



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW LONDON

Monthly Update

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

November 2023

District Administrator

School Board Election Timeline

During November, preparation timelines for the annual school board election on April 2, 2024, are communicated with our school community.



Please note the following dates and publication notices:

- November 28 (Tuesday) Publish notice of election (*Press Star* publication on November 22)
- December 22 (Friday) Deadline for non-candidacy for incumbent
- January 2 (Tuesday) Deadline for filing for School Board 5:00 p.m.
- April 1 (Monday) Publish notice of election (*Press Star* publication on March 28)
- April 2 (Tuesday) Election
- April 22 (Monday) School Board members take office

Current Board of Education members who are up for re-election are Mrs. Katie Batten, Mr. Mark Grossman, and Mr. Terry Wegner. The term of office is three years. Please contact the School District of New London administrative office for more information or general election questions.

Wisconsin Association of School Boards Recognition

School District of New London school board members John Heideman and Mark Grossman have been recognized by the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) for their commitment to professional development.

John Heideman has earned a Level 1 recognition, and Mark Grossman has earned Level 2 recognition.

This recognition is reflected 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.



School Board Convention

Registration for the 2024 Wisconsin State Education Convention is now open. The annual conference takes place January 17-19 in Milwaukee.

For over 100 years, the Wisconsin State Education Convention has been the state's largest gathering of educational leaders. Historically, more than 2,000 people attend the three-day convention. The event, held in January at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee, is co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB), the Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials (WASBO), and the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators (WASDA).

Please get in touch with our District office by December 15, 2023, if you are interested in attending the 2024 programming.



Von Briesen & Roper Legal Update

Over the past year, our district has received valuable guidance and support from our school attorneys,



Von Briesen and Roper. As education laws and regulations continue to evolve, it's crucial for Board members to stay informed and up-to-date on such topics. To

facilitate this goal, our legal partners have offered a legal update session, where Board members can ask questions and gain further perspective. If the Board of Education wishes to schedule a work session with Von Briesen & Roper, a convenient time and date can be established.

B 212

The November B212 extra degree of effort recognizes vocal music instructors Kevin Spindler, Julie Gauthier, and retired music educator Lu Ann Rupnow. Over the past month, Kevin, Julie, and Lu Ann have demonstrated extra effort by supporting our Intermediate Middle School choir and exploring music classroom instruction. Going above and beyond due to unforeseen staffing circumstances, Kevin, Julie, and Lu Ann have maintained and continue to support our ISMS choir and exploring music students with their expertise and skill set.



Director of Business Services

Food Service

Chartwells would like to invite Board members to eat lunch at the high school this year. Let me know if you are interested in taking part and we can organize a date. This year the Food Service Management Company Contract is up for review so food service will be a topic on several Board agendas throughout the 2023-24 school year.



As a note, students, parents and staff members continue to provide active feedback to food service so that there is good information to share on the satisfaction of the program.

Facilities Committee

The Facilities Committee met on October 16. The topics are noted below with summary notes after the items.

- A. Discussion on 2024-25 school bus purchasing process



An RFP has been sent out. Look for a potential recommendation in December 2024 to purchase in the 24-25

budget.

- B. Discussion on high school roofing replacement process

An RFP has been sent out to begin the high school roofing replacement project. Look for a recommendation in December 2024.

- C. Discussion on school furniture replacements

Schools are compiling needs to share back with the committee for a potential purchase and the possibility of utilizing ESSER funding.

- D. Discussion on enhancements to athletic facilities

Mr. Sloma shared a list of facility enhancements that would benefit athletic and co-curricular activities in the district.



- E. Discussion on updating capital projects plan
Unesco created a plan in 2017-18 for the district but they are no longer in business. We are working through options to update that plan as it relates to a KPI in the Continuous Improvement Plan.

- F. Review options to replace Administration Building HVAC Unit

Proposals were received and a recommendation was made to purchase. Look for a future topic summary to the full Board recommending approval.

- G. Discussion on snow removal for upcoming school year(s)

An RFP is posted and due this week. Look for approval at the next Board meeting.



H. Update on Sugar Bush HVAC system

The boiler pumps were not replaced as a part of the summer project. They need to be replaced and a proposal has been received. Look for formal approval at the next Board meeting.

I. Update on capital projects for current fiscal year

The most significant item for this year is a carpet replacement at the high school. This is a part of the 2023-24 budget. Look for future recommendations to approve this project.

J. Identification of committee member facility priorities

Board members shared topics they would like to see further discussed and studied.



Total Compensation Committee

The Total Compensation Committee met on October 17 and November 1. The main topics discussed are included in tonight's board packet for the health and dental insurance renewals.

