

The regular meeting of the New London Board of Education was held in the Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School Library on February 12, 2009.

Present:

DRAFT

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

Absent:

None.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Maynard-Adams called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. STUDENT, STAFF AND COMMUNITY PRESENTATION/RECOGNITION

- Silvia Sumba, a student at Adult & Continuing Education, was recognized as Student of the Month.
- Norma Velez, an aide at Adult & Continuing Education, was recognized as Employee of the Month.
- DeAnte Bruton, a 6th grader from BDJMS, was presented a Special Recognition Award for being selected as a participant on the 2009 Jr. NBA/WNBA National Team.

4. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

4.a President's Report

Ms. Maynard-Adams reported that:

- She and Mr. Pearce attended the CABE Area Legislative Breakfast. It was a good opportunity for Board members to discuss with our legislative delegation the funding crisis and to network with area Boards of Education.
- A newly created coalition of Boards of Education is being established. All coalition members are DRG I Urban Districts which represents the poorest

urban school districts in CT. The Chair of the New Britain BOE took the lead role and invited the chairs of DRG I districts for a dinner meeting last week. Ms. Maynard-Adams stated that she will keep our Board apprised of the activities of the new coalition.

4.b. Superintendent's Report

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

4.c. Student Representative's Report

Mr. Gerald Luter, Student Representative, and Lamont Singleton, a senior at NLHS, spoke about the senior projects at NLHS. In the month of January many of the seniors shadowed professionals that share the same interest as the student plans to pursue for his/her career. Mr. Luter stated that he plans to enter the field of law so for the month of January he shadowed Attorney Basilica. This job shadowing provides the students an opportunity to experience what it is like to be in a chosen profession and determine whether or not this is what they really want to do. Mr. Luter shared with the Board the binder that all seniors are required to put together for their senior project which includes a letter of introduction the student writes about him/herself – a letter of intent which goes to the person they will shadow – research, and the student's journal. At the STMHS Mr. Boucher did a great job in helping prepare students to complete their projects and ensure that the final report is a professional document. It has been difficult to find people in the community to shadow. On behalf of the students, Mr. Luter thanked the Board for the opportunity for the seniors to do their senior projects. Lamont Singleton advised the Board that he was considering being a firefighter; but after having the opportunity to shadow someone in that profession, he has decided that fire fighting is not the field he wants to go into. Learning what was expected at the firefighting training academy was a key factor in helping him make his decision.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jack Cochran, Head Football Coach and a teacher at New London High School, thanked the Board for all the support they have given to the football program over the last few years. Mr. Cochran referenced the agenda item whereby the Board will be discussing honoring the team with championship rings. He thanked the Board for thinking about the team and anything they can do will help the kids. The team worked really hard this year and they deserve to be recognized. Mr. Cochran commented that he was fortunate enough to win championships in New Britain and Bloomfield and the Boards of Education and the Town Councils helped out with the cost of the rings in both districts.

Dan McSparran, Elm Street, New London, stated that in November 2008 he requested that the NLBOE reimburse him for the cost of classes that his son was taking at Three Rivers Community College. The request was based on the fact that his son completed the graduation requirements with the exception of one elective credit. The decision for his son to take his senior classes at local colleges was based on a recommendation after meeting with the NLHS Principal and the Guidance Department. Mr. McSparran stated that the State of CT provides funding to the CONL for an education based on the number of students the city has to educate. His son is included in that number. The City received the money based on the fact that his son is enrolled as a student at NLHS. His son does

not attend classes at NLHS. The money received from the State of CT to educate his son should be used to educate his son. Mr. McSparran added that in November he requested the exact sources and amounts received by the BOE to educate his son. The response from this Board was: "It is impossible to break down the funding issue with specificity as the funding for public education is complex." He asked how can this Board prepare a valid budget when the BOE is not able to provide the funding information he requested. The inability of the Board to breakdown the funding issue with specificity concerns him. Mr. McSparran also stated that in response to his request for reimbursement he was told that there is no policy that allows for it. Mr. McSparran referenced agenda item 7.3.q, the allocation of \$2,000 for championship rings, and asked what policy allows the BOE to allocate public funds which are provided for the education of New London students to be used for the purchase of these rings. He emphasized that his issue is not with the football team. His issue is the reckless actions of this BOE. This Board claims to be a "policy Board," and yet does not follow through on published policy. He cited the fact that the Board has not met twice a month as stated in its policy, but tonight the Board plans to change that policy. Mr. McSparran suggests that the Board should meet twice a month to provide more of a forum for the public. Mr. McSparran does not feel that the accessibility and transparency the Board claims to have is there. The Board has portrayed to the City and the community that the budget is barebones with no extras. That is difficult to accept because there appears to be an extra \$2000 that the Board can use for rings. He suggests that there are other ways to secure funding for these rings. It is just about a year since he requested a full, line by line budget from the BOE for this current school year. This Board has refused to provide that budget. In closing Mr. McSparran asked that the Board deny agenda item 7.3.r., Nonresident Students, as the Board has an obligation to adhere to its policy. If the student wants to continue to attend the NLPS the student should have to pay tuition.

