

The Business Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on November 24, 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: Alisha Blake
Scott Garbini
Susan Hambey

Board Members Absent: Richard Martin

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. Recognitions

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

- Early Childhood Center at B.P. Mission
 - Student of the Month: Annie Hilaire
 - Non - Certified Employee of the Quarter: Alliyah Polanco
 - Certified Employee of the Quarter: Kerry Orshal
- Winthrop STEM Elementary Magnet School
 - Student of the Month: Riley Garcia
 - Non - Certified Employee of the Quarter: Norma Flores
 - Certified Employee of the Quarter: Effie Papadopoulos
- Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School
 - Student of the Month: Iker Roman Alvarez

- Non - Certified Employee of the Quarter: Jon Parra-Tobey
 - Certified Employee of the Quarter: Cheryl Elci
- C.B. Jennings International Elementary Magnet School
 - Student of the Month: Scarlett Maria Isabel Tzalam Cuyuch
 - Non - Certified Employee of the Quarter: Penelope Manzione
 - Certified Employee of the Quarter: Suzanne (Zani) Artis
- Bennie Dover Jackson Multi-Magnet Middle School Campus
 - Student of the Month: Jheykor Peña Abreu
 - Non - Certified Employee of the Quarter: Angie de los Santos
 - Certified Employee of the Quarter: Nina Jeannotte
- New London High School Multi-Magnet Campus
 - Student of the Month: Kenneth Willoughby
 - Non - Certified Employee of the Quarter: Derek Rock
 - Certified Employee of the Quarter: Celaine Towne
- New London Adult Education: Herlinda Rosales
- Central Office Employee of the Quarter: Tyre Blackman

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Reports and Communications

- Board Chairperson's Report

Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that she is working on developing a potential local authors and illustrators day in the Spring. She also added that an additional community representative to the Community Information Committee will be Sammy Jo Ide. She gave a special thank you to Board Members Blake and Caron for their work and dedication to the Board of Education, and expressed that they will be missed.

- Superintendent's Report

- Athletics

- Mr. Phil Orbe gave an update to the Board on Athletics so far this school year. This presentation included the following:

- Athletic Offerings – High School
 - Athletic Offerings – Middle School
 - High School Participation Totals and Rates over 15 years
 - Fall 2025 Highlights on the Field
 - Fall 2025 Highlights off the Field

- After School Programs

- Ms. Alexandra Colon gave an update to the Board on After School Programs so far this school year. This presentation included the following:

- Elementary
- Community Partners
- Secondary
- Middle School Clubs
- High School Clubs

Copies of these presentations are available in their entirety upon request.

- Reports of Committees
 - Finance & Audit Committee
 - It was reported that the committee met this evening prior to the Business meeting. The committee reviewed the budget through October and the committee also discussed magnet funding. There were line item transfers as well which are found in the action items for this meeting.
 - Policy Committee
 - Mr. Caron reported that the committee meeting was held the week before and that there are some on the agenda for review this evening. It was noted that there is still one policy on the table at the committee level which will be discussed in the future.
 - Community Information Committee
 - Ms. Bergin shared that the committee is still a robust conversation about what the committee should look like. She noted that the committee had reviewed the data from the survey that was distributed, and there was a discussion regarding a commitment to attending the City Council meetings.

5. Approval of the Minutes

- November 10, 2025

Motion by Mr. Garbini, seconded by Ms. Hambey, to approve the November 10, 2025 Business Meeting minutes.

Motion carried, 4-0-2
Abstaining: Ms. Bergin
Mr. Caron

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 November 24, 2025 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 3542.41 – Professional Standards for Food Service Personnel for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee
- III. Adopt Policy 3542.22 – Food Service Personnel – Code of Conduct for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion carried, 6-0

7. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

- Recodify and Approve Policy 6142.2 – Student Wellness to be 6142.101 – Student Nutrition and Physical Activity for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion by Ms. Hambey, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, to recodify and approve Policy 6142.2 – Student Wellness to be 6142.101 – Student Nutrition and Physical Activity for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee.

Ms. Hambey stated that she thought the committee membership listing seemed confusing and thought it should be more clarified. She also asked how this information was relayed to teachers and to substitutes.

Motion by Mr. Garbini, seconded by Mr. Caron, to refer this policy back to the policy committee for further discussion and clarification.

Motion carried, 6-0

- Approve Policy 6142.10 – Health Education Program for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion by Ms. Hambey, seconded by Mr. Garbini, to approve Policy 6142.10 – Health Education Program for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee.

Ms. Hambey asked if it mattered if the policy says elementary or K-5, and it was confirmed that either way is fine. She also asked if on page 2 in the second paragraph, if the sentence about nutritious food is needed, and it was confirmed that it is fine to be there.

Motion carried, 6-0

8. Board Comments, Questions

Ms. Blake thanked everyone and shared that serving on the Board for the past two years has been a great time in her life. She added that for the last two years she is the only parent of current students on the Board and the Board will be going back to not having a parent on the Board. She shared that advocating and serving as a parent is prohibitively difficult and she is proud that her children goes to the schools that she has served. She stated that she will continue to serve the students and employees, and stick up for their rights as workers.

Mr. Garbini thanked everyone and especially Ms. Blake and Mr. Caron for their service on the Board.

Mr. Caron reflected on listening to a student speaker at the New London Adult Education graduation during his first year on the board, the year that it rained during graduation and all of the students wanted to stay outside to get their diplomas, the students who recently attended a meeting who want to write cards to other students. He stated that these are among the many highlight moments that stick out to him from his tenure on the Board. He thanked all of the staff present, and said that it has also been a highlight getting to know everyone and the leadership, and that they all care more than he can articulate about the students and the district. He stated he will continue to be an advocate. He congratulated the newly elected Board members to be sworn in, and thanked his colleagues for their time working together as well.

Ms. Hambey thanked Mr. Caron and Ms. Blake for their time on the Board, and added that from the moment she was on the Board they both made her feel comfortable and were always there for her in support.

9. Adjournment

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

Motion carried, 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Caron
Secretary, Board of Education