



NEW LONDON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



District and BoE Subcommittee Updates

May 27, 2021

united in excellence

District Sub-Committees

Committee Name	Committee Leads
Attendance Committee	Rachel Newer & Beth McCaffery
District Parent Leadership & Parent Advisory	Jenn Hills-Papetti
DELT/DELTA	Kate McCoy & Jose Ortiz
Technology Committee	Tim Enos & Leah Champ-Burdick
Magnet Pathways Committee	Kate McCoy & Tim Enos
PDEC	Jenn Hills-Papetti & Rich Baez
Employee Recognition Committee	Grace Sanchez
SEL Committee	Carrie Rivera
PBIS Committee	Maureen Bransfield
EL/Bilingual/Cultural Competencies Committee	Maribel Olivero
Early Childhood Committee	Valerie Kelsey
Special Education Advisory	Valerie Kelsey
Committee for Excellence in Staff Diversity	Bob Stacy

Board of Education Sub-Committees

Committee Name	Committee Leads
Curriculum Committee	Regina Mosley
Finance & Audit Committee	Jefferey Hart
Policy Committee	Elaine Maynard-Adams
School Facilities & Program Design Committee	Bryan Doughty

District Attendance Team

Accomplishments:

- Response to attendance and engagement during a pandemic
- Formalizing a districtwide Home Visit protocol & form
- Using data to drive decisions, practices and improvement
- Participation in the CSDE Professional Learning Network focusing on attendance initiatives

Immediate Next Steps:

- Participation in New London Street Festival
- Summer-Long Attendance Campaign with community partners

Long-Term Next Steps:

- Review of practice using self-assessment tool
- Re-establishing pre-pandemic attendance taking practices
- Refining responses to chronic attendance

District Parent Leadership & Parent Advisory

2020-2021 Accomplishments

- Had three meetings
- Shifted to the district model of more school-based meetings such as coffee hours and family workshops to better meet the needs of families

Plans for the Future

- Will shift the model to have a parent leader in every school
- Will continue to find ways to work together with families to provide the best experiences for our students

DELT 2021

- Multiple DELT and DELTA meetings since August
- Equity Training: Courageous Conversations about Race held monthly since January in each building
- Aspiring Leaders of Color and Yancy Forum
- Culturally Relevant Curriculum Audits
- Parent Book Study: Nicole Broadus
- Racial Narrative Project partnering with Conn College
- Equity Transformation Plan edits and revisions
- Beginning collaborative creation of: “Portrait of NLPS Anti-Racism Educator”

District Technology Committee

- K-12 Technology Skills Crosswalk
 - A map of skills that all students should know and be able to do when they graduate from New London Public Schools
- District Technology Goals
 - Recommended DIP focus areas for next year
- “Tech Tips with Timmy”
 - Informative technology tips interwoven into the staff newsletter
- Learning Management System Review and Recommendation
 - Explored and participated in demonstrations of various LMS systems to ensure our students had access to the best digital environment possible

Magnet Pathways Committee

- International Education
 - C. B. Jennings International Elementary School Operations Plan
 - International Baccalaureate Timeline Updates
- Arts
 - Curriculum Development Focus (New Course Offerings)
 - Planning for Safe Arts Instruction during COVID – First Live Performance!!!
- STEM
 - Curriculum Development (Alignment Between Pathways & New Programs)
 - Senior Capstone Pathway Accessibility



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PDEC

2020-2021 Accomplishments

- Established flexibilities for TEVAL Plan
- Sub committee for feedback form for professional development
- Analyzed characteristics of effective professional development
- Concluded all professional development provided will be housed in one place so it can be accessed for follow up

Plans for the Future

- Finalize feedback form at June Meeting
- Develop a finalized plan for professional development for 2021-2022 school year once PD days have been finalized

Employee Recognition Committee

- The Employee Recognition Committee (ERC) has been active:
 - Starting with the month of April, the Committee has randomly selected one person at each location to present with a themed basket. The theme for April was The Sunshine Basket. Its intention was to make our employees smile, and to know that they are appreciated. For the month of May, the basket theme will be A Picnic in the Park. The Committee will continue to spread some joy to our staff until the end of the school year and begin again in the Fall.
 - The week of May 3rd – 7th, New London Public Schools celebrates its staff during Staff Appreciation Week, and the ERC planned a week full of celebrations for the whole district. The theme this year was food! The staff were treated to breakfast, lunch, snacks and a special surprise to end the week.
 - The committee has a few more surprises for the staff that will be launched soon!

