

The Business Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on March 23, 2026 in the NLPS Welcome Center and virtually 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. 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: Tristan Rodriguez - Vera
- Winthrop STEM Elementary Magnet School: Jeslyann Martinez Rodriguez
- Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School: Annalise Guaba
- C.B. Jennings International Elementary Magnet School: Jarrad Staplins
- Bennie Dover Jackson Multi-Magnet Middle School Campus: Leanny Vasquez Vasquez
- New London High School Multi-Magnet Campus: Kailani Thompson & Cheyenne Shirley
- New London Adult Education: Amy Vega

Superintendent Ritchie also took a moment to celebrate the Board of Education in celebration of Board of Education Appreciation Month.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Reports and Communications

- Board Chairperson's Report

Ms. Maynard-Adams wished Dr. Ritchie a happy birthday. She reported that she had attended the New London St. Patrick's Day parade, and had the honor of driving the Grand Marshal, Ms. Valerie Tamano. She also attended the NJROTC Pass-in-Review. She stated that Bennie Dover Jackson Multi-Magnet Middle School Campus is one of two finalists for the CT Middle School of the Year! She stated that she, Dr. Ritchie and Mr. Funk sat in on a School State & Finance Project meeting last week regarding funding legislation.

- Reports of Committees

- Finance & Audit Committee

- Ms. Maynard-Adams stated that the committee met earlier this evening and reviewed line item transfers and the monthly financial report.

- Representative Updates

- Mr. Garbini shared that he visited Winthrop. Ms. DeRobbio shared that she visited B.P. for Congressman Courtney's visit.

- Superintendent's Report – School & Family Supports Department Update

- Ms. Carrie Rivera, Ms. Jennifer Merritt, Ms. Carol Paldino, and Ms. Kim Fentress gave a presentation on the School & Family Supports Department Updates. This presentation included the following:

- Special Education Administration
 - Continuum of Supports
 - Section 504
 - Special Education Staffing
 - Special Education Eligibility Areas
 - Special Education Student Numbers – In District
 - Dually Identified Students
 - Specialized Behavioral Support
 - Specialized Neurodiverse Support
 - Student Services at PreSchool
 - Placement of Students
 - Special Education Exits
 - Special Education Costs & Funding
 - Pre-K Enrollment & Services Snapshot

- Transition Services
- Homelessness in NLPS
- Mental Health Services
- Peer Mentoring and Peer Mediation
- Unified
- Start on Success
- Coffee Carts
- CBITS
- Swimming
- Youth Leadership Conference
- New Life Skills Curriculum – The Autism Helper
- High Hopes
- NextUp
- Bridge CT

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

5. Approval of the Minutes

- March 2, 2026 – Special Meeting

Motion by Mr. Garbini, seconded by Ms. DeRobbio, to approve the March 2, 2026 Special Meeting minutes.

*Motion carried, 6-0-1
Abstaining: Ms. Hambey*

- March 9, 2026 – Business Meeting

Motion by Mr. Garbini, seconded by Ms. Bergin, to approve the March 9, 2026 Business Meeting minutes.

Motion carried, 7-0

6. 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 March 23, 2026 be approved unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools:

A. Action Items

- I. Recodify and Approve Policy 6142.2 – Student Wellness to be Policy 6142.101 – Student Nutrition & Physical Activity for its Second and Final Reading
- II. Approve Line Item Transfers as Recommended by the Finance & Audit Committee

7. Board Comments, Questions

Ms. DeRobbio shared that tomorrow will be the first Curriculum Committee meeting of the year.

Ms. Bergin thanked the presenters and added that something they did not share is that what they do is not optional to support these students.

Mr. Martin shared that he visited Nathan Hale and it was wonderful to see all of the doors decorated.

Ms. Amanti shared that is clear that the district has hired people like the presenters this evening who love what they do. Ms. Maynard-Adams agreed and added that the district is fortunate to have so many staff who are so committed.

Ms. Maynard-Adams requested a survey of staff on the cell phone policy. Ms. Maynard-Adams also requested a presentation on ParentSquare.

8. Adjournment

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

Motion carried, 7-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristea A. Francolino
Recording Secretary, Board of Education