

The New London Board of Education Policy Committee meeting was held on May 26, 2026 via Zoom teleconferencing.

1. Call to Order

Scott Garbini, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Present for the Committee: Scott Garbini – Committee Chair
Becky Amanti – Committee Member
Nanci DeRobbio – Committee Member

Absent for the Committee: Betsy Perkins – Community Representative
Colleen Delaporta-Wells – NLEA Representative

Present for the Administration: Kristea A. Francolino – Manager of Executive Support Services
Miguel Gautier, Executive Director of Operations
Christine Pemberton, Executive Director of Talent & Human Resources
Dr. Jennifer Hills-Papetti, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Cynthia Ritchie – Superintendent of Schools

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Ms. Amanti, seconded by Ms. DeRobbio, to accept the minutes of the March 24, 2026 Policy Committee meeting.

Motion carried, 3-0

4. Discussion and Possible Action on the Following Policies

• 5131.111 – Video Surveillance

Motion by Ms. DeRobbio, seconded by Ms. Amanti, to discuss Policy 5131.111 – Video Surveillance.

Committee members discussed the items of concern that had been shared regarding the proposed facial recognition language in the policy. Ms. Amanti shared that Mr. Garbini had brought up issues that she had not thought of, including potentially misidentifying students of color and ensuring privacy protections. She also added that being able to solve issues of locating students or in the case of an emergency in a matter of minutes is extremely helpful for administrators. She shared that it needs to be a balance between

rights and autonomy of using technology. Ms. DeRobbio also added that there are ways to use different faces in this day and age, and many kids find it a game and want to be on camera. Mr. Gautier shared that the term “facial recognition” being used in the proposed language might be the wrong term. The software doesn’t provide a name to identify the captured image, it does not know who you are when you enter the building. He shared that the software does not share any personal information. He continued that the district already has cameras and manually does the work of identifying people, when necessary, via the camera systems, this software simply speeds up the time it takes to do the work. The camera takes the commands of what someone is looking for, for example, someone wearing a gray sweater and a flower in their hair. Ms. Francolino agreed with Mr. Gautier and suggested that “facial recognition” is a misnomer, and there should likely be another term used for clarity purposes. It was also noted that as far as privacy goes, there is a form that already exists along with this policy for anyone who would like to request to view footage, but it needs to be approved and aligned with the law and FERPA for it to be shown.

The committee decided that it would be important to review this policy from other districts before moving forward. Additionally, Mr. Gautier volunteered to show a sample of the cameras so the committee can see how they work.

Motion carried, 3-0

- 5131.81 – Use of Private Technology Devices

Motion by Ms. DeRobbio, seconded by Ms. Amanti, to discuss Policy 5131.81 – Use of Private Technology Devices.

Mr. Garbini shared that after a survey was sent to all staff, only 44 people responded. Additionally, after meeting with administrators, it was the general consensus that there were not serious concerns about the policy as it is, since it was revised at the end of last year. While there may be individual issues, many appear to be based upon personal opinions on the possession of cell phones in the school rather than actual issues of cell phones being in the school. Mr. Vamvakides, Principal of the middle school campus and Mr. Mahon, Principal of the high school campus shared that they are educating students on how to use their phones appropriately, and that they are not seeing any major issues with the policy as it exists.

Motion by Ms. Amanti, seconded by Ms. DeRobbio, to keep Policy 5131.81 – Private Technology Devices as is.

Motion carried, 3-0

5. Committee Member Comments

Dr. Ritchie thanked everyone for being present this evening and for sharing their input and perspectives.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Amanti, seconded by Ms. DeRobbio, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried, 3-0

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristea A. Francolino
Manager of Executive Support Services