

The regular meeting of the New London Board of Education was held in the Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School Library on January 8, 2009.

Present:

Ms. Elaine Maynard-Adams, President
Dr. Christopher P. Clouet, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Susan Connolly, Vice President
Mr. Alvin Kinsall
Mr. William Morse
Mr. Anthony Nolan
Mr. James E. Dinkel Pearce, Secretary

Absent:

Mrs. Elizabeth Garcia-Gonzalez

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Maynard-Adams, President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and wished everyone present a very Happy New Year.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Maynard-Adams led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. STUDENT, STAFF AND COMMUNITY PRESENTATION/RECOGNITION

- Brooke Trahan, a 7th grade student at the Dual Language Arts Academy, was recognized as Student of the Month.
- Analisse Rios, a teacher at the Dual Language Arts Academy, was recognized as Employee of the Month.
- Susan Connolly, Vice President of the NLBOE, was recognized for being selected by the CT Bar Association as the recipient of the Citizen of the Law Award.

4. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

4.a President's Report

Ms. Maynard-Adams reported on her experience while attending Dr. Clouet's recent Family Conversations meeting. The crux of the meeting centered around giving parents and caregivers an opportunity to speak to some of our state legislators. Representatives Hewett and Moukawsher were in attendance. When the question and answer session for the legislators began, a gentleman asked our state legislative delegation a question. He explained that in his job he pays 50% of the health care cost for medical insurance for he and his family and his employer pays the other 50%. Recently, because of the economic downturn, his hours have been reduced from 40 to 10-15. He was fearful that he would no longer be able to afford

the insurance coverage for his two children who are students in the NLPS. Before either of our legislators could say anything, Mrs. Carver, our Assistant Superintendent, got up and advised the parent that the schools can help him. Mrs. Carver explained that we have staff members who can help him navigate the waters and assist him in getting Husky coverage. The next person who had a question was a woman who is a young mother of children in our schools. She asked about children of undocumented adults. Again, before our legislators could even open their mouths, someone from the School Based Health Clinic (SBHC) stood up and advised the parent to send such children to the SBHC. As long as they are registered the SBHC can provide for them. They have nurse practitioners, they can write prescriptions and they can treat children's illnesses. Ms. Maynard-Adams commented that it is truly amazing that an organization like the NLPS that takes such abuse has no many professionals who are willing to stand up and say to parents – whatever your problems are – we can help you. Ms. Maynard-Adams calls the Board's attention to this because it is such a tribute to Dr. Clouet and his staff, and she is very proud to be a part of that.

4.b. Superintendent's Report

The Board received Dr. Clouet's report, as submitted.

4.c. Student Representative's Report

Gerald Luter advised the Board that during the month of January students at NLHS participate in the Winter Intersession. Freshmen and sophomores take courses that prepare them for the CAPT which they will take in the spring. Juniors prepare for the SAT. It is also a time when seniors are able to complete their senior projects. On behalf of the students, Mr. Luter expressed his appreciate to the Board for letting the high school do this. He has been doing research and talking to teachers and found out that they are excited about doing this. Also, last year's sophomores did a great job in improving their CAPT scores, which is a big thing for the high school. Again, on behalf of the students at NLHS, Mr. Luter thanked the Board for allowing him this time to complete his senior project, for the juniors time to prepare for the SAT and for the freshmen and sophomores time to prepare for the CAPT so that they feel more comfortable in taking these tests.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Kinsall, seconded by Mr. Nolan,
that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Organizational Meeting of December 11, 2008, and the Regular Meeting of December 11, 2008, as submitted in Exhibit 6.

*Motion carried, 5 – 0
Abstaining: Mrs. Connolly*

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Morse, that the following items, as set forth on the Consent Agenda for the regular Board of Education meeting of January 8, 2009, be approved or received for the record, unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools.

Motion by Mrs. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Morse, that the Board of Education add to its agenda item 7.4.a., the correspondence from Mr. Daniel McSparran to the BOE.

Motion carried, 6 - 0

There was no Consent Agenda.

7.1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

7.2. BRIEF INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Motion by Mr. Pearce, seconded by Mrs. Connolly, that the following reports be received for the record:

7.2.a. Operations & Human Resources

- Update on the Jennings Cafeteria
- Status of Pre-Employment Drug Screening Testing

Motion carried, 6 - 0

7.3. PRESENTATION

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Nolan, that the Board receive the State of the Schools Report.

The Board, Dr. Clouet and Mrs. Carver engaged in an in-depth discussion of the State of the Schools Report.

Ms. Maynard-Adams thanked Dr. Clouet and Mrs. Carver for such a comprehensive report which provides a very honest assessment of our strengths and weaknesses and where we are in terms of making progress towards our goal of district improvement.

Motion carried, 6 - 0

7.4. ACTION ITEMS

7.4.a. Parental Request

Motion by Mrs. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Morse, that the correspondence from Mr. Daniel McSparran to the BOE be placed in the record and further that the Board authorize the Board President to send a letter to Mr. McSparran denying his request to pay his son's college expenses.

Motion carried, 6 - 0

8. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS AND SETTING OF FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Pearce advised the Board that the next Early Childhood Committee meeting is scheduled for January 28th at 5:30 p.m. in the small Central Office Conference Room.

Mr. Kinsall informed the Board that the next Policy Committee meeting will be held on January 12th.

Ms. Maynard-Adams reported that there will be a Finance Committee meeting on January 27th at 6 p.m. in the BDJMS Library. She clarified that this will not be the public hearing.

Mr. Nolan advised the Board that Mr. Allen and Mr. Sullivan are making accommodations at the STMHS and NLHS to ensure that students will be able to see the Inauguration of President-Elect Obama. Mr. Nolan invited Board members to stop in and join our students and answer questions the kids may have.

Dr. Clouet advised the Board that:

1. The NLHS Whalers have been selected by the CIAC to be the recipient of the Team Sportsmanship Award.
2. He recently established a Superintendent's Student Technology Advisory Committee, and he held his first meeting today.
3. A STMHS student has been accepted to the NYU Film School.
4. Roger Christiansen, a NLHS graduate who is a well known TV director and a friend of Val's, is coming back to work with our kids during the winter session and teach classes at the STMHS. We hope to get photos of Roger shaking the hand of the student who will be going to the NYU Film School.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

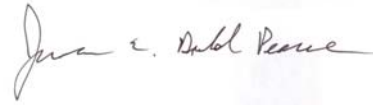
10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Kinsall, seconded by Mr. Nolan,
that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting.

Motion carried, 6 – 0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James E. Dinkel Pearce". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

James E. Dinkel Pearce
Secretary