

The regular meeting of the New London Board of Education was held in the Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School Library on October 22, 2008.

PRESENT:

Draft

Ms. Elaine Maynard-Adams, Vice President
Dr. Christopher P. Clouet, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Susan Connolly
Mrs. Elizabeth Garcia-Gonzalez, Secretary (Arrived at 7:55 p.m.)
Mr. Alvin Kinsall, President
Mr. William Morse
Mr. Anthony Nolan
Mr. James Pearce

ABSENT:

None.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kinsall called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. STUDENT, STAFF AND COMMUNITY PRESENTATION/RECOGNITION

- Gerald Luter, a senior at New London High School, was recognized as Student of the Month.
- Lorraine Saglam, a Winthrop School parent, was recognized as Volunteer of the Month.
- Erin McGuire, a guidance counselor at New London High School, was recognized as Employee of the Month.
- Denise Swiatek, a teacher at the Science & Technology Magnet High School, was recognized for being selected as Education of the Year by the Mystic Aquarium and Exploration Institute.
- Andrea Almonte, a New London High student, was recognized for her outstanding work in the Health Pipeline Program Partnership. Miss Almonte was presented a Certificate of Recognition from Senator Andrea Stillman.
- Deidra Belcher, a New London High School student, was recognized for her outstanding work in the Health Pipeline Program Partnership. Miss Belcher was also presented a Certificate of Recognition from Senator Andrea Stillman.
- Michael Sorano, Architect of the Science & Technology Magnet High School and Jennings School, received special recognition for his outstanding work and for his commitment and dedication to the students and staff of the New London Public Schools.
- Alvin Kinsall, President of the Board of Education, was recognized for being selected as the New London Public School's Military/Superintendent's Volunteer of the Year.

4. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

4.a. President's Report

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

4.b. Superintendent's Report

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

4.c. Student Representative's Report

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rhonda Phelps, Viets Street, a parent of a New London High School student, advised the Board that there was a food fight in the NLHS patio area that her son and other students were involved in and for which her son received a 10-day suspension. Ms. Phelps feels this discipline is excessive, and she is concerned that the high school offered no other options. Ms. Phelps asked that the Board look into the disciplinary action taken by the administration.

Michael Burgess, West Street, New London, a NLHS parent and a representative of the Parent Advocacy Council (PAC) at NLHS, stated that the PAC would like the Board to consider a school uniform policy for NLHS students. Mr. Burgess stated that there are dress code guidelines, but students tend to bend those guidelines quite a bit. He commented that the uniform policy at BDJMS gives students different options, and it worked out very well for his children when they attended the middle school.

Mr. Burgess also advised the Board that he has a special education child who is not allowed to ride the bus home. He informed the Board that last year his child was hit by a car while walking to BDJMS at a corner where there was no crossing guard. The next day there was a crossing guard at that location. Mr. Burgess requests that his son be transported home from school.

Frederica Gunther, Niles Hill Road Waterford, a teacher at NLHS, addressed the Board as an advocate for the parents and students and spoke about the need to look at transporting all NLPS students to school. Ms. Gunther stated that currently elementary students who live within a mile of school, middle school students who live within 1.5 miles of BDJMS and high school students who live within 2 miles of NLHS are not eligible for transportation and must walk to school. This is problematic for many of our parents. Ms. Gunther challenged those in attendance tonight and asked if they would allow their child to walk a mile to school at 6:30 a.m. in the rain and the snow when the streets are often times not plowed. This is a safety issue. Ms. Gunther stated that our students deserve to be transported to school, and she asked the Board to look into this.

Responses to Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mrs. Connolly,
that the minutes of the regular meeting of September 10, 2008, be approved, as submitted.

Motion carried, 6 - 0

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 October 22, 2008, be approved or received for the record, unless removed by a Board member or the Superintendent of Schools.

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Morse,
that the Board of Education add to its agenda item 7.3.0. the allocation of \$500 to add to the reward fund being offered through the New London Fire Department for the Jennings School arsonist.

