

The Business Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on June 10, 2024 in the New London Public Schools' Welcome Center and via Zoom Webinars.

1. Call to Order

President Elaine Maynard-Adams called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

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

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

Due to members participating virtually, all votes were taken by roll-call vote.

2. Recognitions: Longevity, Retirement, and Special Recognitions

Ms. Christine Pemberton, Executive Director of Talent & Human Resources, gave a presentation to the Board which celebrated many milestones of our staff members. This presentation included:

- Employees with 40 Years of Service
- Employees with 30 Years of Service
- Employees with 25 Years of Service
- Employees with 20 Years of Service
- Employees with 15 Years of Service
- Employees with 10 Years of Service
- Staff Retiring 2023-2024

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

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Reports and Communications

- Board Chairperson's Report

Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that for the Superintendent's Evaluation, Board members are reminded to set up a time to meet with Dr. Ritchie. The process is that notes are taken during the meeting and shared with Ms. Maynard-Adams, who will write a draft evaluation to share with the full Board. She stated that this upcoming week is an exciting one, filled with promotions and graduations. These are wonderful opportunities to celebrate the achievements of the students. Ms. Maynard-Adams also shared that she is going to attempt to set up some meetings with Senator Marx and the Early Childhood Commissioner to discuss ongoing funding for B.P.

5. Information and Reports

i. Superintendent's Report

- Magnet Pathways Report
 - Ms. Janet Farquhar, Director of Magnet Pathways, presented an update on all pathways with the Board. This presentation included the following topics:
 - Review of Data
 - Lottery & Enrollment Update
 - Overview of Magnet Pathways
 - Status of International Education Pathway Phase-In
 - Next Steps for International Education Pathway
 - Hiring of Principal at Jennings International Education Elementary
 - MSAP Grant/Partnership with LEARN
 - Transportation of Out of District Students

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

6. Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Ms. Blake, seconded by Ms. Hambey, to approve the May 28, 2024 – Business Meeting Minutes.

Motion carried 5-0-2

***Abstaining: Ms. Alexis-Sylvain
Mr. Cruz***

7. 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 June 10, 2024 be approved unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools:

A. Superintendent's Written Update

- I. Human Resources
- II. Operations – Includes Magnet Pathways, Athletics, Facilities and Technology

8. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

A. Superintendent's Written Report

- Academics

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Doughty, to accept the Academics section of the Superintendent's Written Report.

Ms. Maynard-Adams asked where the new courses were listed, based on enrollment registration. Dr. Ritchie clarified that these class names were listed in the most recent "What's Next with NLPS" communication. She stated that these would be advertised in August, and families will receive an email and possibly a QR code to be able to register. It was asked if the Drawing class was a new ECE course. Dr. Hills-Papetti confirmed that it was, as there were previously not many ECE or honors courses for the Arts pathway.

Motion carried, 7-0

- Student & Family Support Services

Motion by Mr. Doughty, seconded by Mr. Caron, to accept the Student & Family Support Services section of the Superintendent's Written Report.

Mr. Doughty asked how the District is negatively affected when there are Expulsions. Dr. Ritchie stated that no one wants to expel a student, but when there is a felony or mandatory reason then there will be an expulsion hearing. Often, these events do not take place on school property. Mr. Doughty asked if there was a way to explain to the State that this is the case with the expulsions. It was clarified that there is a way to designate this information as such.

Ms. Maynard-Adams asked for an update on the K Screening information to be shared with the Board, the total number of students, who was accepted, ready for Kindergarten, transitional program, and the number of those who are unable to enter.

Motion carried, 7-0

- Business and Finance

Motion by Mr. Caron, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, to accept the Business & Finance report of the Superintendent's Written Report.

Mr. Caron congratulated the Business Department for their move to MUNIS and the new platform. Ms. Maynard-Adams asked if the City is prepared to support the district when a go-live day has been determined, and Mr. Funk confirmed this.

Motion carried, 7-0

10. Board Comments, Questions

Mr. Cruz thanked everyone for the presentations this evening and looks forward to the end of year events.

Mr. Doughty stated that he attended the recent band concert, and that it was great to see the auditorium pretty much full. He stated that the band did an amazing job. The middle school band was performing music that the high school was playing 3-4 years ago. He encouraged all to attend a concert in the future.

Ms. Hambey stated that this evening's presentation was wonderful learning for her. She added that she would like to learn more about chronic absenteeism in the future.

11. Adjournment

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

Motion carried, 7-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Doughty
Secretary