

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was held in the Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School Library on December 11, 2008.

PRESENT:

Draft

Ms. Elaine Maynard-Adams, President
Dr. Christopher P. Clouet, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Elizabeth Garcia-Gonzalez
Mr. Alvin Kinsall
Mr. William Morse
Mr. Anthony Nolan
Mr. James Pearce, Secretary

ABSENT:

Mrs. Susan Connolly, Vice President

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Maynard-Adams, President, called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. STUDENT, STAFF AND COMMUNITY PRESENTATION/RECOGNITION

- Nexhat Mucka, a 5th grade student at Harbor School, was recognized as the Student of the Month.
- Dawn Artis, an Instructional Assistant at Harbor School, was recognized as Employee of the Month.
- Victoria Waterman, a Harbor School parent, was recognized as Volunteer of the Month.
- The NLHS Whaler Football Team was recognized as the CIAC Class SS State Champions.

The Board recessed its meeting at 7:28 p.m.

The Board reconvened its meeting at 7:53 p.m.

4. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

4.a President's Report

The Board received the President's Report, as submitted.

Mr. Morse inquired about the SBMC meeting that was held at City Hall and the issue of geothermal as a possible source of heating and cooling for the two magnet schools. Mr. Kinsall and Dr. Clouet advised Mr. Morse that the architects were asked to report back to the SBMC with a list of other facilities that use geothermal energy and provide the SBMC with the timeline, costs estimates, return on investment and other factors that they considered for the installation of geothermal in their facilities. Mr. Morse also asked that the architects advise if we will be able to use geothermal energy at both Nathan Hale and Winthrop or just one site.

4.b. Superintendent's Report

The Board received the Superintendent's Report, as submitted.

Mr. Morse asked for clarification about NLHS students attending Mitchell and Connecticut Colleges at no charge. Dr. Clouet and Mr. Kinsall advised the Board that the City of New London has an agreement with Mitchell College that City of NL employees – which includes BOE employees - can attend Mitchell College at no charge. Mitchell College and CT College have traditionally allowed NLHS students who take classes at their institution to do so at no charge. After graduation from NLHS, students attending Mitchell or CT College would apply for scholarships to pay for their tuition. Ms. Maynard-Adams stated that when her daughter was a senior at NLHS she took a number of courses at CT College. CT College waived the cost of one course, and she paid for the other courses as well as books and materials. This arrangement is not unusual when a student has acquired most of the credits necessary for graduation. The benefit of this is that the courses taken at CT College are almost always fully transferable. Dr. Clouet added that we have expanded the Advanced Placement course offerings at NLHS that students will be able to use towards college credit.

4.c. Student Representative's Report

The Board received the Student Representative's Report, as submitted.

- Students are preparing for their exams
- For the past few weeks teachers have been devoting extra time to assist students.
- Mitchell College and CT College students have assisted many of our STMHS students in the areas of math and science.
- Our technology staff has been involved with the AP Academy at the high school, a program to help students prepare for the AP exam in the spring. Students take the class one day a week, food is provided and students who take AP classes find this program very helpful. Mr. Luter stated that he would like to thank all those who assisted in making this program available.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Daniel McSparran, Elm Street, New London, a parent, stated that in the Superintendent's Report Dr. Clouet references his comments and his request to the BOE pertaining to the payment of his son's tuition at Three Rivers Community College. The program that the Superintendent references that the student in question did qualify for is new information for Mr. McSparran, and he commented that he wished this was shared with him earlier. Mr. McSparran would appreciate it if details on the specific qualifications were provided to him. The Superintendent also

