

The Business Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on April 27, 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
Scott Garbini
Susan Hambey
Richard Martin

Board Members Absent: Nanci DeRobbio

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 and Special Recognitions

The following students were recognized as the April Students of the Month:

- Early Childhood Center at B.P. Mission: Emma Resto
- Winthrop STEM Elementary Magnet School: Sebastian Burns
- Nathan Hale Arts Magnet Elementary School: Landon Hardison
- C.B. Jennings International Elementary Magnet School: Sophia Angelie Resto
- BDJ Multi-Magnet Middle School Campus: Alanis Lorenzo Perez
- New London High School Multi-Magnet Campus: Winiber Grullon
- New London Adult & Continuing Education: Alexis Nicole Muñoz

CABE Associate Director, Bob Mitchell, joined the Board meeting to present the following awards:

- CABE Student Leadership Awards:

- Ryanna Realpe Ruiz
- Bryan Vega Castillo
- Kenneth Willoughby
- Mez Boyd
- Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence for Educational Communications
 - NLPS Adopted Budget Book SY25-26

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Reports and Communications

- Board Chairperson's Report
 - Ms. Maynard-Adams reported that R&C Consulting will be holding their Opening Celebration at the Welcome Center on Friday. She continued that last Wednesday was Earth Day. In celebration, new flowerbeds were purchased for BP and volunteers from the New London Rotary were present for the installation of the flowerbeds, and they also purchased and installed a Peace Pole. It was a great day. She shared that there is a lot of legislative action at the Capital, including the possibility that the legislature will approve an ECS bill proposal from the Senate. If approved, there would be a significant financial benefit to New London Public Schools.
- Reports of Committees
 - Finance & Audit Committee Meeting – Ms. Maynard-Adams reported that the committee met earlier this evening. The budget is in good shape as we close in on the end of the year, and there are line item transfers on the agenda for approval this evening.
 - Representative Updates:
 - Ms. Amanti reported that the Scholarship Committee is hard at work as they filter through applications in preparation for awards.
 - Mr. Garbini stated that the Policy Committee will meet in May. He also shared that will be connecting the Executive Director of the New London Public Library with Dr. Ritchie to discuss partnership opportunities.
- Report of the Superintendent
 - Mr. Miguel Gautier and the Operations Team, including: Mr. Julian Wilson, Mr. Jordan Schub, Mr. Stone Sheetz, Ms. Danielle Ramos, and Mr. Ricky Ledesma gave a presentation on the Operations Department. This presentation included the following updates:
 - Transportation
 - Facilities
 - Recycling
 - HVAC

- Facilities and HVAC Repairs and Maintenance
- General Maintenance
- Groundskeeping
- Technology
- District Network & Infrastructure Improvements
- Student Devices
- Data & Reporting
- Training & Support
- ParentSquare

5. Approval of the Minutes

- April 6, 2026 – Business Meeting

Motion by Mr. Garbini, seconded by Ms. Hambey, to approve the April 6, 2026 Business Meeting minutes.

Motion carried, 6-0

6. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Bergin, that the following items, as set forth on the Consent Agenda for the Business Meeting of April 27, 2026 be approved unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools:

A. Action Items

- I. Approve Line Item Transfers as Recommended by the Finance & Audit Committee
- II. Rescind Policy 6163.1 – Selection of School Library Material for its Second & Final Reading

Motion carried, 6-0

7. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

- Adopt Policy 5113.13 – Work-Study Student Employment/Work-Release for its Second and Final Reading

Motion by Ms. Hambey, seconded by Mr. Garbini, to adopt Policy 5113.13 – Work-Study Student Employment/Work-Release for its Second and Final Reading.

Ms. Hambey asked if language in this policy would prevent Special Education students from participating during their school in at ages 18-22. Ms. Rivera confirmed that this would not prevent special education students from participating.

Motion carried, 6-0

- Approve Policy 0521 – Nondiscrimination for its Second & Final Reading

Motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Hambey, to approve Policy 0521 – Nondiscrimination for its Second & Final Reading.

Mr. Garbini stated that he pulled this policy because he wanted to share that he would not be voting for it, as the required language is steps back. He understands that it is a requirement, but he does not support it and will not be voting in favor of it.

Motion carried, 4-2

***Voting no: Ms. Maynard-Adams
Mr. Garbini***

- Approve Policy 5131.111 – Video Surveillance for its Second and Final Reading

Motion by Mr. Garbini, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, to approve Policy 5131.111 – Video Surveillance for its Second and Final Reading.

Mr. Garbini stated that there have been questions raised about the policy and privacy, and he would like to recommend that it goes back to the Policy Committee for further discussion. Mr. Gautier clarified that that portion of the software can be turned off, and that it is technology which is built into the software. However, he noted that this technology is important for staff for use, and does not readily identify those found by name. Ms. Maynard-Adams expressed her support for the policy to return to committee, and added that she has learned that this technology can be bad at recognizing black and brown faces due to training biases of the software.

Ms. Maynard-Adams withdrew her motion and Mr. Garbini withdrew his second.

Motion by Mr. Garbini, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, to refer this policy back to committee for further discussion.

Motion carried, 6-0

- Discussion and Possible Action Concerning the Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Teachers and/or Administrators for Budgetary Reasons

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Hambey, to non-renew the following non-tenured teachers and administrators due to budgetary reasons: Ms. Alysha Carmody, Ms. Janine Sullivan, Ms. Kathy Loukoumis.

Motion carried, 6-0

8. Executive Session Pursuant to Connecticut State Statutes: Title I, Chapter 114, Section 1-200(5), Connecticut Freedom of Information Act

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Bergin to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing:

- Recommendation of Non-Renewal of a Non-Tenured Teacher

Motion carried, 6-0

The following people were invited into Executive Session: The Board as a Whole, Superintendent Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Hills-Papetti, Executive Director of Talent & Human Resources Christine Pemberton

Time into Executive Session: 9:13 p.m.

Time out of Executive Session: 9:21 p.m.

No votes were taken while in Executive Session

9. Action Following Executive Session

- Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Hambey, to approve the non-renewal of non-tenured teacher Patrick Myrthil.

Motion carried, 6-0

10. Board Comments, Questions

Ms. Hambey praised the Operations Department on their presentation this evening.

Mr. Garbini thanked the Operations team for their hard work. He added that many don't realize how much work is done by so few and with so little.

Ms. Bergin noted that at a previous meeting there was a comment about a personnel issue, and asked if there was a way to respond so that the commenter would know that the issue had been addressed. She noted that this isn't only for this particular case, but for any time this occurs. Ms. Maynard-Adams responded that it can be said that the Board does not get involved in administrative issues.

11. Adjournment

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

Motion carried, 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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