

## District Administrator's Report

### January 2014

#### High School Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Program

Unity School District has recently received the State of Wisconsin's approval for its High School Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program! The program is only the eleventh stand-alone program in a high school in Wisconsin. The program is the only one of its kind in Northwest Wisconsin.

The program will be a second semester addition to the high school's rigorous health career training approach. State approved nurse aide programs in Wisconsin must meet several requirements, one of them being a predetermined program length. All state approved nurse aide courses have a minimum of one hundred twenty (120) hours of instruction, with a minimum of thirty-two (32) hours set aside for direct clinical practice in a long-term care facility, caring for elderly clients. A nurse aide candidate, who has completed the training part of the nurse aide program, must pass the National Nurse Aide Assessment Program examination within one year from the date of program completion. Those who pass the nurse aide test will have their names listed on the Wisconsin Nurse Aide Registry, and are issued a nursing assistant card. Individuals listed as nurse aides on the Wisconsin Nurse Aide Registry are eligible to become employed in federally certified facilities, state licensed facilities, and hospitals.

A CNA license is necessary in the State of Wisconsin for health career employment and is a prerequisite for studying in other health careers. Unity's program is a component of the District's *Diploma Plus* Program. *Diploma Plus* serves to provide Unity graduates with other college coursework, credits, and certifications beyond the high school diploma upon graduation.

#### Facilities Study To Be Used For Long-Range Planning

Unity School District will be conducting a facilities study as a part of the renewal of its *Long-Range Facilities Plan*. The *Long-Range Facilities Plan* is a blue-print for building maintenance projects that keep the facilities in a condition that best meets the needs of our students and community. The energy efficiency improvements completed two years ago have provided a strong foundation for further improvements. There continues to be some limiting factors that affect how the District meets the needs of its students and community, most notable are: lack of gymnasium space, fitness center limitations, back-up steam boiler, auditorium size, and parking lot layout.

The Committee will request proposals from some architectural firms to conduct the study. The selection of a firm will bring expertise and experience in dealing with this process. The Committee developed a timeline for the study that will be completed by the end of the school year.



Increase student achievement in reading through curriculum development, consistency of instruction, and effective instructional strategies.

## District Administrator's Report

### January 2014

#### School Entry Procedures to Change

Unity School District is updating several important safety measures. Entry procedures will change as it installs door buzzer systems and visitor management systems at each main entrance door. The changes are in support of the District's Safety Plan and are part of our comprehensive, proactive approach to school safety. Unity is also one of the few school districts in the area with a school resource officer, who offers security as well as safety and positive choice programming.

The addition of the buzzer system will allow the District to keep all exterior doors locked during the school day. Currently the elementary school, high school, and district office doors are the only ones open during the school day. Once the new system is installed, the doors will be locked and accessible through the door buzzer system. Visitors during the school day will now identify themselves on the video camera to be buzzed in by one of the office secretaries.

The visitor management system is a computerized check-in process for visitors (contractors, vendors, and guests) during the school day. People checking in at the computer terminal will scan their state issued identification card (driver's license). An instant background check is conducted from a national database. He/She will then be issued an adhesive badge with his/her photo on it. The system not only logs when the visitor checks in and out, but can also be used to track volunteer hours.

Additionally, the Long-Range Planning and Facilities Committee directed that the glass at the entrances be upgraded. The new security glass will be installed to complement the other systems. The glass upgrade has been considered for some time, but with the installation of the new entrance procedures, the Committee determined that the installation would be prudent.

The changes to the main entrances are all part of the District's emphasis on student safety. The changes are meant to complement the District's Safety Plan by securing the campus during the school day. The three components are to be installed within the next month. Written communication regarding the new procedures will be sent out to parents in the next few weeks.

#### Board Policy Review Nears Completion

The District's full review of its policies is nearing completion. The Unity Board of Education has charged the administration and the Board Policy and Programming Committee with the task of reviewing and revising the District's policies, to better reflect and define District practices, as well as meeting new legal requirements. The focus of the proposed changes was to effectively communicate Board expectations, define policy rather than procedures, and to provide flexibility in meeting needs.

There will be one last group of policies that will be coming to the Board of Education for consideration in the next two months. Those policies have required extensive legal analysis and have taken longer to refine. The entire process has taken longer than a year, but the outcome will be beneficial for the organization, community, and students.

Implement and incorporate the District's Response to Intervention Model throughout pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade programming for students of all academic and behavioral needs.

## District Administrator's Report

### January 2014

#### Professional Development Efforts

Unity School District is committed to providing quality professional development and training opportunities for its staff. Initiatives such as the Response to Intervention (RtI) Model planning, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Common Core Standards, Educator Effectiveness Program, successful transitions planning, and technology integration are at the center of the District's goals and efforts for the school year.