Billy Satti, a senior at NLHS and a member of the football team, thanked the Board for doing what they do. There are people outside the district who point fingers, and say how bad it is, but they are not stepping up and doing something to help our school out like the Board members. He also wanted to thank the Board in advance if they do decide to give the money for the rings. The team worked very hard this year. Mr. Satti stated that he is not saying that the team deserves it more than someone else – but the team does deserve it. The football players are all very proud. Whatever the Board decides - winning the championship was great for NLHS, great for New London and great for the community.

Gerald Luter, a senior at NLHS and a member of the football team, stated that it has been a great season and anything the Board can do to help with the purchase of the rings would really be appreciated.

Lou Allen, Hilltop Trail, Salem, Director of the STMHS, commended the NLHS seniors on their senior projects. They've done a great job. They will be presenting their projects this month. If anyone has an opportunity please speak to Mr. Dunham or Mr. Boucher who coordinated the senior projects. You will be very excited about the work that goes into the projects and their final products. Mr. Allen also disseminated copies of the STMHS Newsletter. Finally, Mr. Allen just completed his recruiting for the incoming class for the STMHS. While we had 180 applicants, we are still waiting to see how many accept the spots. In visiting the middle schools in the area Mr. Allen stated that he was pleased at how well the NLPS – particularly NLHS – is thought of. Today he went to Norwich, Preston, Ledyard and Stonington and our students and programs were well received. With the pending budget season he hopes we will be able to maintain our fine

programs and keep New London students in town while attracting students from other districts. On the outside looking in we look good. We are doing a great job, and he thanked the Board for its support.

Nicole Dallas, a parent who is actively involved in the schools, addressed the Board on the negativity that our young men face and struggle with. Ms. Dallas stated that she has seen her son mature so much this past year and accept responsibility for his actions. To have him on the football team has shown him that through hard work and effort on the field, in the hallway and in the classroom you can accomplish your goals. It is difficult for our young men to listen to the naysayers in the community. As a parent she knows what she has to do in the community to raise money for the championship rings, but in these economic times there is not much assistance out there. Ms. Dallas hopes the Board will see fit to do what they can to recognize the student athletes.

Corina Vendetto, Chapel Drive, New London, stated that she is the co-captain of Team Vendetto. She is here tonight to address the concerns that she and her husband have with the number of meetings her son's teacher has to attend which requires that he be out of the classroom with substitute coverage. She asked if there was a way to consolidate the many meetings so that there is more consistency. Mrs. Vendetto stated that a possible solution would be to have a built-in half day, similar to what St. Mary and St. Joseph do. The Shoreline Academy is seeking grant funding to provide for activities for the kids 3 times a week to cover materials as well as teaching staff. 3 times a week will cost approximately \$45,000 for the full year. But one day – maybe every other week – or once a month would result in a tremendous savings and would provide consistency in the educational process.

Deputy Mayor John Maynard, Ashcraft Road, New London, addressed the Board on the allocation of \$2,000 for championship rings for the football team. Mr. Maynard stated that we are in tight budget times. However, he feels that \$2,000 is the least we can do for these kids. If these young men were hanging out on the street corner we would be complaining. These kids worked very hard all year to get what they got, and they deserve the rings. Mr. Maynard stated that he is here to say that if the Board approves the \$2,000, he will be putting a motion on the City Council agenda to match that \$2,000. He stated that it is not about us – it is about the kids. What better way to send our seniors off than with a ring they can look at every day and remember the hard work they put in to get it.

Wayne Vendetto, Chapel Drive, New London, reiterated what his co-captain said. While he did not get a chance to get the exact figure it costs the district for substitutes. Because of the federal standards there are substitutes in the classroom very often. It is disrupting the students' learning and it is an enormous expense. It is something that can be remedied by this Board quite easily. It is not anything difficult – it is a big problem – with a simple solution. Mr. Vendetto asked that the Board look into how often substitutes are being used – how much it costs – and bring this matter up again.

Mitch Kogut, Business Development Leader, Education for the Trane Ingersoll Rand Corporation referenced the Operations Report in which it speaks to energy conservation. He stated that he is working with school districts throughout the state to help make school buildings more energy efficient. TRANE will get the district the extra dollars needed for rings, classroom supplies or for substitute teachers. When we join a school district we become your partners in the process. We would like to work with Mr. Sadler to review what you are spending on all your fuel costs and all your energy with the hope of coming

back maybe next year and save you anywhere from 10% to 30% in your energy budget line item.

