



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW LONDON

Monthly Update

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

October 2019

District Administrator

National School Board Week

October 6-12 is National School Board week. This special week is a time to build awareness and understanding of the vital function an elected board of education plays in our communities. We appreciate all of the time and effort our school board members contribute to the success of the School District of New London.



Proactive Communication

“Can you hear me now?” It’s a funny line – but it’s true – people want to be heard. Effective communication and proactive communication builds trust. Listening is a dynamic communication strategy that is critical to creating an effective two-way communication.

The School District of New London is committed to establishing strategies that effectively utilize appropriate two-way communication within our school community. It’s not uncommon for one to think ahead and plan for future projects, initiatives, and challenges. As a District, we continually focus time and energy to process what lies ahead of us as a school community and to effectively communicate with stakeholders.

Effective two-way communication is critical within our school community to ensure transparency and efficiencies. Proactive communication is both sending information, but also listening to ideas,

concerns, and input. Listed below are problem-solving techniques and barriers often faced when establishing effective proactive communication.

A useful problem-solving technique is listening and gathering input. When you collect information, it has several pay-offs:

- You may hear issues you didn’t realize were issues or concerns.
- You may listen to solutions you and others hadn’t considered.
- You may listen to questions or misconceptions that you may need to address in future communication to dispel rumors or correct misinformation.

There are several barriers to listening to be aware of:

- Dislike or prejudice against the person providing input.
- Thinking about answers before the speaker finishes can prevent you from fully paying attention to their message.
- Place, time and location (some people are uncomfortable speaking in groups, so allow multiple ways for people to provide input, including face-to-face, but also use surveys, e-mails, etc.)

The School District of New London values two-way communication. Challenge yourself to be a proactive communicator in your personal life as well within our school community.

Be 212 “The Extra Degree”

As we push into October, students, District staff, and parents/guardians alike are continuing to demonstrate “The Extra Degree.” Great job! Now more than ever, our school community is counting on our District to



lead and give direction that will foster "Success for all Students."

Recently Melissa Anderson and Becky Winkler, elementary teachers at Lincoln Elementary, supported the development of a program called "Parenting Roundtable." Program development will share ideas, resources, and strategies to help parents with potential challenges faced when children are in the elementary years. With the intent to foster family growth with practical strategies, "Parenting Roundtable" is a school community program that will continue to allow our District to strive for "Success for all Students." Great job, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Winkler!

Director of Business Services

HS Boilers

The high school boiler plant is up and running and has provided more reliability for heating than we had last year.



The maintenance staff is still learning how to work with the system via our controls but we are hopeful those kinks are worked out quickly. Everything has to "talk" to each other in order to heat the building appropriately.

The team from McCotter was on site last week to provide a demonstration to our maintenance team on how the boilers, expansion tanks, pump skid and controls should work in tandem. The presentation was videotaped and will be available for the team to review if needed.

Retirement

Malcome Hathorne retired on October 4, 2019, after 34 years of exceptional service to the district. Malcome served in the print shop, a custodian, and finished his employment as a maintenance technician. We will miss Malcome's institutional knowledge but congratulate him on his retirement and wish him the best!



Total Comp Committee Updates

The Total Compensation Committee met on October 11 to review insurance renewals for dental and health insurance policies that renew on January 1, 2020.

The committee will continue to review options to make a recommendation for the Board to consider for approval at the October 28 meeting. This is the timing needed so staff meetings can be scheduled at each school in order to share the plan design for January 1 and conduct open enrollment meetings.

The committee also discussed the HRA plan document that was reviewed by legal counsel. The plan was created in 2011 and was almost 50 pages long. Legal counsel was able to review the plan document for legal compliance.

Director of Pupil Services

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results In

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey results are in. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) tiles into the school district's early intervention goals. The survey results will help guide planning for the future and also provide a focus for staff training to address the student needs. This survey is conducted in an effort to document trend data for the district. The survey identifies the needs based on the perceptions of our students and their reporting of behaviors at home, in school and in the community.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic
Heritage Month
September 15-October 15



Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by

celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The School District of New London celebrated all bilingual families on October 7, 2019, at the Intermediate/Middle School with our annual bilingual celebration.

Xello Platform for Students

On October 4, all of the secondary counselors in the district attended a Xello software training which will allow the counselors to expand their work with our students during their Academic and Career Planning process. The software will be used starting in fifth grade and the students will continue to explore and expand their career portfolio, interest surveys and job exploration throughout their secondary years in the school district. The Xello software platform allows students to align their interests with career pathways and job opportunities that they may pursue in the future.

Director of Teaching and Learning Instructional Committee

On September 11, the Instructional Committee met. Conversation included grounding expectations, review of instructional routines/schedules at all levels, updates on grading and interests for topics to cover throughout the year. Our next meeting will take place on November 12 at 4:15 at the District Office.

Social Studies

New London teachers continue to work to unpack and align the standards and approach for learning for all content areas around the district, but this year we are participating in added reflection related to Social Studies Curriculum. This includes sending a team to Cesa 6 to work collaboratively to identify areas for focus in our system K-12. Involvement of vertical team members is imperative to this process, and we are happy to have staff involved in this endeavor.

The new standards are clustered in the following categories; Inquiry Practice and Process, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, and Behavioral Sciences. This structure compliments our other course strategies with moving students toward independent thinking.

Curriculum Connections

Recently, New London elementary schools hosted curriculum connection mornings in an effort to engage parents and community members in our elementary instruction. This year, although all content areas were discussed, Mystery Science was highlighted. This successful initiative for students seeks to engage them in asking questions and seeking their own scientific understanding of phenomenon.



We will continue to host curriculum connections for parents, host parent teacher conferences and encourage ongoing communication from parents. If you ever have a question about curriculum or instruction; please do not hesitate to reach out to teachers, administration, or to the office of Teaching and Learning.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences are just around the corner. Please review the district calendar and building level announcements for details on conference opportunities. As always, if you have a question or concern about student performance or instruction, you do not need to wait until conferences, please feel free to contact your teachers or administrators at any time!

In addition to parent teacher conferences scheduled on October 14, 2019, Financial Aid Night including support in filling out the FAFSA and Junior Parent Meeting are scheduled for the high school.

Musical



Rock of Ages: High School Edition

November 8th and 9th at
7:00pm
November 10th at
2:00pm

We have 46 students involved, and it is sure to be a treat. Be sure to watch for added details as opening night nears!



PARENTING ROUNDTABLE

Parenting is a hard job. Would you like to have a non-judgmental place to discuss parenting in today's fast paced world?

Would you like some resources and helpful strategies to help with common challenges that all parents face?

All meetings will be held at Lincoln Elementary School, 201 E Washington Street – Door #2 - follow signs inside

Pizza will be provided

Free child care during meeting

5:00 start time

30 minute discussion

Drawing for Festival Foods gift cards

Please RSVP by 10:00 am of meeting date on the link below

[Sign up here!](#)

September 25th

Homework and bedtime routines

October 30th

Showing respect and responsibility at home

November 20th

TV Time/Screen Time

January 22nd

Healthy snacks kids can make themselves

February 19th

Basic first-aid – when to call the doctor?

March 25th

Chores kids can have at home and appropriate allowance/ "Summer Slide"