

The New London Board of Education School Facilities & Program Design Committee meeting was held on February 12, 2024 in the Shaw's Cove Family Engagement Room and via Zoom Webinars.

DRAFT

1. Call to Order

Mr. Doughty, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present for the Committee: Bryan Doughty – Committee Chair
 Alisha Blake – Committee Member
 Susan Hambey – Committee Member
 Aaron Ide – Community Representative

Present for the Administration: Miguel Gautier, Jr. – Executive Director of District Operations
 Cynthia Ritchie – Superintendent of Schools

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes

- January 8, 2024

Motion by Ms. Hambey, seconded by Ms. Blake, to approve the January 8, 2024 minutes of the School Facilities & Program Design Committee.

Motion carried, 4-0

4. Updates and Discussion

- North Campus Update

Mr. Gautier reported that the punch list is being worked through by the project team. He noted that there continues to be a discrepancy regarding the doors. The doors that were used in the stairwells are breaking and cannot be repaired. The architects are saying that the doors are not what were in the specifications, and the construction team is saying that they are. There are currently six broken doors. The team is trying to say that it is abuse of the doors, but Mr. Gautier countered stating that a student should not be able to kick a door and have it break. He stated that he would like to have every door be replaced to avoid having further issues. Mr. Gautier also noted that at the high school, there are 9 water fountains with electric fillers that have failed. The facilities team continues to track this, but shared that the company admitted that a lot of the electric components built for items during COVID are not lasting as long as they should. The replacement electric boards have been ordered, but there will be a cost for labor to have them installed. Additionally, there are

some letters that are falling off of the name of the school on the front of the building. It appears that the installation was done incorrectly, but a company will be coming out to re-install them, with the cost falling to the district.

Mr. Ide asked for clarification of how the doors are failing, and Mr. Gautier clarified that they are falling off of the hinges. He stated that they are fire rated doors, and that the screws are slipping out. Mr. Doughty asked if doors had ever been broken off the hinges prior to these, and Mr. Gautier confirmed that they had not.

- South Campus Update

It was reported that work continues on the new addition. Mr. Gautier noted that there have been discussions regarding the installation of the glass windows, with some recommending to do it now and some recommending not to. He stated that it is not the time of year to add caulk, but that there is currently water coming in without it. This continues to be a discussion. Mr. Gautier continued, stating that some of the specifications called for the walls to be water and thermal tested, but not the windows. He stated that the thermal tests were helpful with the high school project, but not the water test. That being said, if the tests are not complete and there are problems in the future, he would not want it to be an issue that the tests were not complete.

- Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Gautier reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan with the committee. This draft will be reviewed again at the next committee meeting, and will then be recommended to the full Board for approval, and then shared with the New London City Council.

During this discussion, Mr. Gautier noted that one of his biggest concerns is the upcoming updated legislative requirement regarding indoor air quality testing. He reported that Fuss and O'Neill will likely do the work this upcoming year, but that the more automation that would exist with an HVAC controller, the faster the work will be completed. He stated that our in-house HVAC technicians will also look to be trained in this work to be able to complete it moving forward. This report will need to be completed by January 2025, but it will require approximately 3-4 months worth of work.

5. Committee Member Comments

None.

6. Adjournment

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

Motion carried, 4-0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristea A. Francolino
Manager of Executive Support Services