the student's Google docs, emails or Google classroom. Students have also been doing a good job of communicating with our administration team and pupil service team when other students are sending troubling messages on SnapChat, Facebook or Instagram.

# **Outside Counseling Resources**

Our school counseling program has been working with many outside counseling agencies over the past few years and have maintained these partnerships this year. We have created a memorandum of understanding with these organizations to assist our students and families with accessing mental health services on campus. The following is a list of some of the partnerships that we currently have in place:

- Samaritan
- Sherman
- Catalpa Health
- Open Trails Counseling
- Rawhide Counseling Services
- Integrity Counseling Services
- REACH Counseling
- Sexual Assault Crisis Center

Additional support for families in crisis is always available by calling 211 or United Way of the Fox Cities.

- 211 United Way Community Resources
- 311 (only in larger cities)--to report non-emergency problems-vandalism, graffiti, etc.
- 411 Directory Assistance
- 511 Road Conditions
- 611 Cell phone support
- 711 Telecommunication relay service
- 811 Diggers Hotline
- 911 Emergency Dispatch
- <u>988 Suicide Prevention Hotline—newer</u> resource



# **Director of Teaching and Learning**

#### Act 20 Updates

Interpretation of Act 20 legislation continues and some updates will be available mid month on a possible delay in requirement to assess this fall based on the tight timeline and the approval of curriculum



materials. Other challenges of the bill continue to challenge implementation without funding. I will continue to keep the board updated on final changes, but at this time items are in discussion only and not finalized.

At this time, we have 46 staff members actively participating in the Act 20 required training, so far feedback has been positive on the ability to go at their own pace and to choose the timeline that works best for them. The strategies and understanding learned by the team is trickling into our PLC and grade level discussions.

All classrooms grades K-8 are implementing unit 3 in ARC. This unit begins exploring the structures of genre with a deep study at each grade level of a specific genre. The "tropes" or recurring ideas and themes which frequently crop up in books and films of the same genre - they are the aspects of a genre which help define it.

# **Instructional Committee** Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2024 at 7:00 a.m. at the District Office. The agenda will be shared and posted as always.

#### **Assessment Season**

We are entering the assessment season for our schools, each building manages their own assessment schedule. Student attendance and participation is important for our data quality.



### **Learning Showcase Nights**

One of our most engaging family events are our Learning Showcase Nights. Each elementary building celebrates and showcases student work in the classrooms and hallways and families are invited to walk the halls to see all that has been completed so far this year. Students are excited to show visitors all they have accomplished, and families and the community gain a bit more understanding of what all students are capable of doing.

February 29, 2024 Lincoln and Sugar Bush March 14, 2024 Parkview and Readfield

