



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW LONDON

Monthly Update

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

October 2021

District Administrator Wisconsin School Board Week

October 3-9 was recently recognized as Wisconsin School Board Week. As a school district, we appreciate the time and effort our Board members contribute to the success of the School District of New London. Our members translate the values and priorities of our community into the language of education. Their service is a manifestation of their gratitude to our community and hope for the next generation. They advocate for children at all levels of government and oversee budgets. Our Board of Education is empowered to set the course from school safety to financial planning to academic standards. Over the last few years, they've been on the front line of keeping their students safe while ensuring educational opportunities.



B 212

The October B 212 extra degree of effort recognizes Catalyst Academy instructors Anna Krueger and Kasey Kapernick as co-teachers at Catalyst Academy. Ms. Krueger and Mr. Kapernick have set learning paths of success for students actively engaged in attaining District academic requirements. Additionally, exploring life readiness skills and promoting career exploration has allowed Ms. Krueger and Mr. Kaepernick to create learning environments where students continue to foster success.



Homecoming Week 2021

Congratulations to our school community for your active participation in celebrating our Homecoming week from

October 3-9. Again our "Bulldog Pride" was exemplified throughout. As a school district, we have much to be proud of as we actively demonstrate our school spirit!

Donation to New London FFA Chapter

Recently a \$500.00 donation was presented to the New London FFA Chapter from community member and New London School District alumni Mr. John Egan. Thank you Mr. Egan for your generosity, support and commitment to our local FFA chapter.



District Parent Advisory Council

The 2021-2022 academic year is underway! Students, families, and District employees are actively working collaboratively toward our mission to foster "Success for All Students." One key component contributing to meeting our mission is to have cooperative conversations with parents and community stakeholders. Such discussions allow for productive dialog to share our District strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges. With a collaborative school community mindset, our District is seeking individuals who may be interested in participating on the District Parent Advisory Council.

If you are interested in knowing more about the opportunity to join the District Parent Advisory Council, don't hesitate to contact me via email, phone or stop by and visit our District office. Please share your interest in participating in the upcoming opportunity by October 29.

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Director of Business Services

Chartwells Food Supply Update

There are a lot of industries that are impacted by “supply chain” shortages. Thankfully our food service programming has only had minor disruptions so far. Menus have changed a few times but Chartwells has been able to notify families about 1 - 2 weeks before so students/families can adjust. Packaged breakfast meals and juice choices have been significantly limited but still available daily.

Maybe unnoticeable to some students is that a meal had to go without gravy and a few days condiments have been limited. Chartwells will continue to provide the best selection and communicate any changes that are necessary.

National School Lunch Week

This week (October 11 - 15) is National School Lunch week as recognized by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). This is an annual week to say **thank you** to all that are involved in the preparation of school meals each day.



Chartwells staff, led by Travis Mayer, have done an exceptional job since taking over as the food service management company for the district.

That industry, just like others, are experiencing staffing shortages but the team always pulls together every day to provide meals for students.

We thank everyone for their hard work!

Total Compensation Committee Meeting

This committee met on September 27, 2021, to review presentations by employee benefits consultants.

This summer, the district sent out a request for proposal (RFP) for the employee benefits consultant programming utilized by the district. Six proposals were received and the two lowest proposals were invited to provide a presentation to the committee.



Focus on services available to the district and considerations to become self-funded were the main topics of the presentations. Further discussion will take place about a possible transition as of January 1, 2022.

The second topic for discussion of the committee was on health and dental insurance renewals for January 1, 2022. Look for a recommendation from the committee for Board approval on October 25, 2021, for potential approval.

Director of Pupil Services

Bilingual Program Night

On October 4, the district wide bilingual staff

presented a literacy program to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month. This event was open to all members of our school community. We had a very large turn out from



families who have students that participate in our bilingual program. A dinner was served to students and families, and games, books and prizes were available



throughout the event. Congratulations to the bilingual staff on a well-organized event.

Samaritan Screener

In September, Samaritan Counseling gave a mental health screener to the entire 9th grade class at the high school. This screener was conducted during the school day and families were allowed to opt their children out of participating. The Samaritan staff then identified students who may need follow up assistance as a result of the screener. Communication was made after the survey to connect those students and families with the necessary resources.



Youth Risk Behavior Survey

On September 20 and 21, the New London Intermediate/Middle school conducted the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The high school will conduct their survey in early November. This survey asks questions related to:

- Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries and violence
- Sexual behaviors related to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection
- Alcohol and other drug use
- Tobacco use
- Unhealthy dietary behaviors
- Inadequate physical activity

This data is then compared against local and state norms. The highlights of the data will be shared publicly via a school board meeting at a later date.