Evelyn Louziotis, Lower Blvd, New London, thanked the gentleman for his comments to reduce the budget. Ms. Louziotis suggested to the Board that there is a state statute that allows the combining of two schools so that the expenses for the superintendent's perks and benefits can be shared. It has been done in other districts, and she thinks it is something to look at. As for the rings, yes they did a good job. However, to give the kids the rings is wrong. She stated that she bought her own class ring and paid her own way when she went to Washington. There are other ways to give recognition to these kids other than an expensive ring. We have money for rings but not for school books.

- Responses to Public Comments
 - Anthony Nolan guaranteed the football team that they will get their rings.
 - Alvin Kinsall spoke in response to Mr. and Mrs. Vendetto regarding too many meetings for teachers. He advised them that on this evening's agenda we will be addressing that issue by increasing the number of early dismissals on the school calendar so that the teachers can then have the necessary time to hold their meetings and so as not to disrupt the learning process.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Kinsall, seconded by Mrs. Connolly,
that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of January 8, 2009, as submitted.

Motion carried, 7 - 0

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mrs. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Kinsall,
that the following items, as set forth on the Consent Agenda for the regular Board of Education meeting of February 12, 2009, be approved or received for the record, unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools.

Motion carried, 7 - 0

7.3.a. Field Trips and Excursions - 6153

The Board of Education approved the request for the Dual Language Arts Academy to travel to Puerto Rico during the April 2010 vacation, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.a.

7.3.g. Policy Adoption
Board Organizational Meeting: 9100

The Board of Education approved the proposed changes to the Board Organizational Meeting Policy, for their first and final reading, as recommended by the Policy Committee in Exhibit 7.3.g.

7.3.i. Policy Adoption
Regular Board Meetings: 9320

The Board of Education approved the proposed changes to the Regular Board Meetings Policy, for their first and final reading, as recommended in Exhibit 7.3.i.

7.3.j. Policy Adoption
Board Meeting Conduct: 9325

The Board of Education approved the proposed changes to the Board Meeting Conduct Policy, for their first and final reading, as recommended in Exhibit 7.3.j.

7.3.k. Private Grant Funding:

The Board of Education approved the application for the Arts Presentation Grant through the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism, and authorized the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Clouet, to establish a funds accrual account when the grant is approved, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.k.

7.3.m Private Grant Funding

The Board of Education approved the Frank Loomis Palmer Fund grant application to support the after-school drama program for Jennings Elementary School students, and authorized the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Clouet, to establish a funds accrual account when the grant is approved, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.m.

7.3.n Private Grant Funding

The Board of Education approved the Frank Loomis Palmer Fund grant application to support scholarships for the Friendship School after-school child care program and authorized the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Clouet, to establish a funds accrual account when the grant is approved, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.n

7.3.o. Private Grant Funding

The Board of Education approved the Society of Manufacturing Engineering (SME) Gateway Academy grant application to support the STMHS and authorized the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Clouet, to establish a funds accrual account when the grant is approved, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.o

7.3.r. Nonresident Students – 5118

The Board of Education approved the request of a temporary guardian who resides in Waterford to allow her niece to remain at BDJMS through the end of the 08-09 School Year tuition free, provided the guardian transports the student to and from school at her own expense, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.r.

7.2. BRIEF INFORMATION AND REPORTS

The Board of Education received the following reports for the record:

7.2.e. Board Committees:

- 7.2.e.1. Administration (No report)
- 7.2.e.2. Finance (No report)
- 7.2.e.3. Personnel/Legal (No report)
- 7.2.e.4. School Building and Maintenance/Technology (No report)
- 7.2.e.5. Special Services (No report)
- 7.2.e.6. Early Childhood

END OF CONSENT AGENDA7.3.q. NLHS Whaler Football Team

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Nolan, that the Board of Education allocate \$2,000 towards the purchase of championship rings for the NLHS Whaler Football Team.

***Motion carried, 6 – 1
Voting No: Mrs. Connolly***

7.2.f. Challenger Learning Center

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Morse, that the Board of Education receive the report on the Challenger Learning Center of SECT.

Motion carried, 7 - 0

7.1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Motion by Mrs. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Kinsall,
that the Board of Education approve the change in Christine Carver's contract from Interim Assistant Superintendent to Assistant Superintendent, as was previously reviewed and approved by the Board.

Motion carried, 6 - 1
Voting No: Mrs. Garcia-Gonzalez

7.2. BRIEF INFORMATION AND REPORTS7.2.a. Black History Month Activities

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mrs. Connolly,
that the Board of Education receive the report on Black History Month Activities for the record.

Motion carried, 7 - 0

7.3.b. School Improvement Plans (Action Item)

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Pearce,
that the Board of Education approve the School Improvement Plan for New London High School, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.b.