Motion carried, 6 - 0

ALL CONSENT ITEMS NOT REMOVED HAVING THE UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ARE HEREBY ADOPTED WITH A SINGLE ROLL CALL VOTE.

Vote on main motion:

Motion carried, 6 - 0

7.1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

7.2. BRIEF INFORMATION AND REPORTS

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

7.2.b. Data Fair Report

7.2.e. Board Committees

7.2.e.1. Administration

7.2.e.3. Personnel/Legal

7.2.e.4. School Building and Maintenance/Technology

7.2.e.5. Special Services

7.2.e.6. Early Childhood

7.2.e.7. Curriculum Standards Development and Implementation

7.3. ACTION ITEMS7.3.a. Assistant Superintendent

The Board of Education approved the appointment of Christine Carver as Assistant Superintendent, effective October 27, 2008.

7.3.c. State and Federal Aid Eligibility Determination – 3220/3230

The Board of Education approved the grant application for the Interdistrict Magnet School Funds under the Interdistrict Cooperative Grant Program for the Dual Language Arts Academy, 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.c.

7.3.d. State and Federal Aid Eligibility Determination – 3220/3230

The Board of Education approved the grant application for the Bilingual Education 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.d.

7.3.e. State and Federal Aid Eligibility Determination – 3220/3230

The Board of Education approved the grant application for the Family Learning Curriculum Connections Project 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.e.

7.3.f. State and Federal Aid Eligibility Determination – 3220/3230

The Board of Education approved the application for the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) After School Program Development (Year Two-2008) Grant 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.f.

7.3.g. State and Federal Aid Eligibility Determination – 3220/3230

The Board of Education approved the application for the 2008-2009 NLPS 2% ECS Accountability Grant 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.g.

7.3.i. State and Federal Aid Eligibility Determination – 3220/3230

The Board of Education approved the application for the Mathematics and Science Partnership Program Grant (Science) 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.i.

7.3.k. State and Federal Aid Eligibility Determination – 3220/3230

The Board of Education approved the application for the 2008-2009 NLPS Federal Consolidated Grant 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.l. State and Federal Aid Eligibility Determination – 3220/3230

That the Board of Education approved the application for the Title III Part A English Language Acquisition portion of the Federal Consolidated Grant 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.l.

7.3.m. Policy Adoption: 9311
Non-Resident Students – Tuition: 5118

The Board of Education approved the revised Non-Resident Students' Tuition Rates, for their first and final reading, as submitted in Exhibit 7.3.m.

7.3.o. Budget Planning

The Board of Education approved the allocation of \$500 to add to the reward fund being offered through the New London Fire Department for the Jennings School arsonist.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

7.2. BRIEF INFORMATION AND REPORTS

7.2.a. Status of the Budget Report

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mrs. Connolly,
that the Board of Education receive the Status of the Budget Report, as submitted in Exhibit 7.2.a.

Motion carried, 6 – 0

7.2.c. Human Resources Report

Motion by Mr. Morse, seconded by Mrs. Connolly,
that the Board of Education receive the Human Resources Report, as
submitted in Exhibit 7.2.c.

Motion carried, 6 – 0

7.2.d Operations Report

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mrs. Connolly,
that the Board of Education receive the Operations Report for the record, as
submitted in Exhibit 7.2.d.

Motion carried, 7 – 0

7.2.e. Board Committees:7.2.e.2. Finance

Motion by Mr. Pearce, seconded by Mrs. Connolly,
that the Board of Education receive the Finance Committee
Report, as submitted in Exhibit 7.2.e.2.