District SEL Committee

The purpose of this committee is to strengthen the social emotional experiences of our children, teachers, parents and the community in NLPS. Social Emotional Learning is intended to teach children specific social-emotional skills like self-awareness, self-management, empathy, perspective taking and cooperation. The SEL Committee aims to bring social emotional learning skills to the NLPS community through various programs including parenting skills workshops and professional development.

- District strengths and what is going well
 - SEL has been prioritized this year and acknowledged as a priority for school success
 - Kickboard has shown a significant positive impact on addressing behavior and has been used to target specific environments in need of support
 - District wide pacing guide has been critical to keeping everyone on the same lesson and building consistency
 - There has been a lot of excitement and engagement at the high school with the new SEL curriculum
 - Connections to families and providing SEL/mental health supports has been very effective this year
- Concerns that have been discussed
 - The balance between SEL and academic demands is challenging- teachers still feel the need to forgo SEL for academic instruction
 - Lacking elementary health curriculum which would add another layer to SEL supports
 - Providing needed SEL training to new teachers so that implementation and knowledge is consistent
 - Some buildings need a dedicated block and a broken SEL lesson throughout the day
 - Fidelity monitoring of SEL instruction
 - Lack of consistency in implementation of Restorative Practices across buildings
- Committee Recommendations
 - Survey staff about SEL implementation and ongoing supports
 - Deescalation training needed for teachers
 - Add Restorative Practices to pacing guide
 - Add meditation and mindfulness to curriculum
 - Space to talk and practice SEL for adults, time to digest what is learned and truly integrate into practice
 - More time is needed with Circles in the classrooms
 - Analyzing and infusing diversity into lessons- how diverse are our SEL lessons?
 - Implement more SEL for adults
 - Elementary mentoring supports

Chair: Carrie Rivera

PBIS

- Elementary

- Expectations fully implemented with COVID overlay
- Kickboard being used for rewards

- High School

- Proactive team
- Weekly meetings
- Student weekly community meeting
- Draft of matrix completed
- Draft of handbook being finalized

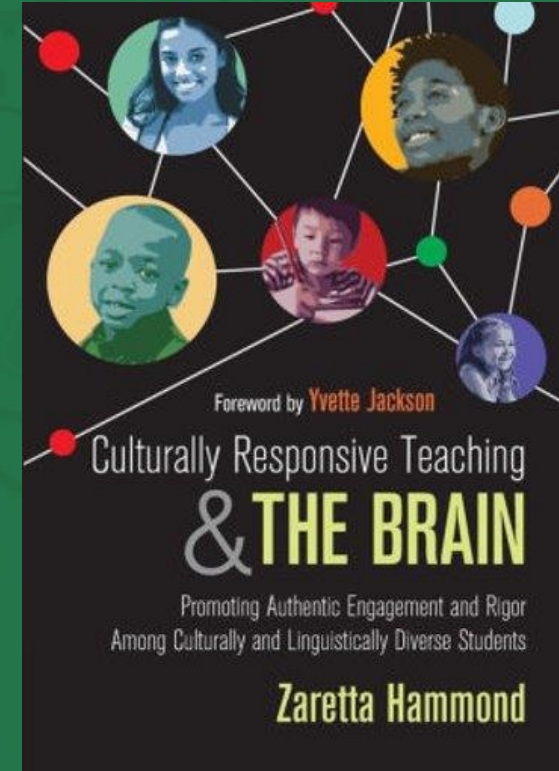
- Middle School

- Expectations fully implemented with COVID overlay
- Reteach for second semester
- Next steps to pilot kickboard rewards

MLL (EL) & Bilingual/Cultural Competencies Committee

Vision: To support the creation of an educational environment that validates and integrates diversity in and out of the classroom.

