

The Business Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on May 12, 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 7:00 p.m.

Present for the Board of Education: President – Elaine Maynard-Adams
Vice-President – Bianca Alexis-Sylvain (*attended virtually*)
Secretary – Nathan Caron

Board Members Present: Karen Bergin
Alisha Blake (*attended virtually*)
Susan Hambey

Board Members Absent: Danni Cruz

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

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 stated that she is always proud of our staff, a number of whom spoke at the City Council meeting prior to this Business meeting. She stated that the speakers caused something to happen that she hasn't seen in a long time, and that is see cell phones be put down after being respectfully challenged twice by the teachers present who were there to provide public comment. She gave a shout out to the staff who spoke to make their voices be heard. Ms. Maynard-Adams continued that there has been a lot of disinformation, misinformation on the Board of Education's budget. A member of the Board of Finance publicly stated at one of their meetings that the Board had not done its work and has not corrected the errors that she had pointed out in February. Ms. Maynard-Adams then reviewed her notes and spoke with the Superintendent and CFO to check for any remaining edits and they did not find any. She then respectfully communicated with this member and shared that there were no notes about this and asked to share what these errors are. This communication was sent two weeks ago and there has been no response. Ms. Maynard-Adams reported that the Rotary Club will be

holding a student-of-the-year luncheon this week that she plans to attend and added that they will also be sponsoring Camp Rotary this summer to provide summer programming opportunities for 45 middle school students.

4. Information and Reports

i. Superintendent's Report

▪ Magnet Pathways Update

- Ms. Janet Farquhar, Director of Magnet Pathways, provided an Magnet Pathway Update report. This report included information on the following:
 - In-District Magnet Enrollment
 - Out-of-District Magnet Enrollment
 - 2025-2026 Lottery Data
 - International Education Pathway
 - MSAP Grant- C.B. Jennings
 - Upcoming Education Summit
 - Science and Technology (STEM) Magnet Pathway
 - Visual & Performing Arts Magnet Pathway
 - PreSchool Program – B.P. Learned Mission
 - Marketing & Outreach

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

5. Approval of the Minutes

- April 28, 2025 – Business Meeting

Motion by Ms. Bergin, seconded by Ms. Hambey, to approve the April 28, 2025 Business Meeting minutes.

Motion carried, 6-0

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 May 12, 2025 be approved unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools:

A. Superintendent's Written Report

- I. Academics
- II. Human Resources
- III. Student & Family Support Services
- IV. Operations – Includes Magnet Pathways, Athletics, Facilities & Technology

B. Action Items

- I. Approve Policy 5245.2 – Freedom of Speech/Expression for its Second and Final Reading

Motion carried, 6-0

7. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

- Superintendent's Written Report – Business & Finance

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Caron, to receive the Superintendent's Written Report – Business & Finance for the record.

Ms. Maynard-Adams referred to the Executive Order about ESSER funding that had been blocked by the courts, and shared that it appears it is only applicable to states which had filed suit. It was her original understanding that Attorney General Tong had, but she did not read that in the article. She asked if there was any clarification from CSDE. Mr. Funk, Chief Financial Officer, shared that he has not received anything official from CSDE, but will do some research and ask for clarification.

Motion carried, 6-0

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

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Bergin, to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing:

- Discussion of Recommendation of Non-Renewal of a Non-Tenured Teacher
- Discussion of Proposed Early Retirement Incentive Opportunities

Motion carried, 6-0

The following people were invited into Executive Session: The Board as a Whole, Superintendent Cynthia Ritchie, Executive Director of Talent and Human Resources – Christine Pemberton, Chief Financial Officer – Rob Funk

Time into Executive Session: 7:46 p.m.

Time out of Executive Session: 8:44 p.m.

No votes were taken while in Executive Session

9. Action Following Executive Session

- Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Hambey, that the contract of employment for Patrick Colquhoun not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person in writing of this action.

Motion carried, 6-0

- Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Bergin, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent and Executive Director of Talent & Human Resources to work with our attorneys to finalize language for an Early Retirement Incentive of \$5,000 in accordance with the Board's Direction.

Motion carried, 6-0

10. Board Comments, Questions

Ms. Blake stated that her child attends Jennings, and she is quite excited for the new Principal.

Ms. Alexis thanked the staff for the Special Education Department presentation.

Ms. Hambey congratulated all on the accomplishment of every school and program in NLPS having received a state and/or national recognition. She also thanked the generous donor for their gift to our students. She shared that the *Whalers and Lancers* exhibit at the Hygienic opened, and encouraged all to attend to view the artwork of our students.

8. Adjournment

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

Motion carried, 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Caron
Secretary, Board of Education