

The Business Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on January 22, 2024 in the New London Public Schools' Welcome Center.

## **DRAFT**

### 1. Call to Order

President Elaine Maynard-Adams called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

Board Members Present: Alisha Blake  
Nathan Caron  
Danni Cruz  
Susan Hambey

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

### 2. Student of the Month Recognitions

- Early Childhood Center at B.P. Mission
  - Student of the Month: Elias Melendez
- Winthrop STEM Elementary Magnet School
  - Student of the Month: Isabelle Vazquez Carmona
- Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School
  - Student of the Month: Sadie Pettiford-Jones
- C.B. Jennings International Elementary Magnet School
  - Student of the Month: Eileen Ortiz Aparicio
- Bennie Dover Jackson Multi-Magnet Middle School Campus
  - Student of the Month: Alivia Hines-Wilson
- New London High School Multi-Magnet Campus
  - Student of the Month: Fabian Villate
- New London Adult & Continuing Education
  - Student of the Month: Markus Brown
- Special Recognition
  - Avery Pitts – Recognition for being the first student to complete the EMT program, and successfully pass all exams to become a certified EMT.
  - Winthrop STEM Elementary Magnet Schools – For being recognized as a BEST public and magnet elementary school by *U.S. News and World Report* for 2023-2024.

## 3. Public Comment

*None.*

## 4. Reports and Communications

- Board Chairperson's Report

Ms. Maynard-Adams welcomed Ms. Blake for her first meeting. She noted that Board Member Ms. Alexis was participating virtually for this meeting. Ms. Maynard-Adams asked Dr. Ritchie to summarize the busy day of State meetings that she attended for the Board. Dr. Ritchie reported that today was a busy day. It began with a mid-year audit visit for Commissioner's Network at the middle school. She stated that the team reviewed student, parent and staff survey feedback results. Additionally, in-person interviews with students, parents and staff were also held. The middle school is shining and is a shining example of school turnaround. There has been a reduction of staff turnover, a focus on instruction and practices and an increase in student outcomes. Following this audit meeting, Dr. Ritchie shared that she attended a meeting in Hartford with Chief Financial Officer Rob Funk and Assistant Director of Magnet Pathways Janet Farquhar for a meeting with State Magnet representatives. Discussions occurred regarding what the right fit is for magnet programming now that NLPS is almost done with its transformation, including facilities transformation. She also noted that the idea was shared to be able to pursue and expand Pre-K and Early Childhood with magnet support, which would be a win as well. The Year-Round program is the one magnet program which has hit all compliance numbers for both Out of District Students and Racial Isolation Compliance. She shared that it was a day of great meetings and that she would share more information as it becomes available.

## 5. Executive Session Pursuant to Connecticut State Statutes: Title I, Chapter 14, Section 1-200(6), Connecticut Freedom of Information Act

## A. Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing:

- Candidate for the Possible Appointment to the Position of Executive Director of Talent and Human Resources

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Doughty, to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the candidate for the possible appointment to the position of Executive Director of Talent and Human Resources.

***Motion carried, 7-0***

The following people were invited into Executive Session: The Board as a Whole, Superintendent Ritchie.

***Time into Executive Session: 7:43 p.m.***

***Time out of Executive Session: 8:02 p.m.***

***No votes were taken while in Executive Session***

6. Possible Action Following Executive Session

- Possible Approval of the Appointment of the Executive Director of Talent and Human Resources.

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Doughty, to appoint Ms. Christine Pemberton as the Executive Director of Talent and Human Resources.

***Motion carried, 7-0***

Ms. Pemberton stated that she is honored and grateful to serve in the position of Executive Director of Talent and Human Resources for New London Public Schools. It is with sincere appreciation and gratitude that the Board has the trust and confidence in her to serve in this very important role. She stated that she is very excited and committed to building relationships and collaborating with all to continue the positive movement of the school district. This includes taking care of the students' wellbeing and ensure the best for them as well. She looks forward to, and is ready to embark upon this journey.

7. Information and Reports

i. Superintendent's Report

- Department of Multilingual Learners Update
  - Ms. Maria Carrillo provided an update of the Multilingual Learner Department to the Board. This presentation included overviews of the following:
    - MLL Department Administration
    - Mission
    - Bilingual and ESOL Programming
    - Latinos in Action
    - Myths vs. Facts about MLLs
    - MLLs: Contributions to the Community
    - MLLs: District Enrollment
    - MLLs: Enrollment by School
    - MLLs: Country of Origin
    - MLLs: Native Languages
    - Focus Areas for SY23-24
    - Updates and Highlights
    -

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

## ii. Board Committee and Representative Updates

## • School Facilities &amp; 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.

## 8. Approval of the Minutes

## • January 8, 2024 – Business Meeting

Motion by Ms. Blake, seconded by Mr. Caron, to approve the January 8, 2024 Business Meeting Minutes.

***Motion carried, 7-0***

## 9. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Cruz, that the following items, as set forth on the Consent Agenda for the Business Meeting of January 22, 2024 be approved unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools:

A. Action Items

- I. Approve Policy 6114.3 – Bomb Threats for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee
- II. Approve Policy 6171 – Special Education for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee

- III. Approve Policy 6162.31 – Test Exclusion for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee
- IV. Approve Policy 6171.2 – Preschool Students with Disabilities for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee
- V. Approve Policy 5141.221 – Pediculosis (Head Lice) for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee

***Motion carried, 7-0***

10. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

- A. Reaffirm Policy 6163.1 – Selection of School Library Material for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Mr. Caron, to reaffirm Policy 6163.1 – Selection of School Library Material for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee.

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Mr. Caron, to change the word City to District.

***Motion carried, 7-0***

***Vote on Main Motion as Amended: Motion carried, 7-0***

- B. Approve Policy 1210 – Community Organizations for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Mr. Caron, to approve Policy 1210 – Community Organizations for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee.

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Mr. Caron, to replace the word parent with parent/guardian throughout the policy.

***Motion carried, 7-0***

***Vote on Main Motion as Amended: Motion carried, 7-0***

- C. Approve Line Item Transfers as Recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Mr. Caron, to approve the Line Item Transfers as Recommended by the Finance and Audit Committee.

Mr. Doughty asked Mr. Funk to review the transfers with the Board. Mr. Funk reviewed the transfers with the Board, and there were no questions. Mr. Funk also explained, as information for the new Board members, that any transfer between

\$10,000 and \$25,000 needs to be reported to the Board, and any transfers over \$25,000 need to be approved.

11. Board Comments, Questions

Ms. Blake shared that she wanted to ensure that she makes herself available to everyone, as the Legislative Session will begin in two weeks and she will be there every day. She expressed that she is happy to be a reference and resource between here in district and that space.

Mr. Doughty welcomed Ms. Pemberton.

Ms. Hambey congratulated Ms. Pemberton.

Mr. Caron expressed that recognitions are always a great night, and that he continues to be inspired by the students and their families. He shared that Markus' story inspired him, and he wants to say that he is rooting for him to pass his exam.

Mr. Cruz shared that he also continues to be inspired by the students. He looks forward to the work that the Board will be doing, and he would also like to welcome Ms. Pemberton to the district.

Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that she is always inspired by the great things in New London Public Schools done by students and staff, and that she is always so impressed by the work that the staff does. Everyone goes above and beyond to help the students and their families. She stated this is a cause worth celebrating and should be shouting from the rooftops every year. She thanked staff for all that they do for our families, and helping the Board to be good leaders.

12. Adjournment

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

***Motion carried, 7-0***

***The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Doughty  
Secretary