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SCHOOL DISTRICT ISSUES LAYOFF NOTICES TO CUSTODIAL STAFF

The School District of New Berlin issued layoff notices to members of its custodial staff today, Superintendent Joe Garza said. The district is expected to move to contracting its cleaning services effective mid-August, 2012. The anticipated savings that will be attained due to this adjustment in cleaning services will be approximately \$500,000 to \$600,000 annually. The adjustment in services came as a result of a study conducted by a private firm. The study indicated that custodial wages and fringe benefits were approximately 200% more than those of similarly aligned jobs and duties from the private sector.

Full-time custodial workers are paid between \$23 and \$28 per hour, with fringe benefits amounting to between \$20,000 and \$30,000. Part-time workers are paid just over \$12 an hour. The district will implement a hybrid model of full-time district custodial staff coupled with custodians from the cleaning service firm. Dave Maxey, President of the New Berlin Board of Education, said the workers facing layoff will be encouraged to apply for positions through the contracting cleaning service company in order to reduce the number of individuals left unemployed. Many of the employees have expressed an interest in doing so. The district will further offer generous severance packages for its laid off employees as well as off-placement services.

"We regret the impact that this complex and difficult decision will have. In an era of limited resources and austerity, we will continue to reallocate our financial resources to student learning and the other areas outlined in our district's vision," Garza stated.

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