

The Business Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on October 14, 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 – Karen Bergin
Secretary – Nathan Caron

Board Members Present: Scott Garbini
Susan Hambey
Richard Martin

Board Members Absent: Alisha Blake

Present for the administration: Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, *Superintendent of Schools*
Dr. Jennifer Hills-Papetti, *Assistant Superintendent of Schools*
Mr. Rob Funk, *Chief Financial Officer*
Ms. Carrie Rivera, *Executive Director of School and Family Supports*
Ms. Christine Pemberton, *Executive Director of Talent & Human Resources*
Mr. Miguel Gautier, Jr. – *Executive Director of Operations*
Ms. Kristea Francolino – *Manager of Executive Support Services*

2. Public Comment

Sarah Turner, New London – Ms. Turner stated that she has no issues with Board members but did not like what she thought she heard at the end of the policy committee meeting, that if he did not get on then they would end up with Sarah and good luck with that. She does not want to feel like she is unwelcome and it felt unsettling. She also stated that in regard to the crossing guards, she did not know if there would be any updates tonight, and noted that there was a different public meeting last week during which volunteers had noted they would go out and do it, and she is unsure if this might be a liability. She noted that some of the areas mentioned in particular were near Connecticut Ave and Garfield Ave, and Connecticut Ave, and Lincoln Ave.

Nicole Broadus, New London – Ms. Broadus stated that she had come this evening to speak in regard to the crossing guards, and was wondering what the status was with the job opportunities being posted. She noted that she did not see it on Facebook, and

wondered if there could be a broader reach for recruitment. She also added that at the meeting of the People's Budget there were at least five volunteers who have been going out to the intersections to help, so she is wondering why the positions had not yet been filled if there have been volunteers able to be present.

3. Reports and Communications

- Board Chairperson's Report

Ms. Maynard-Adams reported that she was invited to the Rotary Club meeting some weeks ago when there was a presentation by an author regarding children's books. This led to some conversations that she had with Rotary Club members to plan a day of service to coincide with the actual release of the author's book at some point in April, and Read Across America week. While this is in the early stages, the goal would be to have activities for those in grades PreK-12. Ms. Maynard-Adams also noted that there is a significant amount of construction and street work throughout the City. She asked Mr. Gautier if NLPS receives a schedule of this work, and he shared with her that while he has requested one, he has not received one. She shared that she would be speaking with the Mayor to see if he can get involved to receive an update from the company to share it with Public Works and the District.

- Reports of Committees

- Policy Committee

- Mr. Caron shared that the committee met last week. There are two policies for review, one is adopting, one is approving, and an additional policy is being rescinded because the information is being incorporated into the policy being adopted. He noted that the committee discussed another policy, but that it is pending further research and will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

- Community Information Committee

- Ms. Bergin reported that the committee is still organizational and strategizing. The meeting was a little unusual as some guests participated in the meeting unexpectedly, and there was some public conversation woven in, in an atypical way. The committee is still working at opportunities of improving communication and getting the information that is needed from the appropriate sources. She also noted that there will be a survey given to parents at conferences looking for their feedback regarding communications.

- School Facilities & Program Design Committee

- Ms. Hambey reported that the Public Address (PA) system, which is approximately 12 years old, broke down at Nathan Hale. Similar to the fire panel at Winthrop, there is no one in the state who services this model. She shared that Mr. Gautier was able to come up with a bandaid approach until there is a more permanent

solution. Ms. Maynard-Adams mentioned that at this meeting the DRIP grant program from the State was also mentioned, and hopefully this will be able to be accessed for this purpose. Ideally, the district would have the opportunity to receive \$225,000.

