

The New London Board of Education School Facilities & Program Design Committee meeting was held on October 15, 2024 in the Shaw's Cove Family Engagement Room and via Zoom Webinars.

**DRAFT**

1. Call to Order

Ms. Hambey, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m.

Present for the Committee: Susan Hambey – Committee Chair  
Alisha Blake – Committee Member

Absent for the Committee: Aaron Ide – Community Representative

Present for the Administration: Miguel Gautier, Jr. – Executive Director of District Operations

2. Public Comment

***None.***

3. Approval of the Minutes

- June 10, 2024

Motion by Ms. Blake, seconded by Ms. Hambey, to approve the June 10, 2024 minutes of the School Facilities & Program Design Committee.

***Motion carried, 2-0***

4. Updates and Discussion

- North Campus Update

Mr. Gautier reported that there have been some major issues, one including the interior doors. After discussion at the School Maintenance and Building Committee meeting, there has been a decision to pay for the doors and replace them. Mr. Gautier continued that the cost was about \$168,000, and that his motion was to move forward with the change order, but then bring the cost forward to the architect. He reported that the doors should be installed in approximately four weeks.

Additionally, Mr. Gautier reported that the water fountains have not worked correctly, despite numerous repairs. The company has agreed to provide new water fountains and they should arrive within the next week. He clarified that during COVID the fountains needed to be disabled, and the company is stating that is the reason for the problems.

However, he mentioned that the company also said that the modules from COVID were not quality checked well enough and that they will own the mistake and replace them. If there are any further issues they will no longer be under warranty.

- South Campus Update

Mr. Gautier reported that the South Campus has been substantially completed and they are now in the process of reviewing the punch list and any quality issues that they are pushing back on.

- Future School Programming Updates

Mr. Gautier reported that due to fewer construction projects, in the future this committee will receive more reports on programming within the buildings, and meetings will possibly will be every other month instead of every month.

- Landscaping Update

Mr. Gautier reported that as of right now there is no plan, but that the City has continued to pay a contractor to do what they used to do. The District pays our staff to do what the City was supposed to do but never did. He stated that there is nothing in writing yet from the City, and that he thinks there will be an issue if there is not something put into writing. The District is manpowered and equipped to do work around the buildings, but not everything else. Mr. Gautier believes that there is a need to approach the City again and hold them accountable, and that he will bring the topic up at the next School Maintenance and Building committee meeting. He stated that the committee is aware of what is going on, but it seems that there is only a band-aid currently and the actual problems have not been addressed.

- Playground Update

Mr. Gautier reported that an issue has been encountered at Nathan Hale with the playground. A project has been in process for approximately two years to be able to add handicap accessible equipment to the playground. This has been completed at Jennings and Winthrop. When the project began at Nathan Hale, an informal notice was received from planning and zoning because the footprint of the playground was going to expand by 10'. Mr. Gautier asked planning and zoning for all permits that the City has pulled, as there are no guidelines for playgrounds, as there are no permits and playgrounds are not a building. When the City completed work at Toby May and Greens Harbor there were no permits, and no permits were completed for Jennings and Winthrop. Because a neighbor has brought an issue with the updates to planning and zoning, there is a request for a permit to be completed. The District has told the company to finish the work on the playground as there is a short timeline for completion in relation to weather. He clarified that he did not receive an official stop work order, just an email. Mr. Gautier also stated that he has no

issues following the rules, but he cannot do that when there is no clarity of what the rules are.

5. Committee Member Comments

Ms. Hambey thanked Mr. Gautier for all of his hard work over the years. Ms. Blake also thanked Mr. Gautier and expressed her excitement for reaching the end of construction.

6. Adjournment

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

***Motion carried, 2-0***

***The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

Kristea A. Francolino  
Manager of Executive Support Services