Catalyst Academy Board update

On October 4, the Catalyst Academy held elections to recognize a new Board President. The current Catalyst Academy governing board now consists of the following members: Susan Moore, Natalie Doemel, Anna Krueger, Jo Collar and Connie Neely.



Rock the Block

On September 16, 17 and 18, both members of our student body and staff participated in supporting the Rock the Block initiative which was taking place in the City of New London. Alex Rambo and members of his band were present each day to kick off the days' events with music to energize the workers. Efforts were overseen by professional contractors who supervised the work crews in their efforts to beautify the neighborhoods that were targeted in the project.

Sources of Strength Peer Leader Training

On September 16, approximately 80 students in the Middle School participated in Sources of Strength Peer Leader training. This training was run by leaders of the National Organization. The Mental Health grant paid for this training opportunity. The students engaged in a



full day of learning what the program has to offer and their role in developing that program in the Middle School. The High School has been using Sources of Strength for several years; the Middle School has added the program for the first time this year. The mission of Sources of Strength is to prevent suicide by increasing help seeking behaviors and promoting connections between peers and caring adults.

Director of Teaching and Learning

Instructional Committee

The instructional committee met on September 29, 2021, at the District Office.



Our agenda included a review of Career and Technical Education as it is reported to the state. This includes the following areas:

- School/District Report Card
 - Advanced Placement
 - Dual Credit Enrollment
 - Industry Recognized Credentials
 - Work-based Learning (only those recognized by the state like Youth Apprenticeship)
- Carl Perkins Compliance and Eligibility
 - Course details
 - Concentrators
 - Pathways/clusters
 - Programs
- Act 59 Career and Technical Education Grants (17 qualified for 2021)
 - Funding based on state recognized credentials earned by graduating seniors

In addition, New London continues to look for local certification, job exploration and experience for our students, which adds additional data including work experience, and industry credentials recognized locally regardless of the incentive grant eligibility.

Another topic included additional curriculum changes to Phonics and plans to review Mathematics.

A member of the committee shared interest in continuing to explore options for Automotive Tech. For next steps we will look to gain further information and data to include student interest, fiscal impact

and possible options to provide this choice for students.



Finally, guidance is still being developed, legislation being reviewed and implementation guides incomplete. We

discussed the need to hold off on seeking input on ESSER III funding until all requirements are set.

This will be a task that seeks input from multiple stakeholders including taxpayers, staff, students, supportive agencies and a myriad of specific groups tailored to our student demographics and needs.

Another challenge will be to assure that 20% of these funds meet the mark for Evidenced Based Interventions, which is also under review for final guidance and compliance.

Our next instructional committee will take place on November 17, 2021, at 2:00-3:30 at the District Office.

National Geography Bee- Cancelled

In looking to register for this year, our advisor was notified that the National Geography Bee has been permanently cancelled with the following note:

While we are proud of the National Geographic GeoBee's 33-year legacy, we believe that this moment presents an opportunity to reimagine geography education and empower young people around the world as solution-seekers to confront our century's most pressing challenges.

At this time, there is no replacement for this nationally hosted event.



Phonics

For years New London teachers have looked at data showing an additional need for phonics instruction in our early years. COVID furthered this need as well as offered an opportunity for funding.

This year, we are piloting additional resources in Phonics with the Sadlier Phonics to Reading program grounded in research and data based on Wiley Blevins successful

strategies. On October 1, staff in grades K-3 were trained to use the program and will slowly implement strategies with students this year. We will monitor the progress of students with this program to determine if this is something we will continue in the future.

High School ACT Prep

New London High School continues to promote both college and career readiness with opportunities for students to practice and prepare for the ACT. The results of an ACT test can provide input and information for students' personal and professional growth for college, career and military options. Here are the important dates for this effort.

- Wednesday, October 20, all 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students will complete a practice ACT exam. The following week each will receive a personalized results report that includes a study guide to improve skills and scores in the future.
- Friday, November 12, all 11th grade students will participate in an ACT Bootcamp from 8:00-12:00. NLHS has partnered with the Academic Tutoring Center in order to provide students with proven strategies, tips, and tricks to improve performance on the ACT
- Tuesday, March 8, will be the official ACT exam at NLHS. Only Juniors will report to school.

Students also have the opportunity to sign up for study sessions during Intervention and Enrichment in the coming months.