- Superintendent's Report – School Improvement Plans
 - Dr. Jenn Hills-Papetti, along with school administrators, reviewed the Beginning of Year SY25-26 School Improvement Plans. This presentation included the following:
 - District
 - Demographic Data
 - iReady Reading Fall to Spring 2024-2025
 - iReady Reading Fall to Spring 2025-2026
 - iReady Math Fall to Spring 2024-2025
 - iReady Math Fall to Spring 2025-2026
 - Attendance
 - Strategies to See Growth this Year
 - Early Childhood Center at B.P. Mission
 - Focus Areas for this Year
 - Strategies to See Growth this Year
 - C.B. Jennings International Elementary Magnet School (Presented by Principal Janine Sullivan and Assistant Principal Shawn Brown)
 - iReady Reading Fall to Spring 2024-2025
 - iReady Reading Fall to Spring 2025-2026
 - iReady Math Fall to Spring 2024-2025
 - iReady Math Fall to Spring 2025-2026
 - Strategies to See Growth this Year
 - Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School (Presented by Acting Principal Erin McGuire)
 - iReady Reading Fall to Spring 2024-2025
 - iReady Reading Fall to Spring 2025-2026
 - iReady Math Fall to Spring 2024-2025
 - iReady Math Fall to Spring 2025-2026
 - Strategies to See Growth this Year
 - Winthrop STEM Elementary Magnet School (Presented by Principal Mike Podeszwa and Assistant Principal Alysha Carmody)
 - iReady Reading Fall to Spring 2024-2025
 - iReady Reading Fall to Spring 2025-2026
 - iReady Math Fall to Spring 2024-2025
 - iReady Math Fall to Spring 2025-2026
 - Strategies to See Growth this Year
 - Bennie Dover Jackson Multi-Magnet Middle School Campus (Presented by Principal Chris Vamvakides, Assistant Principal Andrew Lee, and Assistant Principal Alicia Ross)

- iReady Reading Fall to Spring 2024-2025
- iReady Reading Fall to Spring 2025-2026
- iReady Math Fall to Spring 2024-2025
- iReady Math Fall to Spring 2025-2026
- Strategies to See Growth this Year
- New London High School Multi-Magnet Campus (Presented by Principal Bryan Mahon, Assistant Principal Jessyca Campbell, Assistant Principal Scott Morgan, and Assistant Principal Kathy Brodaski (by phone))
 - iReady Reading Fall to Spring 2024-2025
 - iReady Reading Fall to Spring 2025-2026
 - iReady Math Fall to Spring 2024-2025
 - iReady Math Fall to Spring 2025-2026
 - Strategies to See Growth this Year
- New London Adult Education
 - School Improvement Plan Student-Focused Goals
 - School Improvement Plan Operations-Focused Outcome Goals
 - Enrollment Data
 - Measurable Skill Gains
 - Strategies to See Growth this Year
 - MSG Performance Data
- Beyond Test Scores

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

4. Approval of the Minutes

- September 22, 2025

Motion by Mr. Garbini, seconded by Mr. Martin, to approve the September 22, 2025 Business Meeting minutes.

Motion carried, 6-0

5. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Garbini, that the following items, as set forth on the Consent Agenda for the Business Meeting of October 14, 2025 be approved unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools:

- A. Superintendent's Written Report
 - I. Academics
 - II. Student & Family Support Services
 - III. Business & Finance

- IV. Operations – Includes Magnet Pathways, Athletics, Facilities and Technology
- B. Action Items
 - I. Rescind Policy 5111 – Admission & Placement Policy for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee
 - II. Adopt Policy 5112 – Ages of Attendance, Admission, Placement for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee
 - III. Approve Policy 5118.2 – Educational Opportunities for Military Children for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee.

Motion carried, 6-0

6. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

- Superintendent's Written Report – Human Resources

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Caron, to accept the Superintendent's Written Report – Human Resources.

Ms. Maynard-Adams asked about staff attendance. Ms. Pemberton stated that last year a decline in staff attendance was noticed, so the district has begun to look at it more closely to put some structures in place for this year. Before the students started back there were discussions with Administrative Council about strategies of how to look at the data of staff attendance and how to address it throughout the school year.

Ms. Maynard-Adams noted that when looking at the vacancy report it appears that there are a lot of stipend and possible part time positions, and that there may not be as many fulltime positions as it may appear. MS. Pemberton stated that was correct, and that there are multiple stipend positions on the report. She also noted that in the future she could look into a way of making that more clear as well.

Motion carried, 6-0

7. Board Comments, Questions

Mr. Garbini thanked everyone for their work.

Ms. Hambey reminded everyone that the Community Meal is on Wednesday at 5:00. She also reminded everyone that if they hadn't taken a moment to watch the CBS Evening News piece, or read the article in The Guardian about the Brigaid program to do so. She also encouraged everyone to watch the news segment on Mr. Dominguez. She also thanked Dr. Hills-Papetti and administrators for the data presentation, and for highlighting the positive trends of NLPS students.

8. Adjournment

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

Motion carried, 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Caron
Secretary, Board of Education