Motion carried, 7 - 0

7.2.b. Winter Session at NLHS

Motion by Mr. Morse, seconded by Mrs. Connolly,
that the Board of Education receive the report on Winter Sessions, as submitted in Exhibit 7.2.b.

Motion carried, 7 - 0

7.3.b. School Improvement Plans (Action Item)

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Kinsall,
that the Board of Education approve the School Improvement Plan for Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.b.

Motion carried, 7 - 0

7.2.c. Human Resources Report

Motion by Mr. Pearce, seconded by Mrs. Connolly,
that the Board of Education receive the Human Resources Report, as submitted.

Motion carried, 7 - 0

7.2.d Operations Report

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

Motion carried, 7 – 0

7.2.e.7. Curriculum Standards Development and Implementation Committee

Motion by Mr. Morse, seconded by Mr. Kinsall,
that the Board receive the Curriculum Standards Development and
Implementation Committee Report.

Motion carried, 7 - 0

7.3. ACTION ITEMS7.3.c. Superintendent's Resignation

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Kinsall,
that the Board of Education accept for the record the resignation of
Dr. Christopher P. Clouet as Superintendent of the New London
Public Schools, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.c.

Ms. Maynard-Adams stated for the record, "It is my sad duty to move to accept for the record the resignation of Dr. Christopher P. Clouet as our Superintendent of Schools.

I believe I speak for the full Board of Education in expressing our heart felt thanks to Dr. Clouet for his superb leadership that has transformed us from the fractured school system he stepped into to a district moving forward as one to conquer the myriad of challenges facing us. I am also speaking for the Board when I say that the Board is committed to following the path Dr. Clouet and his team have established for New London, and we will continue to follow each step of our District Improvement Plan and monitor our progress. Dr. Clouet has left the keys to success in our hands. The Board of Education will use those keys to continue to open doors for our students.

On a personal note, I want to wish Dr. and Mrs. Clouet every success as they begin a new chapter in their lives. Thank you for your dedication, and for your passion. Godspeed, Mr. Superintendent."

*Motion carried, 6 – 1
Voting No: Mrs. Connolly*

7.3.d. Superintendent Search

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Kinsall, that the Board of Education form an Executive Personnel Search Committee consisting initially of all members of the Board of Education. The Executive Personnel Search Committee is charged with recommending the hiring of a search consultant to the Board of Education, and recommending no more than three candidates for the position of Superintendent of Schools.

Motion carried, 4 – 3

*Voting No: Mrs. Connolly
Mr. Kinsall
Mr. Morse*

7.3.e. School Year/School Calendar

Motion by Mr. Pearce, seconded by Mrs. Connolly that the Board of Education table the proposed 2009-2010 School Calendar, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.e. for the purpose of referring the calendar to the Administrative Council and the New London Education Association for their input.

Motion carried, 7 - 0

7.3.f. Education Funding Resolution

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mrs. Connolly, that the Board of Education approve the resolution which requests that all DRG I districts be exempt from any state cuts in education funding, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.f.

Motion carried, 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. Nolan

7.3.h. Policy Adoption
Board Committees: 9130

Motion by Mr. Kinsall, seconded by Mrs. Connolly, that the Board of Education approve the proposed changes to the Board Committees Policy, for their first and final reading, as recommended in Exhibit 7.3.h.

Motion carried, 4 – 3

*Absent: Ms. Maynard-Adams
Mrs. Garcia-Gonzalez
Mr. Nolan*

7.3.1 Private Grant Funding

Motion by Mr. Pearce, seconded by Mrs. Connolly, that the Board of Education approve the Frank Loomis Palmer Fund grant application to support the NLHS Literary and Arts Magazine, and authorize the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Clouet, to establish a funds accrual account when the grant is approved, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.1.

Motion carried, 5 – 0
Absent: Ms. Maynard-Adams
Mr. Nolan

7.3.p. Budget Planning – 3110

Motion by Mrs. Connolly, seconded by Mr. Morse, that the Board of Education refer the issue of potential reductions of current personnel, benefits and compensation to the Legal/Personnel Committee for discussion and action.

Motion carried, 6 – 0
Absent: Mr. Nolan

8. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS AND SETTING OF FUTURE BUSINESS

- A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 18th, at 5:30 p.m.
- A Legal/Personnel Committee meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 18th, at 7:30 p.m.
- Mrs. Garcia-Gonzalez reminded the Board that she is the Board's representative to Metrocast, and asked if there was any information Board members would like her to share with the Metrocast Advisory Committee.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session

10. ADJOURNMENT

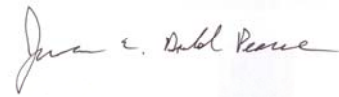
Motion by Mr. Kinsall, seconded by Mrs. Connolly,
that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting.

Motion carried, 6 – 0

Absent: Mr. Nolan

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

James E. Dinkel-Pearce
Secretary