

The Business Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on February 26, 2024 in the New London Public Schools' Welcome Center.

DRAFT

1. Call to Order

President Elaine Maynard-Adams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Board Members Present: Alisha Blake
Nathan Caron
Danni Cruz (*Attended virtually*)
Susan Hambey

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

2. Student of the Month and Employee of the Quarter Recognitions

- Early Childhood Center at B.P. Mission
 - Student of the Month: Ermias Johnson
 - Non-Certified Employee of the Quarter: Maggie LaFountain
 - Certified Employee of the Quarter: Monica Goldstein
- Winthrop STEM Elementary Magnet School
 - Student of the Month: Natalia Warren
 - Non-Certified Employee of the Quarter: Allison Knigge
 - Certified Employee of the Quarter: Shannon Richardson
- Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School
 - Student of the Month: Camila Kippen Meran
 - Non-Certified Employee of the Quarter: Melissa Petiotte
 - Certified Employee of the Quarter: Johnna Clark
- C.B. Jennings International Elementary Magnet School
 - Student of the Month: Mia Ailette Laboy Diaz
 - Non-Certified Employee of the Quarter: Angelique Fuentes
 - Certified Employee of the Quarter: Jessica Bessette-Kavanagh
- Bennie Dover Jackson Multi-Magnet Middle School Campus
 - Student of the Month: Herla (Ella) Joseph
 - Non-Certified Employee of the Quarter: Angie Marrero
 - Certified Employee of the Quarter: Amanda Marino
- New London High School Multi-Magnet Campus
 - Student of the Month: Aylin Petrona Vicene Veliz
 - Non-Certified Employee of the Quarter: Sarah Favalora
 - Certified Employee of the Quarter: Wilson Lima

- New London Adult & Continuing Education
 - Student of the Month: Abdullah Ismael
- Central Office
 - Kenneth Benton-Brooks

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Reports and Communications

- Board Chairperson's Report

Ms. Maynard-Adams reported that the Mystic Museum of Art Exhibition of student work from the high school Arts Pathway will be moving to the Garde Theater. She stated that the exhibition was wonderful. Students had the option to select a building in the world of historical or architectural significance and build a 2-D scale image. Ms. Maynard-Adams also shared that she spoke with *The Day's* Editorial Board regarding the budget, and why the Board is requesting what appears to be a large increase. She noted that there will be a motion to add an item to the agenda regarding the move of funds into the Non-Lapsing Fund.

5. Information and Reports

i. Board Committee and Representative Updates

- Finance & Audit Committee

Ms. Maynard-Adams reported that the committee reviewed year to date expenditures, and it appears that the district is in good shape as of January 31. Barring any surprises, she expects that the rest of the year should be uneventful. She noted that there are some line item transfers on the agenda for this evening for approval as well.

- School Maintenance and Building Committee

Mr. Doughty reported that the SMBC of the South Campus met two weeks ago, and that the project is moving along. He stated that the new building looks great from the outside. The North Campus has completed, and the team continues to work through the punch list.

6. Approval of the Minutes

- February 12, 2024 – Business Meeting

Motion by Mr. Caron, seconded by Ms. Alexis-Sylvain, to approve the February 12, 2024 Business Meeting Minutes.

Motion carried, 7-0

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Blake, to add an item to the Consent Agenda. This item would be to Authorize the Board of Education to write and submit a formal request to the City Council and Finance Director to deposit unexpended funds from the FY22-23 Education General Fund into an Educational Capital Non-Recurring Expense Fund Pursuant to City Ordinance 030220-1.

Motion carried, 7-0

7. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Alexis-Sylvain, that the following items, as set forth on the Consent Agenda for the Business Meeting of February 26, 2024 be approved unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools:

A. Action Items

- I. Approve the Proposed Budget for FY25
- II. Approve Line Item Transfers as Recommended by the Finance & Audit Committee

Motion carried, 7-0

8. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

- A. Approve the Return of the Harbor School Building from the Board of Education to the City of New London

Motion by Mr. Caron, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, to approve the return of the Harbor School building from the Board of Education for the City of New London.

Mr. Caron asked if there was a timeline for the return of the building. Mr. Gautier shared that he is unaware of an actual date, but that the District continues to move items out of the building. He added that the City is aware, and have shared that they will support him continuing to move items out of the building.

Motion carried, 7-0

- B. Approve Policy 6145.6 – Foreign Exchange Students Attending Local Schools for its First Reading as Recommended by the Curriculum Committee

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Ms. Blake, to approve Policy 6145.6 – Foreign Exchange Students Attending Local Schools for its First Reading as Recommended by the Curriculum Committee.

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, to replace the word foreign with international throughout the policy, and the associated grammar with the change.

Motion carried, 7-0

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

- C. Authorize the Board of Education to write and submit a formal request to the City Council and Finance Director to deposit unexpended funds from the FY22-23 Education General Fund into an Educational Capital Non-Recurring Expense Fund Pursuant to City Ordinance 030220-1.
- D. Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Caron, to Authorize the Board of Education to write and submit a formal request to the City Council and Finance Director to deposit unexpended funds from the FY22-23 Education General Fund into an Educational Capital Non-Recurring Expense Fund Pursuant to City Ordinance 030220-1.

Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that years ago a non-lapsing fund was established for the Board with the City. This fund is similar to a savings account, where the Board is allowed, once audited, to request that the Council deposit unexpended funds into the non-lapsing account. This only happens by request of the Board to the Council. State law caps the amount of the deposit at 2% per year, and 6% overall.

Motion carried, 7-0

9. Board Comments, Questions

Ms. Alexis-Sylvain congratulated the boys and girls basketball teams.

10. 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