

The Business Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on January 8, 2024 in the New London Public Schools' Welcome Center.

DRAFT

1. Call to Order

President Elaine Maynard-Adams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present for the Board of Education: President – Elaine Maynard-Adams
Vice-President – Bianca Alexis-Sylvain
Secretary – Bryan Doughty

Board Members Present: Nathan Caron
Susan Hambey

Board Members Absent: Alisha Blake
Danni Cruz

Present for the administration: Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, Superintendent of Schools

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Reports and Communications

- Board Chairperson's Report

Ms. Maynard-Adams welcomed everyone back and hoped all had a great holiday. She shared that the Board will be meeting in the Shaw's Cove space until the Spring, as the Varsity Wrestling Team will be utilizing the Lecture Hall as a dedicated practice space for the winter. Ms. Maynard-Adams noted that she attended the opening of the Whalers, Lancers and Saints exhibit at the Hygienic, and encouraged all to attend if they are able. She also shared that she and NLPS Administrative representatives met with the Legislative Delegation to discuss the needs of New London. She shared that it went well and that the Legislators have a list of the District's priorities. She shared that after the meeting had concluded, she received a message from Senator Marx sharing that when she meets with our team she is impressed with the dedication and professionalism of our staff.

4. Information and Reports

- i. Superintendent's Report

- Special Education Department Update

- Ms. Carrie Rivera, Ms. Kim Fentress, Ms. Carol Paldino, and Ms. Erica Bammerlin provided an update of the Special Education Department to the Board. This presentation included overviews of the following:
 - Special Education Administration
 - Section 504
 - Special Education Staffing
 - Special Education Eligibility Areas
 - Dually-Identified Students
 - Least Restrictive Environment
 - Specialized Classes
 - Out of District Placement Costs
 - Special Education & 504 Placements
 - Services for Hearing Impaired Students
 - Preschool Student Services
 - Transition Services
 - Diploma vs. Certification
 - ESY Summer Program
 - Gifted & Talented
 - Special Education Transportation
 - Special Education Funding
 - Professional Development Goals
 - Support Outside of the IEP

A copy of this presentation is available in their entirety upon request.

ii. Board Committee and Representative Updates

- School Facilities & Program Design Committee

Mr. Doughty shared that the committee met before this meeting. The North Campus punch list continues to be worked through, and the team will continue to meet with the architect. Mr. Gautier continues to lead this work on the District's side. For the South Campus, the project continues to make progress. The gym is mostly complete. Mr. Doughty also noted that Mr. Gautier had presented a draft technology budget plan, which is a 10-year plan designed to ensure that the District can keep up with the times as well as budget accordingly for needs. He also noted that the Welcome Center Ribbon Cutting would occur on Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Maynard-Adams asked if there was any money in the school construction budget to replace the message board on Jefferson Avenue. Mr. Gautier shared that it will likely be a combination of funding, but that if there is money left in the project then it should

be able to be used. He has begun looking at smart tv's that can go outside, and noted that he would like all schools to have a similar design.

5. Approval of the Minutes

- December 4, 2023 – Organizational Meeting

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Ms. Hambey, to approve the December 4, 2023 – Organizational Meeting Minutes.

Motion carried, 5-0

6. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Caron, that the following items, as set forth on the Consent Agenda for the Business Meeting of January 8, 2024 be approved unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools:

A. Superintendent's Written Update

- I. Academics
- II. Student and Family Supports
- III. Business and Finance
- IV. Operations – Includes Magnet Pathways, Athletics, Facilities & Technology

Motion carried, 5-0

7. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

A. Superintendent's Written Update

a. Human Resources

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Mr. Caron, to accept the Human Resources Update.

Mr. Doughty read aloud the 2nd paragraph of Dr. Ritchie's Memo, and noted that there are a lot of great things happening in New London Public Schools.

Mr. Doughty noted that in the Human Resources Report, that it is no longer a protocol to stay out of work for five days when experiencing COVID symptoms. He asked how this is being handled. Dr. Ritchie shared that it is no longer a requirement to stay out for five days, however, staff are always directed to listen to their doctor. If staff do not feel well or have a fever they should not go to school. Staff do not have to report that they have

COVID, but that they should listen to their doctor, and stay home until they are well.

Ms. Hambey asked if staff have been wearing masks. Dr. Ritchie explained that masks are a personal choice. The only requirement is that if a staff member is out for more than three days that they have a doctor's note.

Motion carried, 5-0

8. Board Comments, Questions

Mr. Caron congratulated student Devan Williams for scoring his 1,000 career points in basketball.

Mr. Doughty stated that while he discourages FAFSA being a requirement, he encourages anyone seeking higher education to complete it.

Ms. Alexis-Sylvain asked if there could be a make-up day for picture day for year-round students at Nathan Hale as it was planned for a day that they were off. Dr. Ritchie stated that she could follow up with the Principal who schedules these dates. Ms. Alexis-Sylvain asked if there was any location for additional storage at Nathan Hale, and Mr. Gautier responded that there is always a desire for more storage at all buildings. Ms. Alexis-Sylvain asked if there was a possibility to get more swag for recruitment for Nathan Hale. Dr. Ritchie explained that all principals have a line item in the budget through which they can order items for their buildings.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Ms. Alexis-Sylvain, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried, 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Doughty
Secretary