

The Business Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on October 28, 2024 in the New London Public Schools' Welcome Center and via Zoom Webinars.

1. Call to Order

President Elaine Maynard-Adams called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

Board Members Present: Karen Bergin
Danni Cruz (*attended virtually*)
Susan Hambey

Board Members Absent: Alisha Blake

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

Due to a Board Member attending virtually, all votes were taken by roll call vote.

2. Student of the Month Recognitions

The Board of Education recognized the Students of the Month from each school:

- Early Childhood Center at B.P. Mission: Alexa Lanza
- Winthrop STEM Elementary Magnet School: Eleni Vamvakides
- Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School: Xinran Huang
- C.B. Jennings International Elementary Magnet School: Seleni Yasmin Sarango
- Bennie Dover Jackson Multi-Magnet Middle School Campus: Almendra Quinones Velasquez
- New London High School Multi-Magnet Campus: Daniela Ramirez Machado
- New London Adult Education: Ernesto Rivera

3. Public Comment

None

4. Reports and Communications

- Board Chairperson's Report

Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that she attended the ribbon-cutting for Bennie Dover Jackson Multi-Magnet Middle School Campus. She shared that it was 31 years to

the day after the last ribbon cutting and she spoke at both! She shared that at the time Mr. Vamvakides was a student, and he is now the principal. This marks the end of about twenty years of construction. She also attended the Dr. Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner along with Board Members Hambey, Alexis-Sylvain, and Caron. She shared that New London had four students as recipients, one being the daughter of Executive Director of Talent & Human Resources Christine Pemberton. She wished congratulations to the winners!

5. Information and Reports

i. Superintendent's Report

▪ FY26 Budget Planning & Parameters

- Mr. Funk reviewed a budget planning document with the Board which included preliminary cost increase projections and revenue projections. It was discussed among Board members that while there is generally a desire for administration to create a budget that they believe is necessary, that this year that does not seem fiscally responsible. Ms. Maynard-Adams suggested that the parameters of the budget development process be that the Board directs administration to develop a same services budget for FY26. If there is a proposal for something to be changed, either added or removed, that there be reasoning provided for such change. These parameters will be voted on during the Consent Agenda portion of the meeting.

A copy of this presentation is available upon request.

ii. Board Committee and Representative Updates

▪ Finance & Audit Committee

- Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that the Finance & Audit Committee had a similar discussion regarding the FY26 budget process, as well as reviewed the status of the budget and proposed line item transfers.

6. Approval of the Minutes

- October 15, 2024 – Business Meeting

Motion by Ms. Alexis-Sylvain, seconded by Ms. Bergin, to approve the October 15, 2024 Business Meeting Minutes.

Motion carried, 5-0-1

Abstaining: Mr. Cruz

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Cruz, to add to the Consent Agenda this evening as Item 6A6: "Direct the Board Chair to sign the Superintendent's Amended Contract, for

the purpose of allowing the Superintendent the opportunity to modify her personal retirement contributions, as recommended according to her age bracket.”

Motion carried, 6-0

7. 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 October 28, 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. Adopt Policy 3541.5 – Transportation Complaints for its Second and Final Reading
- III. Reaffirm Policy 5145.121 – Vehicle Searches on School Grounds for its Second and Final Reading
- IV. Approve Policy 5111.3 - Welcoming Immigration and Refugee Communities and protection of Undocumented Students for its Second and Final Reading

Motion carried, 6-0

8. Items Pulled from the Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Proposed Budget FY26 Budget Parameters as Recommended by the Finance & Audit Committee

Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that she pulled the item to clarify the parameters for the record.

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, Seconded by Mr. Caron, that Administration bring to the Board a same services budget, and that if there are any new programs or personnel proposed, a reason is provided.

Motion carried, 6-0

B. Direct the Board Chair to sign the Superintendent’s Amended Contract, for the purpose of allowing the Superintendent the opportunity to modify her personal retirement contributions, as recommended according to her age bracket.

Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that she pulled this item to clarify that the compensation of the Superintendent’s Contract is not changing, only the opportunity to modify the retirement contributions.

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Caron, to direct the Board Chair to sign the Superintendent’s Amended Contract, for the purpose of allowing the

Superintendent the opportunity to modify her personal retirement contributions, as recommended according to her age bracket.

Motion carried, 6-0

9. 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:

- 2024-2025 New London Public Schools' All-Hazards School Security and Safety Plan.

Motion carried, 6-0

The following people were invited into Executive Session: The Board as a Whole, Superintendent Cynthia Ritchie, Executive Director of School and Family Support Services Carrie Rivera, Manager of Executive Support Services Kristea Francolino. (Ms. Francolino did not enter Executive Session in her role as recording secretary, but in her role regarding the Safety Plan)

Time into Executive Session: 7:59 p.m.

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

No votes were taken while in Executive Session

10. Action Following Executive Session

Motion by Ms. Hambey, seconded by Ms. Alexis-Sylvain, to Accept the 2024-2025 New London Public Schools' All-Hazards School Security and Safety Plan.

Motion carried, 6-0

11. Board Comments, Questions

Ms. Hambey shared that she is always impressed by the amazing things in district!

8. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Bergin, seconded by Ms. Alexis-Sylvain, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried, 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Caron
Secretary, Board of Education