

The New London Board of Education Policy Committee meeting was held on February 24, 2026 via Zoom teleconferencing.

1. Call to Order

Scott Garbini, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present for the Committee: Scott Garbini – Committee Chair
Becky Amanti – Committee Member
Betsy Perkins – Community Representative

Absent for the Committee: Nanci DeRobbio – Committee Member
Colleen Delaporta-Wells – NLEA Representative
Nicole Thomas – Community Representative

Present for the Administration: Kristea A. Francolino – Manager of Executive Support Services
Dr. Cynthia Ritchie – Superintendent of Schools

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Accept of the Minutes

Motion by Mr. Garbini, seconded by Ms. Amanti, to accept the minutes of the October 7, 2025 Policy Committee meeting.

Motion carried, 3-0

Motion by Ms. Amanti, seconded by Ms. Perkins, to accept the minutes of the November 18, 2025 Policy Committee meeting.

Motion carried, 3-0

4. Remove from the Table, Discussion and Possible Adoption of Policy 6148 – FAFSA Completion Program

Motion by Mr. Garbini, seconded by Ms. Perkins, to remove Policy 6148 – FAFSA Completion Program from the table.

Motion carried, 3-0

Mr. Garbini expressed that he had concerns about where the information would go after a parent fills out the form. It was explained that we keep the completed forms on file, unless they need to

be sent to other agencies or schools, but with the family's knowledge. Ms. Francolino noted that the sample policy present is similar to other samples pulled from other districts.

Committee members expressed their concern for the confidentiality of the information provided. Additionally, committee members shared that they do not agree with the goal of 100% completion, as not all students would even be going to college. Dr. Ritchie confirmed that the goal of 100% completion is a State mandate. Families and students filling out the form or the waiver would contribute to that goal.

Ms. Perkins expressed that the policy was not well-written or easy for a reader to understand. She shared that if this policy needs to go forward, she would like to volunteer to re-write it for clarity.

Motion by Ms. Amanti, seconded by Ms. Perkins, to table Policy 6148 – FAFSA Completion Program.

Motion carried, 3-0

5. Discussion and Possible Action to Recodify and Approve Policy 6142.2 – Student Wellness to be 6142.101 – Student Nutrition & Physical Activity

Ms. Francolino explained that this policy had been referred back to committee from the Board. Board Member Hambey noted that on page 2 the committee role and membership section appeared confusing. Ms. Francolino suggested that she could make this easier to read by changing the paragraph to be bullets and removing the examples in the parenthesis.

Dr. Ritchie noted that the policy uses the abbreviation of “DWC” instead of “SWC”. Ms. Francolino confirmed she would update the title of the paragraph to be “District Wellness Committee” instead of “School Wellness Committee” for clarity and consistency.

Motion by Mr. Garbini, seconded by Ms. Amanti, to recommend to the Full Board to Recodify and Approve Policy 6142.2 – Student Wellness to be 6142.101 – Student Nutrition & Physical Activity, including the changes discussed during this meeting.

Motion carried, 3-0

6. Committee Member Comments

Ms. Amanti stated that she continues to be uneasy about the FAFSA.

Dr. Ritchie noted that similar to FAFSA, parents of PreK students who are in the EarlyStart slots are required to share their tax returns as part of the requirements to receive Federal funding. It has been a challenge having parents submit this information. She noted that she has expressed her concerns to the Commissioner, but as of now it is still a requirement.

Ms. Perkins welcomed Mr. Garbini into his role as Chair of the committee.

7. Adjournment

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

Motion carried, 3-0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristea A. Francolino
Manager of Executive Support Services