The New London Board of Education School Facilities & Program Design Committee meeting was held on April 7, 2025 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 6:33 p.m.

Present for the Committee:	Susan Hambey – Committee Chair Alisha Blake – Committee Member Aaron Ide – Community Representative
Absent for the Committee:	Karen Bergin – Committee Member
Present for the Administration:	Miguel Gautier, Jr. – Executive Director of District Operations

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes

- January 13, 2025

Motion by Mr. Ide seconded by Ms. Blake, to approve the January 13, 2025 minutes of the School Facilities & Program Design Committee.

Motion carried, 3-0

4. Discussion on the Following

- South Campus Update

Mr. Gautier reported that the high school campus project is a $108 million project and as of now, the project has drawn down $97,903,709.81. They have received reimbursements from the state for $74,406,818.18. From this, there have been change orders in the amount of $366,879.40. For the middle school, there was $49,500,000.00 and the change orders are now exceeding $1,000,000.00. This is something that the city and Mr. Gautier have been tracking. He wants the public to know that this is money that has been lost because the architect was at fault. A letter was sent to them, and they have responded saying that this is not qualified under errors and omissions, but $654,942.00 of the change orders is all errors and omissions. Mr. Gautier believes that this money should be recouped from the architects. Per the contract, they have up to 1% of the total construction budget, and they are at almost double. The architect was Perkins Eastman

and this is labor and materials combined. Mr. Gautier explained that the design has had multiple errors from not doing their due diligence. He has not heard anything since the letters have been sent. Mr. Gautier shared that he started this conversation in 2022. He asked what would happen if the project ran out of money in this line, and now they are trying to recoup the money that has been sent. Mr. Gautier stated he is sharing this information here so that they are aware, and that it should maybe potentially go to litigation. Ms. Blake stated that she is happy to make phone calls to encourage this as long as it makes sense with dollars and cents. Mr. Ide asked if the Board could file suit against contractors, and Dr. Ritchie confirmed that they do have attorneys and could. The project managers are Colliers and CREC, but he has not been getting anywhere in these meetings. He stated he would bring it up at a future School Building and Maintenance Committee Meeting.

- North Campus Update

Mr. Gautier brought up the topic of the Space Waiver status letter. He shared that the high school as designed to hold 1,631 students. The current enrollment is 1,028 as of this meeting. This has been a back and forth conversation on whether the project will be fined by the state for the building being made "too big". The potential fine could be as much as $2 million. There has been a lot of conversation about this, but nothing in writing confirming the waiver. Much of the leadership at the state has changed, so at this point he is not sure what will happen with that. His biggest concern is that this problem may also occur at the middle school, but the state has not yet made any comments about that. He wanted to make sure this was on the record. Mr. Ide asked when in the year this expected enrollment number would be from. Mr. Gautier clarified that he does not know for sure where it came from, but he believes that it came from the enrollment projections which were done before COVID, and the numbers were going up every year. Once building construction began, it would not stop to adjust for the projections. This is what he believes based on the letters that he has read between the district and the state.

- Summer Project Scheduling

For summer projects, multiple buildings will be closed in the summer to try to save electricity. The HVAC team has been working to ensure that there will not be any mold issues and working on the controls and schedule to prepare. All custodians will report to one of the buildings for two weeks to complete the summer cleaning for two weeks at a time. The NLPS team met with Parks & Recreation to let the know about the summer building closures. Ms. Blake stated that it appears that the biggest change staffwise is locations versus losing hours. Mr. Gautier confirmed that the rotation is the biggest change, but also that custodians will be working 4 10-hour days in the summer to reduce the potential of overtime costs.

Mr. Gautier noted that regarding the Indoor Air Quality testing that is required to be conducted has been completed at two of the buildings, the middle school and high school, and those results have been posted on the website. He would like the contractors to come

back because there are deficiencies that have been found in brand new buildings that the contractors have just left from.

5. Committee Member Comments

None.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Blake, seconded by Mr. Ide, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried, 3-0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristea A. Francolino
Manager of Executive Support Services