

The Business Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on April 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 7:00 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 (*attended via Zoom*)
Nathan Caron
Susan Hambey

Board Members Absent: Danni Cruz

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

All votes were taken by roll-call vote.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Reports and Communications

- Board Chairperson's Report

Ms. Maynard-Adams reported that she attended the most recent Birth to Age 8 event at Shaw's Cove, and that these events continue to grow in size. Lt. Governor Bysiewicz also came to the district to tour B.P. Mission and see the Pre-K program in action. During this visit, Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that she and others were surprised to learn from the Mayor that the City had submitted grant applications for the expansion of the building. Ms. Maynard-Adams also reminded those present that the Board and Superintendent will be presenting their budget at City Council on April 17.

4. Information and Reports

- i. Superintendent's Report

- Child Nutrition Program Update

- Ms. Samantha Wilson, Director of the Child Nutrition Program and Mr. Alex Leigh, Brigaid – Regional Chef, presented updates on the Child Nutrition Program, including sharing a sample meal with the Board. This presentation included the following topics:
 - Child Nutrition Program Philosophy
 - Child Nutrition Program & Brigaid
 - Meal Numbers & Participation
 - New Menu Items SY24
 - Farm to School
 - FoodCorps
 - Community meal
 - Statewide Advocacy
 - Child Nutrition Program Team
 - Looking Ahead

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

5. Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Ms. Hambey, to approve the March 25, 2024 – Business Meeting Minutes.

Motion carried, 6-0

6. 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 April 15, 2024 be approved unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools:

A. Superintendent's Written Update

- I. Academics
- II. Student and Family Support Services
- III. Business and Finance
- IV. Operations – Includes Magnet Pathways, Athletics, Facilities and Technology

B. Action Items

- I. Approve the Proposed SY2024-2025 Year-Round Calendar
- II. Approve the Revised Sy2023-2024 Year-Round Calendar
- III. Rescind Policy Series 5000 – Pledge of Allegiance (Information included in Policy 6115) for its Second and Final Reading
- IV. Rescind Policy 6114.81 – Emergency Suspension of Policy During Pandemic for its Second and Final Reading
- V. Rescind Policy Series 6000 – IDEA – Alternative Assessments (Information included in Policy 6162.3) for its Second and Final Reading

- VI. Approve Policy 5124 – Reporting to Parents and Guardians for its Second and Final Reading
- VII. Approve Policy 5145.53 – Transgender and Gender-Expansive Youth for its Second and Final Reading
- VIII. Authorize the Board Chair to Write and Submit a Formal request to the City Council and City Finance Director to Withdraw \$123,483 from the Education Capital Non-Recurring Expense Fund to Pay the City of New London Public Works FY22 Petrol Cost
- IX. Approve the Healthy Food and Beverage Participation for New London Public Schools for the Time Period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025
 - Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the New London Public Schools Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.
- X. Approve the Healthy Food and Beverage Exemptions Certification for New London Public Schools for the Time Period of July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025
 - The New London Public Schools Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

Motion carried, 6-0

7. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

A. Superintendent’s Written Report

- Human Resources

Motion by Mr. Caron, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, to receive for the record, the Human Resources report.

Mr. Caron asked about the number of declining applications for paraprofessionals that was shared in the Climate and Culture portion of the report. Ms. Rivera shared that these numbers fluctuate, and while they were down at the time of writing the report, they have since increased.

Motion carried, 6-0

B. Action Items

- Approve the Proposed SY2024-2025 District Calendar

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, to approve the Proposed SY2024-2025 District Calendar.

Ms. Maynard-Adams expressed that she has always disliked the school calendar, and for that reason, and knowing that it will still pass, she will be voting no. Ms. Alexis-Sylvain asked if this year it would be possible to schedule the picture days to be held on the same weeks for both the full district and year-round schooling, and it was confirmed this would be possible.

Motion carried, 5-1

Voting no: Ms. Maynard-Adams

- Approve the Revised SY2023-2024 District Calendar

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, to approve the Revised SY2023-2024 District Calendar.

Mr. Doughty asked if Harbor could be removed from the bottom of the calendar, now that it no longer exists. It was confirmed that this can be done.

Motion carried, 5-1

Voting no: Ms. Maynard-Adams

- Approve Policy 5126 – Student Recognition for its Second and Final Reading

Motion by Ms. Hambey, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, to approve Policy 5126 – Student Recognition for its second and final reading.

Ms. Hambey asked that if there were going to be examples included, that they are all-inclusive. It was suggested that the sentence with the examples be removed instead.

Motion by Ms. Hambey, seconded by Mr. Caron, to eliminate the sentence “These programs may include honor rolls, honor societies and special awards”.

Motion carried, 6-0

Vote on the Main Motion as amended: Motion carried, 6-0

8. 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:

- Negotiations Update Regarding Proposed Five-Year Contract with Brigaid for 2024-2029

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Alexis-Sylvain, to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a negotiations update regarding the proposed five-year contract with Brigaid for 2024-2029

Motion carried, 6-0

The following people were invited into Executive Session: The Board as a Whole, Superintendent Ritchie, Mr. Rob Funk, Ms. Samantha Wilson, Mr. Alex Leigh.

Time into Executive Session: 8:20 p.m.

Time out of Executive Session: 8:34 p.m.

No votes were taken while in Executive Session

9. Possible Action Following Executive Session

- Possible Approval of the Proposed Five-Year Contract with Brigaid for 2024-2029

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Doughty, to approve the proposed five-year contract with Brigaid from 2024-2029 with discussed amendments.

Motion carried, 6-0

10. Board Comments, Questions

Ms. Hambey congratulated the District for the State Board of Education approving Commissioner's Network for another year. She also noted she is looking forward to a repeat presentation of the Carnegie Summit.

Ms. Blake thanked everyone for their work and shared that she has been busy at the Legislative Session, but looks forward to being at the meetings in person again soon.

Mr. Doughty shared that he had recently attended a showing of a documentary on fentanyl. What struck him the most was a project in Hartford called the Paraphernalia Project, through which they go on the street and collect garbage, and then show it to display the types of drugs which can be found on the street and how to recognize them. He thought this documentary was very moving, and was the most impactful part of the film. He thanked Ms. Wilson and Mr. Leigh for their presentation.

Ms. Alexis-Sylvain thanked Ms. Wilson and Mr. Leigh for their presentation and dedication to the district. She shared that she recently attended the send off of the HBCU tour. She stated that it was amazing to see and is proud of what we are doing right.

Ms. Hambey also thanked the Board, staff and USCGA for delivering the whale bones from behind Bennie Dover to The Custom House. She stated that they are set up in the back and wants to thank everyone who helped.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Hambey, seconded by Ms. Alexis-Sylvain, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried, 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Doughty
Secretary