references that NLHS students can attend Mitchell and CT College at no charge. This is the first he has heard of this. This information is not readily available. It was not shared with him when a meeting was held at NLHS back in August when it was determined that his son was short one elective credit. This information is important enough that it should be shared with parents. If he knew his son could have gone to Mitchell at no cost he would have gone to Mitchell. Again, this is important information that should be shared readily with the community. Mr. McSparran is confused by the Superintendent's comment that it does not seem like a "net loss." What does not seem like a "net loss?" The request for the BOE to provide payment for tuition expenses in his request or the fact that we, as Matthew's parents, need to bear the burden of that expense? The fact remains that the NLBOE is receiving funding from the State of CT because his son is enrolled in the school system. His son is not attending the NLPS and the monies being received, in whole or in part, should be used to pay for his son's tuition cost. He would like to know what the exact amount of funding is that the NLPS receives from all sources for educating his son. The money is coming in from somewhere. If you are not using the money to educate the student for which the money is intended for – should the City and the BOE be receiving those monies? Mr. McSparran had expected to receive a response from the BOE about his request which was about a month ago. He has received nothing from the Board. The Board talks about being transparent and communicating with the community. He does not believe it is just him that is being dealt with this way, he thinks this is just the way things are done. Again, he would like to request that the BOE reimburse him for the cost of classes taken by his son at Three Rivers for this semester as outlined in his request at the November 12th Board of Education meeting. As far as students attending Mitchell and CT College, he would like to be provided with the details of those programs.

Louis E. Allen, Jr. Director of the STMHS, commented that about 50% of the football players that the Board recognized tonight are honor roll students. The Board should duly note that they are not just athletes, they are student athletes. Mr. Luter represents that fact well. These students not only work very hard on the football field, they work exceptionally hard in the classroom. If you have an opportunity next year to go into the cafeteria at 2:15 p.m. everyday, you will see about 60 "student athletes" sitting as quiet as mice working (on academics) very diligently and eating their peanut and jelly sandwiches and then go to workout on the field. To touch base on something Gerald Luter referenced in his report, if you go to NLHS or the STMHS in the next few days after school, you will see first hand, a vibrant student community enhancing their studies by attending the AP Academy. Mr. Allen shared a side comment from the coaches around the state after the Championship Game that our kids were not only great students, they were gentlemen and they represented the City of New London well.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

None.

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Ms. Adams, seconded by Mr. Kinsall,
that the following items, as set forth on the Consent Agenda for the regular Board of Education meeting of December 11, 2008, be approved or received for the record, unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools.

Motion carried, 6 -0

7.2.f. Board Committees:

There were no reports from the following Board committees:

- 7.2.f.1. Administration
- 7.2.f.2. Finance
- 7.2.f.3. Personnel/Legal
- 7.2.f.4. School Building and Maintenance/Technology
- 7.2.f.5. Special Services
- 7.2.f.7. Curriculum Standards Development and Implementation

7.3.e. Board Organizational Meeting – 9100

The Board of Education referred Policy 9100 – Board Organizational Meeting, to the Policy Committee, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.e.

7.3.g. Regular Board Meetings – 9320

The Board of Education referred Policy 9320 – Regular Board Meetings, to the Policy Committee, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.g.

7.3.h. Board Meeting Conduct – 9325

The Board of Education referred Policy 9325 – Board Meeting Conduct, to the Policy Committee, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.h.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

7.1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

7.2. BRIEF INFORMATION AND REPORTS7.2.a. Reforest the Tropics SEMI Program

This item was removed from the agenda.

7.2.b. Science & Technology Magnet High School Report

Motion by Mr. Nolan, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams,
that the Board of Education receive the report on the Science & Technology Magnet High School, as submitted in Exhibit 7.2.b.

Motion carried, 6 -0

7.2.c. After School Programs

Motion by Ms. Morse, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams,
that the Board of Education receive the report on the After-School Programs, as submitted in Exhibit 7.2.c.

Motion carried, 6 - 0

7.2.d. Human Resources Report

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Pearce,
that the Board of Education receive the Human Resources Report, as submitted in Exhibit 7.2.d.

Motion carried, 6 - 0

7.2.e. Operations Report

Motion by Mr. Kinsall, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams,
that the Board of Education receive the Operations Report, as submitted in Exhibit 7.2.3.

Motion carried, 6 - 0

7.2.f. Board Committees:7.2.f.6. Early Childhood Committee

Motion by Mr. Pearce, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams,
that the Board receive Mr. Pearce's report for the record.

Motion carried, 6 - 0

7.3. ACTION ITEMS7.3.a. ROTC Program

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Morse,
that the Board of Education accept the funds from the U.S. Department of Defense for the Naval Jr. ROTC Program and authorize the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Clouet, to establish a funds accrual account, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.a.

