

The Business Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on February 12, 2024 in the New London Public Schools' Welcome Center and via Zoom Webinars.

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 (*arrived virtually at 7:03 p.m.*)
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. Public Comment

None.

3. Reports and Communications

- Board Chairperson's Report

Ms. Maynard-Adams reported that a lot of great things happened last week. She was excited to announce that her workplace, Jaypro Sports, hosted 18 students who are in the new introduction to manufacturing class at the high school. The students spent two hours touring the facility. Last Wednesday, Beth Bye, Commissioner of Early Childhood visited the monthly Birth to Age 8 Event. There was a wonderful tour and great conversation. This program grows each and every month and it is a great event to attend.

Ms. Alexis-Sylvain joined the meeting virtually at 7:03 p.m.

4. Information and Reports

- i. Superintendent's Report

- DELT Update

- Dr. Jennifer Hills-Papetti, Ms. Laurelle Texidor, and Ms. Amber Herisson provided an update of the District Equity

Leadership Team (DELT) to the Board. This presentation included overviews of the following:

- Introductions: DELT Team & Collaborators
- Check-In
- Statement of Purpose
- NLPS Equity Tenets
- **Leaders of Equity** – Sampling of Training, Learning Expectations and Success Criteria
- Review of the Workshops offered to date
- Plans for the remainder of this year and beyond
- Q&A

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

ii. Board Committee and Representative Updates

- Curriculum Committee

Mr. Caron reported that the committee received updates on the International Education Pathway, K-12 Curriculum Audit, and Career Path Courses. He stated that there was some great work happening not only from New London, but that the State Representative from Groton is also involved in helping with a career path for students interested in waste management and water pollution. It was also discussed that the district would like to offer a CNA course, but that it is expensive at \$2,000 a student, so it would not be a possibility without the demand.

- School Facilities & Program Design Committee

Mr. Doughty shared that for the North Campus the team continues to work on the punch list including four outstanding projects: moving the Whaler, mats for the wrestling team above the gym, signage, and cameras to match campus-wide.

At the South Campus, walls are being built and utilities are being connected.

Mr. Doughty also reported that Mr. Gautier presented the draft Capital Improvement Plan, which includes improvements for the next 10+ years. This will be reviewed again at the committee's next meeting, and then forwarded to the full Board of Education for approval, and to the City Council for theirs. This plan is tied to the non-lapsing fund, and is an incredible document that Mr. Gautier put together.

5. Approval of the Minutes

- January 22, 2024 – Business Meeting

Motion by Mr. Cruz, seconded by Ms. Blake, to approve the January 22, 2024 – Business Meeting minutes.

Motion carried, 7-0

6. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Blake, that the following items, as set forth on the Consent Agenda for the Business Meeting of February 12, 2024 be approved unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools:

A. Superintendent's Written Update

- I. Academics
- II. Human Resources

B. Action Items

- I. Reaffirm Policy 6163.1 – Selection of School Library Material for its Second and Final Reading
- II. Approve Policy 1210 – Relations with Parent/Guardian Organizations for its Second and Final Reading
- III. Approve Policy 6114.3 – Bomb Threats for its Second and Final Reading
- IV. Approve Policy 6171 – Special Education for its Second and Final Reading
- V. Approve Policy 6162.31 – Test Exclusion for its Second and Final Reading
- VI. Approve Policy 6171.2 – Preschool Students with Disabilities for its Second and Final Reading
- VII. Approve Policy 5141.221 – Pediculosis (Head Lice) for its Second and Final Reading.

Motion carried, 7-0

7. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

A. Superintendent's Written Update

- a. Student and Family Support Services

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, to accept the Student and Family Support Services Update.

Mr. Doughty referred to the FAFSA's new program, and that it is now fast and easy. He asked how parents have been able to navigate the new system. Dr. Hills-Papetti shared that there have been FAFSA nights hosted by the high school which have received a good turnout. Additionally, the college

and career center at the high school has been offering supports at different times of the day and night.

Motion carried, 7-0

b. Business and Finance

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Ms. Blake, to accept the Business and Finance Update.

Mr. Doughty noted that it is about tax time and the W-2 and W-3 have been completed. He asked if there was anything that could be done to avoid shipping these. Mr. Funk shared that for filing with the IRS and SSA, these are done electronically. He stated that when the MUNIS HR portal is implemented, employees will have a self-service portal but that currently items are mailed.

Motion carried, 7-0

c. Operations – Includes Magnet Pathways, Athletics, Facilities and Technology

Motion by Mr. Caron, seconded by Mr. Doughty, to accept the Operations – Includes Magnet Pathways, Athletics, Facilities and Technology update.

Mr. Caron shared that Mr. Doughty asked the same question in the previous section. He did, however, compliment the technology department on the ticketing response improvement.

Motion carried, 7-0

8. Board Comments, Questions

Ms. Alexis-Sylvain thanked everyone for their great work and wished all a Happy Valentine's Day.

Mr. Doughty thanked the technician for fixing the audio and video during the meeting. He also congratulated our high school student who received the highest score on the tuba in the State!

Ms. Maynard-Adams noted that the District receives a lot of grant funding. She asked that there be a presentation from administration at a future Board meeting which outlines the grants, how much they are for, and for what they are used.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Cruz, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried, 7-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Doughty
Secretary