

The Special Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on February 19, 2026 in the New London Public Schools' Welcome Center and via Zoom Webinars.

DRAFT

1. Call to Order

President Maynard-Adams called the meeting to order at 6:00 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. Continued Discussion of the NLPS Proposed FY2026-2027 Budget Book

Superintendent Ritchie and the Cabinet staff were present to answer remaining clarifying questions from the presentation of the budget book the previous evening.

Dr. Ritchie began to review the presentation of details and considerations to identify the best pathway forward for this budget development cycle. This presentation included the following information:

- Three Options for the Board to Consider to Guide the Direction of the SY27 Proposed Budget
- Plan A: The 'Same Service' Proposal
- Plan B: The 'Revenue Match' Model

- Plan C: District Consolidation and Reinvestment Model
- Plan C: Academic Excellence
- Plan C: Operational Efficiency
- Summary of the Three Proposals and Possible Outcomes
- The Path to Sustainability
- Summary of Proposals and Outcomes
- Navigating the NLPS Budget Crisis: Three Pathways Forward

During the presentation, Dr. Ritchie called forward the building principals who were present in the room:

- Mr. Bryan Mahon, Principal – New London High School Multi-Magnet Campus
- Mr. Chris Vamvakides, Principal – Bennie Dover Jackson Multi-Magnet Middle School Campus
- Ms. Erin McGuire, Acting Principal – Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School
- Mr. Mike Podeszwa, Principal – Winthrop STEM Elementary Magnet School

Dr. Ritchie asked the principals to share what the impact would be on the buildings should they be required to follow Plan B and need to cut significant dollars for the budget. All principals expressed that this would be devastating to the buildings, not only for programming but also for the climate and culture of the staff, students and buildings as a whole, especially after needing to make significant cuts for the current school year.

Ms. Maynard-Adams, and other Board members, shared that they were not ready to take any action on the budget at this point. It was noted that the next meeting of the budget would be a Special Meeting on Monday, March 2, which would also include the public hearing. Additionally, there is a State Public Hearing on the State's budget on Wednesday, March 4. All were encouraged to attend or submit testimony in favor of supporting educational funding.

3. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Garbini, seconded by Mr. Martin, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried, 7-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Garbini
Secretary