

The New London Board of Education School Facilities & Program Design Committee meeting was held on September 14, 2026 in the New London Public Schools Welcome Center and via Zoom Webinars.

DRAFT

1. Call to Order

Ms. Hambey, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present for the Committee: Susan Hambey – Committee Chair
Elaine Maynard-Adams – Committee Member
Rich Martin – Committee Member
Aaron Ide – Community Member

Present for the Administration: Miguel Gautier, Jr. – Executive Director of District Operations

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Accept the Minutes

- June 8, 2026

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Ide, to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2026 meeting.

Motion passed, 4-0

4. Discussion on the Following

- Winthrop Solar Panels

Mr. Gautier reported that the City brought an expert to ensure the solar panels are producing energy, and this was confirmed. There was an email from a company called NEPOOL, and they confirmed they have been paying the city since 2015. This agreement goes through April of 2030. He shared there is no confirmation from the Finance from the City level of if they have received the funds, how much has been received, or what happens with them. This email was shared with Brian Sear and Chris Clouet. The checks are sent to the attention of Donna Rinehart at 13 Masonic Street.

Mr. Gautier clarified that the solar panel agreements at the schools are different, and the high school agreement, for example, receives credit against the electric bill, instead of receiving a check reimbursement.

- Future Construction at B.P. Mission

Mr. Gautier shared that there was a meeting on September 2 to follow up on the Congressman Courtney funds, but that there has not been any further information received since. We are awaiting an update from the City. Currently, the gym has been split in half to create two more classrooms, and as of right now the staff utilizing these spaces are happy. Dr. Ritchie shared that there has been some brainstorming of how to possibly utilize the auditorium to redesign the space for classrooms. This is currently on hold until more information is received regarding the funding. There was a discussion about potentially also bringing this topic forward to the Joint Use Agreement Committee for future discussion, and Mr. Gautier will bring the quotes as well.

- Jennings MoU

Mr. Gautier shared that the ground floor if Jennings is accessible to Parks and Recreation in partnership with the MoU which allows for the full utilization of the BP building for this school year. The district will contribute up to \$40,000 towards utilities, and they will pay for anything over. Mr. Gautier clarified that anything in the building is still the property of the school district.

Mr. Gautier also shared that he received a communication from Director McBride stating that the boiler replacement project would no longer be moving forward, but that was not his understanding from the last School Maintenance and Building Committee meeting. It was his understanding that the project would still be moving forward since the money had already been bonded. The boilers should be replaced prior to them no longer working, but prior to end of life. While it was not critical because it is not being utilized by our students, it does not mean that it shouldn't be done. Since the money has been bonded, he believes that it should still be completed now rather than five years down the road. It was discussed that this should be brought back up to the School Building & Maintenance Committee.

5. Committee Member Comments

Mr. Ide asked if there were any needs regarding deferred maintenance from last year. Mr. Gautier shared that there was nothing mechanical, but cosmetics, yes. He shared that maintenance and repairs of mechanicals was kept up to date, but not as many cosmetics were addressed.

Mr. Ide asked what happened at Harbor, as there were people going through the trash there, which appeared to be school supplies. Mr. Gautier shared that the building was given back to the city, and the district took what they were able to use to other buildings. He stated that the paper which was there appeared to be moldy. He stated that there was furniture, but there was not another place to store them so the district did not take them from Harbor prior to turning the building back over to the city.

6. Adjournment

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

Motion carried, 4-0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristea A. Francolino
Manager of Executive Support Services