

The Business Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on April 6, 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
Nanci DeRobbio (*Arrived @ 7:07*)
Scott Garbini
Susan Hambey
Richard Martin

Board Members Absent: Karen Bergin

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. Public Comment

Anita Pinder 21 Shaw Street, New London – Ms. Pinder shared that she would like to know about where the money in the education department is going. She noted that in 2021 there was a lot of money available for use. She also noted that there are cell towers on some of the school buildings, and was curious as to where those funds were going. She also expressed she was concerned about curriculum about Black and Latino studies in public schools, and that a lot of the curriculum about this topic that exists says that they only come from Africa, so this is a concern.

Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that the curriculum is a State-approved curriculum, and the revenue from the cell towers goes to the City.

3. Reports and Communications

- Board Chairperson's Report
 - Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that the Mayor presented his budget, and it is being reviewed and debated by City Council this week. She noted that his proposed budget includes \$825,000 of additional revenue, however, only \$325,000 of that comes from local taxes with the addition being anticipated from additional ECS funds. If the additional ECS funds are not received, then the appropriation will be revised down. As of now there are no anticipated additions of ECS funds at the State level based on the State's released budget. Discussions are occurring with local legislators. She shared that she spoke with the Editorial Page Director of *The Day* as she is working on writing an op-ed piece about the Bennie Dover Jackson Multi-Magnet Middle School turnaround. If money doesn't matter, then how was there a significant turnaround after receiving funds from the state and federal government.
- Reports of Committees
 - School Facilities & Program Design Committee/School Building Maintenance Committee – Ms. Hambey reported that the SFPDC met prior to this meeting. Mr. Gautier updated the committee on the grant for the expansion of the B.P. Mission building. There were also discussions on the DRIP grant, and that funds have been allocated but not yet received. A new Public Address (PA) system is needed at both Nathan Hale and Winthrop. There was also discussion that line item transfers may be needed in the future for the operations budget, as there is only approximately \$13,000 left in the budget for the remainder of the year.
 - Policy Committee – Mr. Garbini stated that the committee met last Tuesday, and there are policies on the agenda this evening to be moved forward.
 - Curriculum Committee – Ms. DeRobbio shared that the committee met for their first meeting. This was a productive meeting during which the committee was able to learn about the ECE programming at the high school. This included copies of the syllabi, and learning about the partnerships and locations for the classes, including beyond the high school campus. She continued that English Language Arts is expected to be a future topic for discussion.
- Report of the Superintendent
 - Ms. Samantha Wilson, Child Nutrition Program Director and Mr. Alex Leigh, Brigaid Chef, gave a presentation on the Child Nutrition Program. This presentation included the following updates:
 - NLPS X Brigaid
 - School Year 2025-2026 Priorities
 - New Recipes
 - Farm to School at BP Learned
 - Brigaid KtchnQualified (KQ) Pilot X NLHS Culinary
 - Additional Updates
 - In the News

- Meal Numbers & Participation
- Looking Ahead

4. Approval of the Minutes

- March 23, 2026 – Business Meeting

Motion by Mr. Garbini, seconded by Mr. Martin, to approve the March 23, 2026 Business Meeting minutes.

Motion carried, 6-0

5. 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 9, 2026 be approved unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools:

A. Superintendent's Written Report

- I. Academics
- II. Student & Family Support Services
- III. Business & Finance
- IV. Operations – Includes Magnet Pathways, Athletics, Facilities and Technology

B. Action Items

- I. Rescind Policy 6163.1 – Selection of School Library material for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee
- II. Approve Policy 5131.111 – Video Surveillance for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee
- III. Approve the Revised 2025-2026 District School Year Calendar
- IV. Approve the Revised 2025-2026 Year-Round School Year Calendar
- V. Approve the Healthy Food and Beverage Participation for New London Public Schools for the Time Period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
 - Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the New London Public Schools Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups

VI. Approve the Healthy Food and Beverage Exemptions Certification for new London Public Schools for the Time Period of July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027

- The New London Public Schools Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales

Motion carried, 6-0

6. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

Mr. Martin left the meeting at 7:44

- Superintendent’s Written Report – Human Resources

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Garbini, to accept the Superintendent’s Written Report – Human Resources.

Ms. Pemberton was asked if the doubled name in the top section of the report was accurate. She noted that this was the same person, and this was a printing error that will be corrected.

Motion carried, 5-0

- Adopt Policy 5113.13 – Work-Study Student Employment/Work-Release for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Garbini, to adopt Policy 5113.13 – Work-Study Student Employment/Work-Release for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee.

Ms. Maynard-Adams asked if there were working papers in District. Ms. Francolino confirmed that there are multiple staff members in district who complete working papers for students, as needed.