Motion carried, 7 - 0

7.3. ACTION ITEMS7.3.b. Budget Planning: 3110

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Morse,
that the Board of Education, as recommended by the Finance
Committee:

- Establish no cap for the development of the 2009-2010
Budget
- Require any requests for new positions or new programs or
new funding be accompanied by a narrative describing how
that new position relates to our District Wide Improvement
Plan
- Ask the Superintendent and his administrative staff to
review all current and existing programs and to use their
best professional judgment in determining whether those
programs are accomplishing their goals and should continue
to be funded. If a program is not meeting its goal, can it be
tweaked or should those resources be diverted elsewhere?
- Ask the administration to look into space and staffing
requirements if we were to reduce Kindergarten and/or
Grade 1 classes to 20 or 18

Motion carried, 7 - 0

7.3.h. State and Federal Aid Eligibility Determination – 3220/3230

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mrs. Connolly, that the Board of Education approve the application for the Mathematics and Science Partnership Program Grant (Math) 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.h.

Motion carried, 7 - 0

7.3.j. State and Federal Aid Eligibility Determination – 3220/3230

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mrs. Connolly, that the Board of Education approve the application for the 2008-2009 NLPS 21st Century Community Learning Centers 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.j.

Motion carried, 7 - 0

7.3.n. Construction Project

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mr. Morse, that the Board of Education accept the NLHS Roof Project #095-0083 complete, as noted in the attached AIA documents, and direct the administration to file the necessary documents with the State Department of Education to close out the project.

Motion carried, 7 - 0

8. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS AND SETTING OF FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Kinsall advised the Board that there will be a Policy Committee meeting on November 5th at 5:30 p.m. and a Public Relations Committee meeting on November 6th at 5:30 p.m. in the Central Office Conference Room.

Mr. Morse stated that there will be a Curriculum Committee meeting on November 18th at 4 p.m.

Ms. Maynard-Adams reminded the Board that there will be a Finance Committee meeting on November 12th at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the BDJMS Library.

Mr. Kinsall informed the Board that the November Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12th.

Mr. Morse referenced 7.3.k. and questioned what percent of the 1.28 million dollars in Title I monies goes toward salaries. Mrs. Carver responded approximately \$1 million.

Ms. Maynard-Adams requested a report for the next Board meeting or the December Board meeting on all the after-school programs offered at the elementary level and how many students are involved in each program. Ms. Maynard-Adams clarified that she is looking for all after-school programs that the NLPS operate or that we offer in partnership with another organization – regardless of whether it is locally or grant funded.

Mr. Nolan asked if we have a stipend to pay individuals to translate at various meetings, activities or events. Mrs. Carver clarified the difference between translating and interpreting. Dr. Clouet emphasized that it is very difficult to secure a translator in some languages, such as Urdu. The administration was asked to look into the matter and bring a recommendation back to the Board.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9.a. Legal Matters

9.b. Legal Matters

Motion by Mrs. Connolly, seconded by Ms. Maynard-Adams, that the Board of Education recess to Executive Session to discuss the following and invite Dr. Clouet, Ms. Tamano, Mrs. Whalen and Mrs. Carver to attend:

9.a. Pending litigation involving workers compensation related to an employee on-the-job injury

9.b. Active litigation of a Superior Court suit involving a staff complaint

Motion carried, 7 – 0

The Board recessed to Executive Session at 8:43 p.m.

The Board reconvened to open session at 9:31 p.m.

Mr. Kinsall stated that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Maynard-Adams, seconded by Mrs. Garcia-Gonzalez, that the Board adjourn its meeting.

Motion carried, 7 – 0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Garcia Gonzalez".

Elizabeth Garcia-Gonzalez
Secretary

Executive Session

The New London Board of Education met in Executive Session at 8:48 p.m.

PRESENT:

Ms. Elaine Maynard-Adams, Vice President
Mrs. Christine Carver, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Christopher P. Clouet, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Susan Connolly
Mrs. Elizabeth Garcia-Gonzalez, Secretary
Mr. Alvin Kinsall, President
Mr. William Morse
Mr. Anthony Nolan
Mr. James Pearce
Ms. Valerie A. Tamano, Administrative Aide
Mrs. Maria Z. Whalen, Director of Business and Finance

ABSENT:

None.

The Board discussed agenda items 9.a. and 9.b., Legal Matters.

The Board recessed its Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth Garcia-Gonzalez
Secretary