- During the 2020-2021 academic year, the team met 4 times.
- Book study: most members presented on each of the sections in the book.
- Made connections with the book's recommended practices and district practices.
- Discussions about the need and importance of students seeing themselves in the curriculum and the instructional strategies that are used in their learning environments.
- Brainstormed ideas to support building and district level work.
- Our goal is roll out the book district wide. Will work with the academic office to plan for the coming school year and determine feasibility.



Early Childhood Committee

The committee was charged with building capacities across the preschool program.

Accomplishments:

- Applied for continuation of Harbor Smart Start grant
- Applied for four new Smart Start classes for fall
- New preschool curriculum purchased– *“Objectives for Development and Learning Birth through Third grade”*
- Scheduled professional development for this summer on new curriculum
- Adopted team approach to preschool evaluations
- Superintendent has done many collaborative efforts with City and community agencies to further build resources and services and expand partnerships for the preschool population

Special Education Committee

Goal for the Committee – to review Least Restrictive Environments (LRE) for New London Public School students with disabilities .

- Review the guidelines and resource tools on CT state education website.
- Review NLPS LRE data for the last few years as a baseline for improvement.
- Plan to do an internal audit of our programs and students in 21-22 school year.

Chair: Valerie Kelsey

Committee for Excellence in Staff Diversity

- The Committee for Excellence in Staff Diversity has been active and created several subcommittees to focus on the following:

Closing out the LEARN Grant and Long-Term Scholarship Planning

- The subcommittee partnered with the New London Education Foundation to serve as the fiduciary for the four scholarships to be awarded to students of color seeking a career in education. Scholarship winners will be announced at the Class Day celebration.
- The subcommittee will work to establish a standing scholarship fund long-term.

Marketing NLPS and Recruitment

- Developing new NLPS marketing materials to sell the City of New London as a destination of choice as well as New London Public Schools as an employer of choice.

Retention Strategies

- Looking at the drivers that impact retaining our teaching staff and creating incentives to stay in New London.

Teacher Support

- Creating support groups and development opportunities for our teachers of color, especially those new to the district



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BoE – Curriculum Committee

- Accomplishments
 - Received Updates on
 - 6-12 Curriculum Development
 - Distance Learning Platforms
 - Pacing Guides
 - World Language Course Developments
 - Math/Science Curriculum Options
 - Approved and Recommended the Use of a Textbook Approval Form
 - Approved and Recommended the Following Curricula:
 - Addition of Writing to High School ELA Course
 - Units of Culinary Curriculum

BoE – Finance & Audit Committee

- Accomplishments
 - Reviewed and Recommended FY22 Budget Timeline and Process
 - Reviewed preliminary cost and revenue driver assumptions for FY22 budget development
 - Reviewed the Proposed NLPS Capital Improvement Plan and directed discussion with City finance for request to Bond project costs
 - Reviewed and Recommended Line-Item Transfers
 - Reviewed Monthly Financial Reports
 - Continued Discussion of the Student Activity Funds

BoE – Policy Committee

- Accomplishments

- Reviewed, Updated and Recommended for Approval Approximately 90 Policies Since August 2020
- Received a Report Regarding the Implementation of Policies at the High School Level
- Recommended Policies to be reviewed by administration for further updates
 - 0523 – Equity & Diversity: to be reviewed by DELT and the Human Resources Department
 - 5132.1 – Dress Code & Uniform Policy: to be reviewed by administration with feedback from staff, parents and students

BoE – School Facilities & Program Design Committee

Accomplishments:

- Reviewed and Recommended for Approval the NLPS Capital Improvement Plan
- Reviewed Phasing Plans for the North Campus Project
- Recommended Obtaining an Updated Enrollment Report for the District
- Reviewed Playground Facilities and Related Maintenance Information
- Received a Report Regarding the Proposed New London Community Center
- Received Regular Enrollment Updates
- Received Regular Construction Project Updates