

The New London Board of Education Policy Committee meeting was held on October 8, 2024 via Zoom teleconferencing.

1. Call to Order

Nathan Caron, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present for the Committee: Nathan Caron – Committee Chair
Elaine Maynard-Adams – Committee Member
Betsy Perkins – Community Representative

Absent for the Committee: Bianca Alexis-Sylvain – Committee Member
Colleen Delaporta-Wells – NLEA Representative
Scott Garbini – Community Representative

Present for the Administration: Kristea A. Francolino – Manager of Executive Support Services
Christine Pemberton – Executive Director of Talent & Human Resources

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Caron, to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2024 Policy Committee Meeting.

Motion carried, 2-0-1

Abstaining: Ms. Perkins

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- Motion by Mr. Caron, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, that the following items, as set forth on the Consent Agenda for the Policy Committee meeting of October 8, 2024, be approved unless removed by a committee member or the Superintendent of Schools:

1. Approve the Following Policies

- a. 5111.3 – Welcoming Immigration and Refugee Communities and Protection of Undocumented Students

Motion carried, 3-0

5. Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda

- Adopt Policy 3541.5 – Transportation Complaints

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Caron, to adopt Policy 3541.5 – Transportation Complaints.

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Caron, to amend the 2nd paragraph to state “Superintendent of Schools or Designee”.

Motion carried, 3-0

Vote on Main Motion as amended: Motion carried, 3-0

- Reaffirm Policy 5145.121 – Vehicle Searches on School Grounds

Motion by Mr. Caron, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, to reaffirm Policy 5145.121 – Vehicle Searches on School Grounds.

Mr. Caron shared a question from Ms. Alexis-Sylvain who could not be present this evening, and that was whether there had been any vehicle searches so far this year. Ms. Francolino responded that to her knowledge, there had not been.

Motion carried, 3-0

6. Discussion and Possible Adoption of Policy 3171.1 – Non -Lapsing Fund

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Caron, to adopt Policy 3171.1 – Non – Lapsing Fund.

Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that there have been recent changes in state law as to how the non-lapsing funds may be funded and withdrawn. She also was of the understanding with the new legislation that the Board will no longer require the approval of City Council to be able to withdraw money for educational purposes from the Board’s fund.

Mr. Funk, Chief Financial Officer, stated that the interpretation of the new legislation is that it is providing the Board more authority over their funds. The existing ordinance says that the Board can request from Council that they deposit the unexpended funds at the end of the year into the account. The new legislation is making it so that the City cannot refuse to put those funds into the non-lapsing fund, provided that the District has not exceeded the cap balance. Mr. Funk stated that ultimately, he would like to reach out to the District’s attorneys to receive a final understanding. Ms. Maynard-Adams also asked Mr. Funk to inquire if the 2% that is allowable for carryover is only the city provided funds, or if it could be of the entire budget.

Ms. Maynard-Adams withdrew her motion and Mr. Caron withdrew his second.

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Caron, to table this policy until which time the questions raised could be clarified by the attorneys.

Motion carried, 3-0

7. Discussion of Policy 5131.81 – Use of Private Technology Devices by Students

Ms. Francolino reviewed the charts from the survey conducted with the committee. She also shared that the committee was provided with the written comments from staff from the survey as well.

Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that she was concerned that only 1/3 of the instructional staff responded to the survey. She stated that she would be curious if the survey could be sent again and the staff be nudged to respond for a bigger response. Dr. Ritchie stated that this had been sent via all staff email and Monday Memo, but that she would be able to send it out again as well to garner more responses.

Ms. Perkins stated that from reading the comments, there seemed to be a desire for consistency. It appears as though each school and teacher are doing something different that works for their environment. She stated that she could see how the inconsistency could be an issue. Mr. Caron agreed that consistency and fidelity to implementation of the policy seemed to be common themes. He also noted that staff referenced the use of earbuds, which are not currently included in this policy. He stated that he liked Ms. Maynard-Adams' suggestion of asking for additional responses.

In the next survey, it was discussed that there be more specification for schools and grades taught when reviewing the responses. Ms. Francolino shared that she would be able to resend the survey to clarify the schools and grade levels of the respondents.

8. Committee Member Comments

Ms. Maynard-Adams thanked Mr. Caron for his work as Chair and leading the meeting.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Perkins, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried, 3-0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristea A. Francolino
Manager of Executive Support Services