

The Special Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on February 15, 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 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Ms. Maynard-Adams shared with the Board that unfortunately, Superintendent Ritchie could not be present due to presenting at a conference. She shared the following statement on behalf of Superintendent Ritchie:

“Good evening, all. I am sorry I cannot be with you during this first budget presentation. I am absent because I have been asked to present in a national conference, to share all of the amazing accomplishments of our students, staff, and Board of Education. Unfortunately, the timing of this presentation (happening in the west coast) coincides with tonight’s Board meeting.

I could not be prouder of the NLPS’ community, who has truly risen out of darkness and continues to soar, guided by dedicated leaders, teachers, support staff, families, and community partners throughout. Over the past few years, we have “United in Excellence” implementing strategic and powerful actions to ensure overall achievements and students’ success. Our district improvement plan and budget has always aligned to our set goals for our students.”

2. 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:

- Discussion of Potential Litigation

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Blake, to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation.

Motion carried, 7-0

The following people were invited into Executive Session: The Board as a Whole, Mr. Miguel Gautier, Mr. Jordan Schub, and Attorney Johanna Zelman

Time into Executive Session: 6:02 p.m.

Time out of Executive Session: 6:23 p.m.

No votes were taken while in Executive Session

3. Discussion of the Proposed FY2024-2025 Budget

The following District Staff began the presentation of the FY2024-2025 Budget to the Board of Education:

- Mr. Rob Funk – Chief Financial Officer
- Ms. Melissa Flores-Seijo – Director of Business and Finance
- Dr. Jennifer Hills-Papetti – Assistant Superintendent
- Ms. Carrie Rivera – Executive Director of Student and Family Supports
- Mr. Miguel Gautier, Jr. – Executive Director of District Operations
- Ms. Kristea Francolino – Manager of Executive Support Services

Each program was reviewed one by one, allowing Board members to ask questions about both staffing, finances, and programming.

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Blake, to eliminate 3.0 FTE Wellness Interventionists.

Ms. Maynard-Adams explained that she recommended this reduction as there are other supports which exist at the middle school and high school, but not at the elementary level. She also added that this would be a reduction of approximately \$250,000 of salaries and benefits.

Motion carried, 7-0

The Board reviewed up to Program 66 – Health Services. The Board will hold an additional meeting on February 22 to continue the review and discussion of the budget.

4. Adjournment

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

Motion carried, 7-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Doughty
Secretary