

The Business Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held on September 14, 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
Nanci DeRobbio
Scott Garbini
Susan Hambey
Richard Martin

Present for the administration: Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, *Superintendent of Schools*
Mr. Chris Vamvakides, *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

CJ Parker, New London – Mr. Parker shared that he was here on behalf of multiple city advocacy groups to express the desire for the opportunity for stakeholders to be a part of the superintendent search committee. He referenced multiple district policies throughout his comments. He shared that while policy shares that a committee would be appointed to recommend alternatives instead of closing a school, it appears from the community perspective that it was not followed. It was expressed that the superintendent position is too critical to not only include the Board in the search committee. He continued that policies exist which highlight the need for diverse perspectives. The district would benefit from including community partners throughout operations, but especially for the hiring of the superintendent of schools.

Kymiah Willis, New London – Ms. Willis shared that she is a student at the high school, and that she believes students and community members deserve a voice in choosing the next superintendent of schools. She expressed that students walk the halls of the schools

every day and live with the decisions that are made for them, but many decisions are made without asking students what they need. She believes the committee should include students, teachers, and community members. She continued by stating that students shouldn't only hear about decisions after they are made, but that they should have a seat at the table. Experiences matter and the future of all students matter, and they should be entrusted to help choose whoever the next superintendent will be.

3. Reports and Communications

- Report of the Superintendent
 - This evening, Ms. Paige True presented the B.P. Mission School Improvement Plan review from 2025-2026.

A copy of this report is available in its entirety upon request.

- Board Chairperson's Report
 - Ms. Maynard-Adams shared that there have been discussions and a resulting MoU with Parks & Recreation for them to have use of Jennings and for the district to have exclusive use of the B.P. building. She shared that she recently met with the aquatics director about the possibility of students taking the course to be lifeguards for the city. She expressed that the cost of the course is often a deterrent for many families, and there were discussions about possible scholarships that could be offered for interested students who may not be able to afford the cost. Students who successfully pass a class for the lifesaving certification could be offered jobs at beaches and pools throughout the city. She thanked the superintendent and her team for an inspiring and uplifting Convocation celebration.
- Reports of Committees and Representatives
 - School Facilities & Program Design Committee Meeting
 - Ms. Hambey reported that Mr. Gautier gave updates on the Solar Panels at Winthrop, B.P. Construction, and the Jennings MoU.

4. Approval of the Minutes

- August 24, 2026 – Business Meeting

Motion by Motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Garbini, to approve the August 24, 2026 Business Meeting minutes.

Motion carried, 7-0

- September 1, 2026 –Special Meeting

Motion by Ms. Hambey, seconded by Ms. DeRobbio, to approve the September 1, 2026 Special Meeting minutes

Motion carried, 7-0

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 September 14, 2026 be approved unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools:

A. Superintendent's Written Report

- I. Academics
- II. Human Resources
- III. Student & Family Support Services
- IV. Business & Finance

B. Action Items

- I. Approve the Revision of the Authorized Signers of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs to make Miguel Gautier Jr., Executive Director of District Operations: Technology, Facilities, Food Service, Transportation, Safety and Security, Authorized Signer #2 of the Child Nutrition Program

Motion carried, 7-0

6. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

- Superintendent's Written Report – Operations

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Martin, to accept the Superintendent's Written Report – Operations.

Ms. Maynard-Adams asked Mr. Gautier to share some updates on the potential expansion plans for BP. Mr. Gautier shared that the most affordable idea, after reviewing previous ideas for revision from an architect and engineer, would be to re-construct the auditorium into classrooms. Ideally, the seating would be removed, a deck would be erected in the place of the seating, and classrooms could be created. There would be the possibility of adding three classrooms by doing so. The approximate cost for these refurbishments would be \$650,000. To do the construction, an architect and owner's representative would be needed, and those total approximately 20% of the project, so \$825,000 may not be enough, which was the total promised by Congressman Courtney. He shared that he is continuing to await an update from the city on when the funds can be accessed and utilized.

Motion carried, 7-0

- Executive Personnel Search Committee Appointment

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Ms. Bergin, that the Board of Education appoints an Executive Personnel Search Committee consisting of Elaine

Maynard-Adams, Karen Bergin, Scott Garbini, Rebecca Amanti, Rich Martin, Susan Hambey, and Nanci DeRobbio. The purpose of this committee is to conduct a search for a new Superintendent of Schools.

Ms. Maynard-Adams expressed that the State of Connecticut specifically authorizes Boards of Education to adopt a budget, amend policies, and hire and evaluate a superintendent. It is the job of the Board and the responsibility from the State. This is also on the advice of CABE. She stated that she wanted to be clear that there will be opportunities for public input and comment throughout the process through public forums. These forums will be scheduled once a search consultant has been hired. There were comments from multiple Board members about keeping the search committee small to ensure confidentiality of candidates. Ms. Maynard-Adams stated that her commitment is to keep this process as clean and fair as possible.

Motion carried, 7-0

7. Board Comments, Questions

None.

8. Adjournment

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

Motion carried, 7-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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