

The Organizational Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held in the New London Public Schools Welcome Center on December 4, 2023.

1. Call to Order

Ms. Maynard-Adams called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present for the Board of Education: Bianca Alexis-Sylvain
Alisha Blake
Nathan Caron
Danni Cruz
Bryan Doughty
Susan Hambey
Elaine Maynard-Adams

2. Swearing-In of New Board of Education Members

Senator Matt Lesser swore in the following member to the Board of Education:

- Alisha Blake

Mr. Tim Allen swore in the following member to the Board of Education:

- Bianca Alexis-Sylvain

Ms. Carmen Colon swore in the following member to the Board of Education:

- Danni Cruz

Ms. Nancy Dolan swore in the following members to the Board of Education:

- Nathan Caron
- Bryan Doughty
- Susan Hambey
- Elaine Maynard Adams

New Board Members are Seated

- Ms. Maynard-Adams confirmed that all newly elected members of the New London Board of Education have been administered the Oath of Office.

3. Election of Officers

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Doughty, to appoint Mr. Caron as Temporary Chairperson.

Motion carried, 7-0

a. Election of a President

Mr. Caron called for any nominations for the office of President.

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Ms. Blake, to nominate Ms. Maynard-Adams as President.

Mr. Caron called three more times for any other nominations. There were no other nominations.

Motion by Mr. Cruz, seconded by Ms. Blake, to close nominations.

Votes were reduced to writing. Voting for Ms. Maynard-Adams as President was unanimous, 7-0.

Ms. Maynard-Adams was elected President of the New London Board of Education.

b. Election of a Vice President

Mr. Caron called for any nominations for the office of Vice-President.

Motion by Mr. Cruz, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, to nominate Ms. Alexis-Sylvain as President.

Mr. Caron called three more times for any other nominations. There were no other nominations.

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Blake, to close nominations.

Votes were reduced to writing. Voting for Ms. Alexis-Sylvain as Vice-President was unanimous, 7-0.

Ms. Alexis-Sylvain was elected Vice-President of the New London Board of Education.

c. Election of a Secretary

Mr. Caron called for any nominations for the office of Secretary

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Alexis-Sylvain, to nominate Mr. Doughty as Secretary.

Mr. Caron called three more times for any other nominations. There were no other nominations.

Motion by Mr. Cruz, seconded by Ms. Hambey, to close nominations.

Votes were reduced to writing. Voting for Mr. Doughty as Secretary was unanimous, 7-0.

Mr. Doughty was elected Secretary of the New London Board of Education.

5. Remarks of the Chair

Ms. Maynard-Adams thanked everyone for supporting her, stating that the Board is only as good as the teammates, and the other Board members are the best. She also thanked Senator Lesser, Mr. Allen, Representative Nolan, Ms. Dolan, and Ms. Colon for being present for the Swearing-In.

Ms. Maynard-Adams thanked Mr. Hart for being in attendance and for his tenure on the Board. She noted that he would be sworn-in shortly as a member of City Council. She expressed that she is looking forward to him continuing his advocacy work while on the Council. She also thanked Mr. James Burke, who was present, for his four years of service as a City Councilor.

Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that the Board and District have come a long way in the past four years, despite scandals, a global pandemic, and persistent funding battles with the City. She shared there has been reduced suspensions, reduced chronic absenteeism, the revision of curriculum to ensure that it is rigorous, relevant and culturally appropriate. The District has opened a year-round schooling model, as well as opened a PreK building in five months staffed and full of students. The STEM pathway was recognized at both the high school and through Winthrop as top magnet schools in the country. There is much to be proud of. This inaugural meeting of the Board is being hosted in the new Welcome Center. She stated that they have come far in the past four years, and now she is looking forward to working with new teammates as this system continues to build. There continues to be a lot of work to do. Mr. Cruz will continue the work of the Curriculum Committee. Mr. Caron as Chair of the Policy Committee will put an excellent critical thinking skill to work. Mr. Doughty will continue his work with the School Maintenance and Building Committee and School Facilities and Program Design Committee. She noted that it is not a coincidence that the North Campus construction project was completed on time and under budget, and she knows that he will continue to provide oversight as the middle school and BP projects are finished. To Ms. Alexis-Sylvain, Ms. Maynard-Adams was confident that they will continue to work together as she moves into her new role as Vice-President. She closed her remarks stating that tonight the Board will celebrate, but tomorrow they will return to work.

6. New Business

a. Approval of November 27, 2023 – Business Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Mr. Cruz, to approve the November 27, 2023 Business Meeting Minutes.

Motion carried, 7-0

b. Approval of the Calendar of Board Meetings for 2024

Motion by Ms. Blake, seconded by Ms. Hambey, to approve the Calendar of Board Meetings for 2024.

Motion carried, 7-0

c. Appointment of Board Committees and Board Representatives

Motion by Mr. Cruz, seconded by Ms. Blake, to affirm the committees and representatives as presented by President Maynard-Adams.

Motion carried, 7-0

c. Adoption of Policy Manual

Motion Mr. Caron, seconded by Ms. Hambey, to adopt the NLPS Policy Manual.

Motion carried, 7-0

7. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Ms. Hambey, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried, 7 – 0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristea A. Francolino
Manager of Executive Support Services