

The Organizational Meeting of the New London Board of Education was held in the Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School on December 11, 2008.

PRESENT:

DRAFT

Ms. Elaine Maynard-Adams, Vice President
Dr. Christopher P. Clouet, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Alvin Kinsall, President
Mrs. Elizabeth Garcia-Gonzalez, Secretary (Arrived at 7:10 p.m.)
Mr. William Morse
Mr. Anthony Nolan
Mr. James Pearce

ABSENT:

Mrs. Susan Connolly

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kinsall, President, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Mr. Kinsall led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR FOR BOARD OFFICERS

2.1. TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Nolan,
that the Board appoint Mr. Kinsall as the temporary chairperson.

2.2. NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Motion by Mr. Kinsall, seconded by Mr. Morse,
that the Board appoint:

- Ms. Elaine Maynard-Adams as President of the New London Board of Education for 2008-2009
- Mrs. Susan Connolly as Vice-President of the New London Board of Education for 2008-2009
- Mr. James Pearce as Secretary of the New London Board of Education for 2008-2009

Mr. Kinsall called for any further nominations. There were no further nominations made.

Motion by Mr. Kinsall, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams,
to close the nominations and approve the proposed slate of officers.

Vote: 5 - 0

3. SEATING OF NEW OFFICERS

Mr. Kinsall relinquished the chair to Ms. Maynard-Adams.

On behalf of the Board members, Ms. Maynard-Adams presented Mr. Kinsall with a plaque to express the Board's grateful appreciation to Mr. Kinsall for his years of service, for his two years as Chair and for the wisdom with which he guided the Board of Education.

Mr. Kinsall stated, "I would like to thank my colleagues for their support over the past two years. It has been a privilege being the President of the Board for that time. I would also like to thank my wife, Fran, for her understanding of my absence while executing the duties of the office. I also want to thank the administration, the teachers and the staff for their support. Dr. Clouet, I will miss your daily calls. For the past two years I have had the opportunity to address the full body of our teaching staff at the Welcome Address of each academic year. I have always felt and continue to feel that we have the best teaching, administrative and support staff in the entire state of CT. I sincerely mean that. Your challenges are endless and there is positive progress being made in the school system, as evidenced by the data being shown to us on a quarterly basis. You need to keep up the good work because it is you that is making the difference in our classrooms – not the Board. Last year I commented that over the next few years we have some very important challenges ahead that will constitute change in our district. I would like to share with you just a few of those changes that we, the Board, and the district, have made:

- Contrary to some, we are working diligently to make the district more transparent to parents and the taxpayers.
- We have met the challenges of the State Department of Education and the Cambridge Education group from England, identifying our strengths and our weaknesses which have been incorporated into our District Wide Improvement Plan.
- We are beginning to see in our elementary schools the benefit of our hard work in implementing the core literacy and science programs.
- We opened the doors of a new Jennings School this past fall.
- We took whatever action was necessary to prepare NLHS for its NEASC inspection this past fall.
- We took on the long hard campaign to convince the community to convert Nathan Hale and Winthrop Elementary Schools into art and science magnet schools. As we know, this was a huge savings to the community and will result in taxpayers only paying a fraction of the total cost of \$61 million.
- That said, we must continue to provide our students with the services that will build their academic and social skills so that they can deal with the responsibilities of life after high school.

- Unfortunately, we still have to deal with the NCLB legislation that requires our teaching staff to concentrate too much time on preparing our students to pass a test and spending too little time on preparing children for their future.
- While we must work towards that mandate, I would hope that we would continue to focus on the little people.
- Their early childhood development skills which, I believe over time, will be the foundation for the improved school district that we all desire.
- Finally, I would hope that we redirect some of our energies towards the development of child life skills so that all of our students can survive in the 21st Century.

Thank you very much. I certainly enjoyed my two years as your President.

Mr. Pearce requested a Point of Personal Privilege, and stated “I wish to say how much I have enjoyed working with you, Al, as President. I have found you always willing to look at whatever ideas I came up with out of the blue. You have been a very calm person to work with. You dealt with a lot of tough issues, and you handled them very well. You have been a splendid person to work with as President.”

On behalf of the rest of the Board, Ms. Maynard-Adams echoed Mr. Pearce’s comments.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Pearce, seconded by Mr. Kinsall,
that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the meeting of
November 13, 2008, as submitted in Exhibit 4.

Vote: Motion carried, 6 - 0

5. APPOINTMENT OF BOARD COMMITTEES AND BOARD REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2008-2009

Ms. Maynard-Adams, President, approved the committee assignments for
2008-2009, as submitted in Exhibit 5

Ms. Maynard-Adams stated that she is well aware that each Board member has responsibilities other than their Board duties. She asked, therefore, that if a Board member’s circumstances, work or other commitments change and they are unable to serve as a Board representative to an agency or a member of a specific committee, please let her know and she will make arrangements to reassign Board members to committees that will better suit their schedule.

6. APPROVAL OF CALENDAR

Motion by Mr. Kinsall, seconded by Mr. Nolan,
that the Board of Education approve the Board Meeting Calendar for 2008-2009, as submitted in Exhibit 6.

Vote: Motion carried, 6 - 0

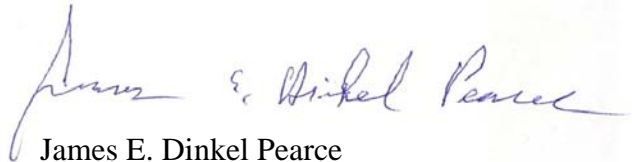
7. RECESSING OF MEETING

Motion by Mr. Kinsall, seconded by Mrs. Garcia-Gonzalez,
that the Board of Education recess this meeting to the regular meeting of the Board of Education.

Vote: Motion carried, 6 - 0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Dinkel Pearce
Secretary