##### Upcoming Efforts:

- January 20: Full Day, Strengthening Curriculum, PBIS
- February 17: Full Day, Strengthening Curriculum, PBIS

#### Unity Wall of Honor Nominations Sought

The Unity Board of Education has established a "Wall of Honor" to recognize and honor the accomplishments of Unity alumni and employees. Criteria for selection to the "Wall of Honor" will be based on contributions in the areas of education, business, human services, government, athletic, military, fine arts, and community involvement. Alumni selection is based on post-high school accomplishments. The nominee will be screened by a selection committee, which will meet in early March. Deadline for applications each year is March 1st.

If you know of someone who is worthy of being considered for the "Wall of Honor," nomination forms are available at Unity's District and School offices. Additionally, application forms are available on the District website at [www.unity.k12.wi.us](http://www.unity.k12.wi.us). If you have any questions, call or write to Unity Wall of Honor, Unity School District, 1908 150th St./ Hwy 46N, Balsam Lake, WI 54810; (715) 825-3515.

#### 2013-2014 School District Goals

(Adopted 8-13)

- Increase student achievement in reading through curriculum development, consistency of instruction, and effective instructional strategies.
- Implement and incorporate the District's Response to Intervention Model throughout pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade programming for students of all academic and behavioral needs.
- Promote school spirit and pride through increasing community and parent involvement.
- Integrate technology into the teaching and learning process to best prepare our students for their future.

#### SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

##### PARENTS:

Please make sure that your contact information is updated with your child's school office. This will ensure that you receive the Skylert parent notification phone calls.

School Closing Information can be found at these media outlets.

WCCO Channel 4, [www.wcco.com](http://www.wcco.com)  
 KSTP Channel 5, [www.kstp.com](http://www.kstp.com)  
 KMSP Channel 9, [www.myfox9.com](http://www.myfox9.com)  
 KARE Channel 11, [www.kare11.com](http://www.kare11.com)

Promote school spirit and pride through increasing community and parent involvement.

## District Administrator's Report

### January 2014

### Upcoming Meetings and Events

DATE	MEETING	PLACE	TIME
Tuesday, January 14	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Wednesday, January 15	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	9:30 AM
Monday, January 20	No School: Staff In-Service	District	
January 22-24	Wisconsin Joint State Education Convention	Milwaukee	
Thursday, January 23	Curriculum Committee Meeting	Elem. Conf. Room	7:40 AM
Saturday, January 25	Unity Eagle Groove Jazz Festival		
Thursday, January 2	Professional Staff Development Meeting	Elem. Conf. Room	7:40 AM
Wednesday, February 5	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	9:30 AM
Thursday, February 6	Professional Staff Development Meeting	Elem. Conf. Room	7:40 AM
Thursday, February 6	Community Education Advisory Council	Board Room	4:00 PM
Tuesday, February 11	Board of Education Meeting	Board Room	6:00 PM
Thursday, February 13	District Technology Committee Meeting	Board Room	7:40 AM
Friday, February 14	CESA 11 Superintendent Meeting	Turtle Lake	9:00 AM
Monday, February 17	No School: Staff In-Service	District	
Tuesday, February 18	Lakeland Conference Superintendent Meeting	Rice Lake	9:30 AM
Wednesday, February 19	Administrative Team Meeting	Board Room	9:30 AM
Thursday, February 27	Curriculum Committee Meeting	Elem. Conf. Room	7:40 AM

"Expect Great Things"

Integrate technology into the teaching and learning process to best prepare our students for their future.

# District Administrator's Report

## January 2014

### Inclement Weather Information

The decision to close or delay school due to inclement weather is a complicated one. There are many factors that must be considered and each school district is different. Unity School District is unique in that most of the students are bussed or transported to school daily. Each decision at Unity School District regarding school closings or delays includes consultation with others, such as the Polk County Highway Department, National Weather Service, and other area school districts.

Unity School District considers school closings or delays due to inclement weather when there is a significant concern for student safety. Generally, school closings or delays due to cold weather may be considered when temperatures are below -20°F and/or wind chill temperatures are below -40°F.

Unity School District considers school closings or delays due to snow or freezing rain when road conditions are hazardous. Closings or delays due to snow are dependent upon road conditions and not total snow accumulations. Snow accumulations vary greatly by location and are a concern when adversely impacting road conditions.

If school remains in session, it is important to clothe your child appropriately for the conditions. Ensuring that there is no exposed skin in cold weather, in addition to warm insulated clothing, is very important. The playground remains open for outside recess to -10°F, so please send appropriate winter apparel to school with your child. If appropriate apparel is needed, please contact the elementary principal or counselor.

If conditions are a concern where you live, please communicate those conditions to your child's school office. It is important to note whether a road or driveway is hazardous or unplowed. Additionally, please communicate with your child's office if your child will be absent due to acute inclement weather issues where you live, when school is in session.

The Parent Notification System will continue to keep you informed of Unity's school closings and other important announcements. Please share with your child's office any changes to your contact information.



Safety is Our Highest Priority.