Motion carried, 6 - 0

7.3.b. STMHS Tuition

Motion by Mr. Morse, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, that the Board of Education accept the tuition from surrounding towns for students attending the STMHS and authorize the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Clouet, to establish a funds accrual account, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.b.

Motion carried, 6 -0

7.3.c. Private Funding

Motion by Mr. Morse, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, that the Board of Education approve the application for the Community Internet Initiative grant and authorize the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Clouet, to establish a funds accrual account when the grant is approved, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.c.

Motion carried, 6 -0

7.3.d. Pre-Employment Drug Screening Testing – 4112.421

Motion by Mr. Morse, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, that the Board of Education approve the Pre-Employment Drug Screening Testing Policy for its first reading, as recommended by the Policy Committee in Exhibit 7.3.d.

Motion by Mr. Kinsall, seconded by Mr. Morse, that the Board of Education amend the motion to approve the Pre-Employment Drug Screening Testing Policy for its first, and final reading, as recommended by the Policy Committee in Exhibit 7.3.d.

Motion carried, 6 - 0

Vote on Main Motion:

Motion carried, 6 - 0

7.3.f. Board Committees – 9130

Motion by Mr. Morse, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, that the Board of Education refer Policy 9130 – Board Committees, to the Policy Committee, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.f.

Motion carried, 6 -0

7.3.i. 403 (b)

Motion by Mr. Pearce, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, WHEREAS, employees of the New London Public Schools District (the "School District") are saving for retirement by making contributions to Section 403(b) contracts, such as annuity contracts and mutual fund custodial accounts.

WHEREAS, final regulations issued by the Internal Revenue Service require employers like the School District to adopt a written Section 403(b) plan on or before January 1, 2009 if their employees wish to make contributions to Section 403(b) contracts after 2008.

RESOLVED, that the New London Board of Education hereby adopts The Omni Group, Inc. Model 403(b) Retirement Plan Basic Plan Document together with The Omni Group, Inc. Model 403(b) Retirement Plan Adoption Agreement and the selections made on such adoption agreement (copies attached) as the written 403(b) plan for the School District effective January 1, 2009 (the "Omni 403(b) Plan Document").

RESOLVED, that the New London Board of Education reserves the right, in its discretion, to amend, modify, discontinue, or terminate the Omni 403(b) Plan Document and/or the School District's 403(b) plan at any time.

RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools for the School District is authorized to execute the Omni 403(b) Plan Document (including The Omni Group, Inc. Model 403(b) Retirement Plan Adoption Agreement) in the name of and on behalf of the School District and the New London Board of Education.

RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools for the School District is authorized to take any other action in the name of and on behalf of the School District and the New London Board of Education that the Superintendent may deem necessary or appropriate to adopt or implement the Omni Plan Document, including entering into agreements with third party administrators, investment providers, and other service providers.

*Motion carried, 5 – 0
Absent: Mr. Morse*

8. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS AND SETTING OF FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Kinsall:

1. Wished everyone a Happy Holiday.
2. Advised the Board that the next Policy Committee will be held on January 12th at 5:30 p.m.
3. The date of the next Public Relations Committee is TBD.

Dr. Clouet advised the Board that the next Parent Conversations meeting will be on January 6th at 5:30 p.m. in the BDJMS Library and that we anticipate Juventud Magica (Liz Garcia-Gonzalez's dance group) to perform in honor of Three Kings Day.

Mr. Nolan asked that the Board refer the policy that addresses when the public is allowed to speak at the Board meeting.

Mr. Pearce stated that there will be another Early Childhood meeting on January 8th at 5:30 p.m. before the next Board meeting in the small CO Conference Room.

Mr. Morse inquired if the Outback Steakhouse has approached other schools about this partnership. Dr. Clouet responded that this is a national program. He asked if the number of attendees at banquets could be increased to 225 or 250? Dr. Clouet will touch base with them about this.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

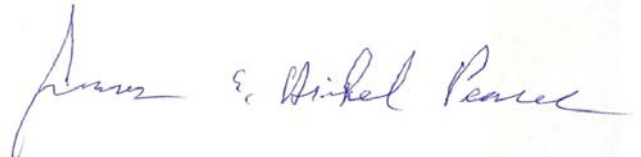
10. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried, 6 – 0

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Dinkel Pearce
Secretary