

The Business Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on June 22, 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
Susan Hambey
Richard Martin

Board Members Absent: Nanci DeRobbio
Scott Garbini

Present for the administration: Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, *Superintendent of Schools*
Dr. Jennifer Hills-Papetti, *Assistant Superintendent of Schools – Attended virtually*
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

Two comments were submitted in writing and were read aloud during this portion of the meeting by Ms. Francolino. Please see the submissions in their entirety at the end of these minutes.

3. Reports and Communications

- Board Chairperson's Report
 - Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that she had attended all of the end-of-year celebrations at each school. She expressed that while she is proud of all students, she was especially proud of the Salutatorian who shared their speech in both English and Spanish.
- Superintendent's Report

- Mr. Gautier shared that he and Dr. Hills-Papetti did more research on the start/end times as requested by the Board at their previous meeting. He shared that the recommendation is that they are only slightly changed for the upcoming school year. It was discussed that it would be helpful if this were a topic at the regional LEARN meeting, as it would be easier if all schools were on the same timeline in the region. There was a discussion about not only the attendance factors but also engagement in the classroom if the start of the school day is too early. It was noted that the flip side is that if school were to start too late then it would affect the last periods of the day, after school activities and sports, especially at the secondary level.
- NLPS Strategic Operational Plan – End of Year Report
 - Dr. Ritchie and the Cabinet team gave updates to the Board on the NLPS Strategic Operational Plan – End of Year report. This presentation included updates on the following sections:
 - Student Achievement
 - Climate & Culture
 - A School Community that Creates Welcoming and Empowering Partnerships for Learning
 - District Operations
 - Recruit, Retain, Recognize Talent
- Finance & Audit Committee
 - Ms. Maynard-Adams noted that the committee met earlier and reviewed the budget through May 31. Additionally, there were Line Item Transfers that were reviewed and they will also be on the agenda for approval this evening.
- Representative Updates
 - Ms. Hambey noted that she also attended the end of year events, and has been working on continuing to keep up building relationships.

4. Approval of the Minutes

- June 8, 2026 – Business Meeting

Motion by Ms. Bergin, seconded by Ms. Amanti, to approve the June 8, 2026 Business Meeting minutes.

Motion carried, 5-0

5. 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:

- Negotiations – Ratified Contract of the New London Public Schools Nurses for the Period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029.

Motion carried, 5-0

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

Time into Executive Session: 8:35 p.m.

Time out of Executive Session: 8:46 p.m.

No votes were taken while in Executive Session

6. Action Following Executive Session

- Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Bergin, to approve the ratified contract of the New London Public Schools Nurses for the Period of July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029.

Motion carried, 5-0

7. Board Comments, Questions

Ms. Hambey shared that she attended all of the promotion and graduation ceremonies, and that she was reminded every day of what teachers do to inspire other staff and the staff who manage it all!

8. Adjournment

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

Motion carried, 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Francolino, Kristea

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2026 10:20 AM
To: Francolino, Kristea
Subject: BOE Meeting tonight.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello. I am unable to attend the meeting but would you be able to read this on my behalf?

I'm Samantha Cacciatore and live at 7 Aitchison Dr, New London. I have two children attending St. Joseph's School next year, Kindergarten and Second grade. The school nurse leaving at 12:30 is unacceptable. Children are still eating lunch and there's the other half of the school day. I am pleading with you again to fully fund our nurse. Thank you.

Samantha Cacciatore

Melissa McElwee

Good evening members of the Board,

I'm writing this to you as a parent — not a lawyer, not a policy expert — just a parent who sends their child to school every day trusting that they will be safe. And right now, with only three hours of nursing coverage, I cannot honestly say that I feel that trust is being honored.

Connecticut law is clear. **Section 10-217a** requires districts to provide the *same level of health services* to all students, public or private. That means full, adequate, consistent coverage. But beyond the statute, beyond the legal language, is something much more important: our children.

Our kids don't get sick on a schedule. Asthma attacks don't wait for the nurse's shift. Allergic reactions don't pause until tomorrow. A playground fall doesn't check the clock before it happens.

When the nurse leaves, our children are left without the trained medical professional they may desperately need. And the truth is, that reality keeps parents up at night. It keeps teachers anxious. It puts untrained staff in impossible positions. And it leaves our kids vulnerable.

Every parent in this room knows what it feels like to get that phone call — the one that makes your heart drop. Now imagine knowing that when that call comes, there may not be a nurse there to help your child. That is the situation we are living with.

We are not asking for something extra. We are asking for what is required. We are asking for what is right. We are asking for what every child deserves: safety.

A full-time nurse is not optional. It is not a luxury. It is the bare minimum for a school full of children with asthma, diabetes, severe food allergies, seizure disorders, and everyday childhood injuries and illnesses.

Our kids deserve better than three hours of care. Our teachers deserve better than being asked to act as nurses. And our district deserves better than the liability that comes with ignoring this need.

We are not waiting for a tragedy to happen before changes are made!

I am asking you — parent to parent, human to human — to do what is right.

Give our school a full-time nurse.

Give our children the safety they deserve.

Give families the peace of mind we should never have to beg for.

Thank you for listening, and thank you for choosing to protect our children.