

The Business Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on January 27, 2025 in the New London Public Schools' Welcome Center and via Zoom Webinars.

1. Call to Order

President Maynard-Adams called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present for the Board of Education: President – Elaine Maynard-Adams
Secretary – Nathan Caron

Board Members Present: Karen Bergin
Alisha Blake
Susan Hambey

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

Present for the administration: Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, Superintendent of Schools (*Attended virtually*)

Due to Board members attending virtually, votes were taken by roll call vote.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Reports and Communications

- Board Chairperson's Report

Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that Ms. Blake and Ms. Bergin were attending virtually and Mr. Cruz and Ms. Alexis-Sylvain are out ill this evening.

Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that she and Ms. Hambey met with the Nathan Hale PTO last week. She and Board members are attending school PTO meetings to assist with education on the budget process. She also shared that there was a good Joint Budget Task Force meeting during the week prior. In this meeting, Dr. Ritchie presented for almost an hour on the work that the District is doing in regard to addressing a projected \$10 million shortfall. She thought good progress had been made, however, Mr. Funk, the District CFO received a letter stating that all City departments had to keep their budgets to a certain increase, and for the Board this means approximately \$1 million. Ms. Maynard-Adams continued that she is appreciative of any Board member who can make an effort to speak to a Councilor

or the Mayor. We all understand there isn't an extra \$10 million, but it needs to be better than this.

Ms. Maynard-Adams also shared that she and Dr. Ritchie have been engaged in meetings with the City regarding what to do if ICE were to show up at a school building.

4. Information and Reports

i. Superintendent's Report

▪ Multi-Lingual Learner Department Update

- Ms. Maria Carrillo, Ms. Margaret Bucaram, Ms. Rocio Tinoco, Ms. Laurelle Texidor and Ms. Patricia Namin gave a presentation to the Board on the Multi-Lingual Learner Department.
 - This presentation included information on the following topics:
 - Our Mission
 - District Enrollment
 - Exited Students
 - MLLs per School Building
 - Diverse Community
 - Native Language Spoken
 - Bilingual Programs
 - Latinos in Action
 - MLL Department Budget
 - Voices from Within
 - World Languages Department

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

5. Approval of the Minutes

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Motion by Mr. Cruz, seconded by Ms. Hambey to approve the January 13, 2025 Business Meeting minutes.

Motion carried, 5-0

6. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion by Ms. Bergin, seconded by Ms. Blake, that the following items, as set forth on the Consent Agenda for the Business Meeting of January 27, 2025 be approved unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools:

A. Action Items

- I. Reaffirm Policy 1321 – Student Performances for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee
- II. Approve Line Item Transfers as Recommended by the Finance & Audit Committee.

Motion carried, 5-0

7. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

- Adopt Policy 5142.1 – Relations with Noncustodial Parents/Guardians for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion by Ms. Hambey, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, to adopt Policy 5142.1 – Relations with Noncustodial Parents/Guardians for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee.

Ms. Francolino explained that this policy reaffirms the rights of noncustodial parents for their children. She explained that unless there was legal paperwork on file, the noncustodial parent would have the right to receive information regarding their child.

Motion carried, 5-0

- Approve Policy 1112.6 – Videotaping of Staff/Students for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion by Ms. Hambey, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, to approve Policy 1112.6 – Videotaping of Staff/Students for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee.

Ms. Hambey asked if anything separate needs to be done if a student is 18. It was clarified that once a student is 18, they have a right to their own educational record.

There was a question regarding how much time needs to be provided start to the notification of the videotaping, but it was decided to keep the language as is.

Motion carried, 5-0

8. Board Comments, Questions

Ms. Blake shared that she has not been feeling well, but would like to echo the amazing work that is now and has always been occurring at C.B. Jennings. She shared she is entering into her tenth year as being a Jennings family, and her daughter will be in her last year at Jennings, and she is proud of all of the work that has been done.

Ms. Bergin stated that it was a wonderful MLL presentation and that she learned so much. She commended Dr. Ritchie and so many of the school teams for proactive work being done on the new orders coming from the President and what they will look like. It is encouraging and promising that we will be doing the best job that we can.

Ms. Hambey shared that she recently attended a webinar on the Special Education Task Force at the State. She shared that there were multiple Bills that should be followed during the legislative session, and that there will be a press conference tomorrow. Additionally, she shared that the Task Force recommends that the ECS formula be changed, and account for special education as well as inflation. She explained that the task force reviewed many different additional topics, and that there is more to come as the bills work their way through the legislature.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Hambey, seconded by Mr. Caron, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried, 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Caron
Secretary, Board of Education