Motion carried, 5-0

Mr. Martin returned to the meeting at 7:48

- Approve Policy 0521 – Nondiscrimination for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee

Motion by Mr. Garbini, seconded by Mr. Martin, to approve Policy 0521 – Nondiscrimination for its First Reading as Recommended by the Policy Committee.

Mr. Garbini shared that he wanted to state this policy was being revised backwards to return to the 2020 version, as required.

Ms. Maynard-Adams asked that the titles on pages 2 & 3 be updated.

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Garbini, to approve the policy with the proposed changes as discussed.

Motion carried, 5-1

Voting no: Mr. Garbini

- Approve the Proposed 2026-2027 District School Year Calendar

Motion by Ms. DeRobbio, seconded by Ms. Amanti, to approve the proposed 2026-2027 District School Year Calendar.

Ms. Maynard-Adams stated that she would be voting against the calendar. She also shared a thought to be considered for next year's development, and that would be to take some of the less popular holidays and move them from the day they are normally celebrated to complete a full week of vacation in February instead. This will not create additional holidays, rather, they would be recognized on a different day. Mr. Martin asked if the district could move them if they were established by the government, and Ms. Maynard-Adams stated that she thinks that it is a choice.

Motion carried, 5-1

Voting no: Ms. Maynard-Adams

- Discussion and Possible Action on School Facility Consolidation

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Martin, that the Board move forward with endorsing Plan C.

Ms. Maynard-Adams stated that by moving forward with Plan C, this would result in the closure of a school facility along with the consolidation of the International Education pathway. That being said, she did not believe that the Board would be

ready to make the decision of which facility would need to close. She stated that a Special Meeting would be held on April 20 for that discussion. She shared that opportunities would be made for Board members to walk through each building. Ms. DeRobbio noted she would be out of the country on April 20 and asked that she have an opportunity for her voice to be heard. Ms. Maynard-Adams stated she would meet with her to discuss how she may do so.

Ms. Hambey thanked the Superintendent and administration for their creativity in this difficult budget request, and that she wished she had seen more creativity from the city side as well. She stated that this will be difficult, but a more potentially sustainable idea over the years. Ms. Maynard-Adams noted that the District is still awaiting a formal communication from the State Magnet office as well.

Mr. Martin expressed his concerns that there may be a deeper hole and cuts that still need to occur, so he would like to prepare for all options depending on the many scenarios which may play out.

Motion carried, 6-0

7. Board Comments, Questions

It was noted that Ms. Maynard-Adams, Dr. Ritchie and Mr. Funk will be presenting the Education Budget to City Council this week. All were encouraged to attend.

Ms. DeRobbio shared that she has had two busy weeks talking to people in the community at multiple events including: a LY Conservatory Conference, Hidden Women hosted by Step Up, Shaw's Mansion, a lecture at the Thames River Gallery, the NAACP Prayer Breakfast, the Mayor's budget presentation, the SECT Youth Climate Summit, a Parks & Recreation Meeting, and others.

8. Adjournment

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

Motion carried, 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

	Plan C - Full state approval of operations plan to close IE pathway and transfer IE secondary students to Arts & STEM	Plan C with no increased revenue from secondary IE. No reinvestment	Plan C with all IE magnet revenue eliminated. No reinvestment
Gap in Same Services Budget sent to BOE in Feb	7,376,499	7,376,499	7,376,499
BOE Cuts	(1,369,042)	(1,369,042)	(1,369,042)
Revised Gap after 1st round of cuts	6,007,457	6,007,457	6,007,457
Drop in MSAP Revenue	588,310	588,310	588,310
Reduction in MSAP expenses	(441,810)	(441,810)	(441,810)
Reduction in Expenses from closure of IE pathway and a building		-	-
Certified Salaries (19 FTE's)	(1,617,688)	(1,617,688)	(1,617,688)
Non-certified Salaries (11.5 FTE's)	(863,380)	(863,380)	(863,380)
Utilities	(280,000)	(280,000)	(280,000)
Transportation	(191,586)	(191,586)	(191,586)
Other Facility Cost Savings	(130,000)	(130,000)	(130,000)
Other Costs to Move	100,000	100,000	100,000
Increase in Magnet Revenues from collapse of a Magnet program	(2,136,900)		1,219,444
Cut 2 TK (Smart Start Endowment) Classrooms	(195,000)	(195,000)	(195,000)
Cut the revenue for the 2 TK classrooms (\$195k Smart Start Endowment)	195,000	195,000	195,000
Increase in Gen Fund	(800,000)	(800,000)	(800,000)
Add Summer School Expansion	88,000	88,000	88,000
Add Programmatic Reinvestment and New Marketing Position	1,000,000	-	
Other potential identified cuts not dependent on closure of a building	(553,765)	(553,765)	(553,765)
		-	
Remaining gap	768,638	1,905,538	3,124,982