

The Business Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on August 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

Board Members Present: Karen Bergin
Alisha Blake
Nathan Caron
Susan Hambey

Board Members Absent: Danni Cruz
Vice President – Bianca Alexis-Sylvain

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

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Reports and Communications

- Board Chairperson's Report

Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that she was able to attend Convocation for a brief period of time due to work, but that she could feel all of the energy in the room. She truly enjoyed the time that she was able to spend there. She gave kudos to Dr. Ritchie and her staff. Ms. Maynard-Adams added that this week she hopes to attend a dialogue that the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities is hosting along with the Dalio Foundation on the topic of Disconnected Youth. This conversation will be held tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. in New London City Council Chambers.

4. Information and Reports

- i. Superintendent's Report

- NLPS2024: End of Year District Improvement Plan Review

- Dr. Ritchie and Mr. Funk, Chief Financial Officer, presented to the Board the proposed FY25 Budget Revisions. This included an updated proposed budget book along with a presentation of slides. The slides included the following topics:
 - Vision & Mission
 - Budget Appropriation
 - Budget Request for SY24-25
 - Cost Savers
 - Budget Drivers
 - Adjustments to the Previously Approved SY25 Budget
 - History of General Fund Appropriations Compared to Inflation (and the Impact of these Decisions)
 - Negotiated Commitments to Union Employees of NLPS
 - NLPS Student Profile
 - Changes in Student Population since October 1, 2023

A copy of the budget book and presentation are available upon request.

ii. Board Committee and Representative Updates

- Curriculum Committee

Mr. Caron reported that the Curriculum Committee met last week, during which updates on the World Languages Framework, summer curriculum work, and Open SciEd were shared. Additionally, the committee reviewed newly written curriculum which is on the agenda for this meeting to be approved.

- Finance & Audit Committee

Ms. Maynard-Adams stated that the committee met prior to this meeting, and reviewed the proposed budget amendments along with a line item transfer which is on the agenda for approval at this meeting.

5. Approval of the Minutes

- June 24, 2024 – Business Meeting

Motion by Ms. Blake, seconded by Mr. Caron, to approve the June 24, 2024 Business Meeting Minutes.

Motion carried, 5-0

6. Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

A. Action Items

- I. Approve Line Item Transfers as Recommended by the Finance & Audit Committee
- II. Approve Proposed Revisions to the Board of Education's FY26 Budget
- III. Approve Policy 4112.112 – Sexual Harassment and Title IX (*staff*) for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee
- IV. Approve Policy 5145.5 – Sexual Harassment and Title IX (*students*) for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee
- V. Approve Policy 5131.911 – Bullying & Safe School Climate Plan for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee
- VI. Approve Policy 5131.3 – Student use of Motor Vehicles for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee
- VII. Approve Policy 5141 – Health Assessments – Screenings – Immunizations for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee
- VIII. Rescind Policy Series 5000 – Immunizations for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee
- IX. Adopt Policy 4113.6 – Remote Work for its Second and Final Reading
- X. Approve Policy 5134 – Pregnant/Parenting Students for its Second and Final Reading
- XI. Approve the Advanced Acting Curriculum as Recommended by the Curriculum Committee
- XII. Approve the Theatre Arts Curriculum as Recommended by the Curriculum Committee

Motion carried, 5-0

7. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

- A. Approve the Advanced Technical Theater Curriculum as Recommended by the Curriculum Committee

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Bergin, to approve the Advanced Technical Theatre Curriculum as Recommended by the Curriculum Committee.

It was asked if this is all of the theatre curriculum left to do, and how many students participate. Dr. Hills-Papetti, Assistant Superintendent, shared that there are still two curricula left to complete. She added that there are over 100 students who participate in the program.

B. Board Election of an Officer to Fill a Vacancy - Secretary

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Blake, to nominate Mr. Caron to fill the vacancy of Secretary.

Ms. Maynard asked three times if there were any other nominations.

Motion by Ms. Blake, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, to close nominations.

Motion carried, 5-0

Ms. Maynard-Adams called for a vote of all members present in favor of electing Mr. Caron as Secretary.

Motion carried, 5-0

8. Executive Session Pursuant to Connecticut State Statutes: Title I, Chapter 114, Section 1-200(5), Connecticut Freedom of Information Act

Motion by Ms. Blake, seconded by Mr. Caron, to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the following items:

- Amended Lease Proposal for Shaw's Cove
- Update Regarding Upcoming Negotiations of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the New London Education Association (NLEA)

Motion carried, 5-0

The following people were invited into Executive Session: The Board as a Whole, Superintendent Ritchie, and Rob Funk – Chief Financial Officer for both topics. Mr. Miguel Gautier, Executive Director of Facilities and Operations was invited in for the purpose of discussing the lease. Ms. Christine Pemberton, Executive Director of Talent and Human Resources was invited in to discuss the topics of negotiations.

Time into Executive Session: 7:48 p.m.

Time out of Executive Session: 8:18 p.m.

No votes were taken while in Executive Session

9. Action Following Executive Session

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Blake, to approve the amended lease for Shaw's Cove.

Motion carried, 5-0

10. Board Comments, Questions

Mr. Caron stated that he was looking forward to everyone having a great school year, and that he hopes Convocation went well. He also hopes that there are good plans in place for registration this year.

Ms. Blake welcomed everyone back for the new school year.

Ms. Hambey welcomed everyone back and shared that she loves the “Ignite Learning” theme for the year.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Blake, seconded by Ms. Hambey, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried, 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristea Francolino
Manager of Executive Support Services