

The Business Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on February 9, 2026 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

Board Members Present:

Rebecca Amanti
Karen Bergin
Nanci DeRobbio
Scott Garbini
Susan Hambey
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. January 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: Josiah Parks
- Winthrop STEM Elementary Magnet School: Aleaze Alston
- Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School: Harmoni Irving
- C.B. Jennings International Elementary Magnet School: Lian Sanchez Chuva
- Bennie Dover Jackson Multi-Magnet Middle School Campus: Lea Casimiro
- New London High School Multi-Magnet Campus: Deandre Gittens
- New London Adult Education: David Foy
- Special Recognition: The following students were recognized for having perfect attendance at New London High School Multi-Magnet Campus: Jason Cruz, Tyler Mason, Joseph Dougherty, Jaemani Jones

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Reports and Communications

- Board Chairperson's Report

Ms. Maynard-Adams reported that she has attended the One World Art Exhibition at the Mystic Museum of Art, which includes art completed by our middle school students. She has also been attending the Joint Budget Taskforce meetings which are held twice a month. While these meetings can be informative not much progress has been made on how to close the budget gap. Conversations continue with R&C Consulting to bring resources of additional mental health services and supports to NLPS. She stated that she has also had ongoing dialogue and meetings with Hearing Youth Voices and The Peoples' Budget to discuss and share strategies for the upcoming budget process. Ms. Maynard-Adams also attended the recent Birth to Age 8 event which was well attended by the community. She also gave a shout out to the New London High School Multi-Magnet students who held a walk-out and protest last week. She stated she was incredibly proud of the students for exercising their First Amendment rights and being inclusive and peaceful. She stated she intentionally did not attend because the opportunity was for students to raise their voices. She thanked Principal Mahon and the staff for ensuring the safety of all staff and students during this student-led protest and walkout.

- Reports of Committees

- School Facilities & Program Design Committee

- Ms. Hambey reported that the committee met earlier this evening. They heard an update on the Public Address (PA) system at Nathan Hale, and learned that the cost came in lower than anticipated. There is an ongoing issue with the lighting at the high school that was discussed, as well as two new sprinkler issues at the high school and old Central Office building. Additionally, the operations department continues to be running on a very tight, restricted budget. She stated that she is going to meet with Mr. Gautier before the next School Maintenance and Building Committee meeting to discuss next steps.

- Representative Updates

- Ms. Amanti shared that she visited The Friendship School last week. She stated that she attended a brief meeting, and they were pleased with the support that the district sends. She mentioned that there are some issues with transportation, but that they are actively working on resolving them.

- Ms. DeRobbio stated that she recently was able to visit Jennings. She stated she had a wonderful conversation with the principal and was able to go on a tour. She stated that there was a vibration of positivity and that the students and staff were very friendly. She gave a special shout-out to the cafeteria staff, and noted that they make such a difference in the lives of the students. Ms. DeRobbio also shared that she has been working with her City Councilor partner, Mr. Peck, and that she is going to meet him at the recreation department to see what they are doing for the kids.
- Mr. Garbini stated that he attended the recent negotiation session for the nurses, and also reminded everyone that the next Policy Committee meeting would be on February 24.
- Ms. Bergin shared that for the most recent edition of the “Did You Know” at City Council, she shared the information about the cARTie art bus at B.P.

5. Approval of the Minutes

- January 26, 2026 – Business Meeting

Motion by Mr. Garbini, seconded by Ms. Amanti, to approve the January 26, 2026 – Business Meeting minutes.

Motion carried, 7-0

6. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Martin, that the following items, as set forth on the Consent Agenda for the Business Meeting of February 9, 2026 be approved unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools:

- A. Superintendent’s Written Report
 - I. Human Resources
 - II. Student & Family Support Services
 - III. Business & Finance
 - IV. Operations – Includes Magnet Pathways, Athletics, Facilities and Technology

Motion carried, 7-0

7. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

- Action Item
 - i. Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Garbini, that, pursuant to Section 10-248a of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Board of Education authorize the deposit into a non-lapsing account of any unexpended funds from

the budgeted appropriation for education for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2025, provided that the amount of such deposit shall be the lesser of: (a) the actual amount of unexpended funds from the budgeted appropriation for education identified in the Board's audit report for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2025; or (2) two percent of the total budgeted appropriation for education for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and provided further that such deposited funds shall be expended only for educational purposes and that each expenditure of such deposited funds be authorized by the Board of Education.

Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that she pulled this item so Mr. Funk could take this as an opportunity to educate Board Members. Mr. Funk stated that legislation was passed which allows for unexpended education funds to be put into a non-lapsing fund. At the end of the fiscal year, unexpended funds can go into a non-lapsing fund totaling up to 2% maximum of the education appropriation. He stated that this balance in the account can grow, similar to the City's fund balance. He stated that the action for this evening is regarding the FY25 audit. While it is not known what that exact number will be just yet, the anticipation is that it will be about the 2% of the appropriated funds. The proper procedure for this is to pass a resolution in advance.

Motion carried, 7-0

8. Board Comments, Questions

Ms. Hambey encouraged all to attend the ongoing art show at the Mystic Museum of Art. Mr. Garbini complimented the students and staff who participated in the walk-out and protest.

Ms. Maynard-Adams expressed that she would like to receive feedback from staff on the newly updated cell phone policy.

9. Adjournment

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

Motion carried, 7-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Scott S. Garbini
Secretary, N.L. Board of Education