The committee was also updated on projected CPI as it relates to wages for 2024-25. The current estimate is 4.25% but will be finalized in early 2024.

Director of Pupil Services

Child Development Days

On Thursday, October 12, 2023, the special education team conducted one of their child find activities. Child Development Days took place at Lincoln Elementary from 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Over 30 families brought in their students aged 2.5 to 4 years old to be screened in multiple areas including: gross and fine motor skills, speech, communication, cognition and medical concerns. The early childhood staff organized this activity, and they were supported by our school psychologists, speech and language pathologists as well as our occupational and physical therapy department. Congratulations to the early childhood department for the excellent turn out at this event. The next Child Development Days will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2024

Upcoming BOC Events

Percy, the bulldog mascot, has been on the move. He has recently been sighted at all the Character Traits assemblies at the elementary schools. He also participated in the Haunted Trails activity on October 27. If you are looking to spot Percy at any

upcoming activities, he will be on the Bulldogs of Character float during the December 1, 2023, Winter Wonderland on the Wolf parade, and he will also be decorating trees at the Thern Historical Farm during the holidays.



ACCESS for ELLs Testing

ACCESS for ELLs is an English language proficiency assessment administered to Kindergarten through 12th grade students who have been identified as English language learners (ELLs). It is given annually in Wisconsin to monitor students' progress in acquiring academic English. ACCESS for ELLs testing window is about to open. Students will be testing this year from December 4, 2023, through February 2, 2024.

Director of Teaching and Learning

Second Quarter Begins - Report Cards

November 4, 2023, marked the last day of the first quarter for our students. As a reminder, quarter grades are sent home via Thursday folders for grades K-4. Grades 5-8 can be monitored via Family Access. New London High School reports grades on a semester basis.

Instructional Committee

The Instructional Committee met November 8, 2023. During this session we discussed a request to modify and enhance our current computer science course. The year long course will become 2 semester courses and will evolve to include more components of game design in the second semester. This will not only allow students who have room for a semester course to add it over multiple years, but will also enhance this career pathway. **This request was supported by the committee and the changes will be reflected in the 2023 course guide.**



During the rest of the meeting we reviewed the Career Pathways document to help illustrate all 16 career clusters. Finally we spent time reviewing the school report card format, details and the local data that we use to guide analysis and action in preparation for our report card public release later this month.

School Report Cards: Parent's Right to Know



On November 14, 2023, the state releases the public School Report Cards. As required, we will post and share results on our website and through

Skyward Family Access to assure all families receive the ranking scores identified by the State. I will be sharing a pre-service slideshow to help understand the public release and how to interpret the report. Remember since this report is a normative bell reset each year by the data collected, our goal is always to remain Meeting Expectations and looking for manners to impact our local data as a result.

During the November Board of Education Special Meeting, we will do deeper analysis including local data. Once this is covered at the meeting, our Notices page will also be updated with the latest scores and links.

Rural Virtual Academy



New London virtual students continue to work through the RVA curriculum with continued communication with our district. Parents who are looking to have students connect receive a digital newsletter.

Current enrollment includes 21 full-time enrollments, and course enrollments that include meeting the needs of our ELL population and summer school courses. RVA continues to ask for input on how they can support and grow to meet our local needs for instruction and opportunities that we cannot facilitate alone.

Brett Pickarts, our new Alternative Education Teacher at the ISMS and Jacqueline Schommer, lead teacher of Next Generation continue to explore manners to get more out of this partnership. Some celebrations from our first quarter included the use of Kaleidoscope gifted and talented activities for engagement and enhancement of students during IE, educational and leadership opportunities with summits and field trips, and the opportunity to use or reference hybrid or online curriculum to build or support our current course offerings. These new options have added 88 students in custom engagement activities and moves our impact to 76 students served.

I would encourage the board to invite Brett or Jacqueline to report out later this year on their insight into the RVA partnership and potential.

Library Plan

Our library team works diligently to monitor and update our library plan annually. This includes data monitoring; patron use, circulation, alignment to curriculum, student achievement levels, teacher requests and interconnected themes among other items. Beyond traditional materials they also work to integrate and support technology in the classroom, use of databases, and model research techniques.

This year, the State of Wisconsin is asking us to submit a copy of our library plan by adding it to our district website. Our team will present on that plan in our second meeting of this month after we do an audit of requirements noted on the request. Sincere thanks to both our library and our technology teams for their work on the Future Ready Library

components. After this review, we will continue to keep the plan on the noted website location and add it to items reviewed annually with our other educational options.

