

My name is Bryan Doughty and I am a member of the New London Board of Education serving as Secretary, a member of the Commissioner's Network team for New London High School, and a proud parent of three graduates of New London Public Schools.

In 2017, New London Public Schools embarked on a long search for a new Superintendent. At the time, I was fortunate enough, as a parent, to be a part of this search committee and eventually selected as one of the five committee members to participate in the final interview process.

We were seeking a Superintendent who would fearlessly lead a district no matter what may be thrown at them, would make the hard decisions, lead by example, and always look forward.

At the end of this arduous hiring process, Cynthia Ritchie was selected. She was the RIGHT person at the time and she has shown that she is the right person today. She has developed a new culture in New London Public Schools. A culture of accountability and a Vision where we are "United in Excellence".

As I am sure you are aware, this phrase, “United in Excellence”, permeates throughout our Commissioner’s Network applications, but I would like to reiterate what this Vision truly means:

this means to be united in common systems, curriculum, assessments and high-leverage instructional practices, and the shared understanding that all will rise to promote high expectations for students, and for each other, as we strive for excellence.

To truly be “United in Excellence” and implement any Commissioner’s Network plan and at its core, a district will need strong leadership at all levels. It is not about one school on an island, but rather a district working together. We are fortunate to have Dr. Jose Ortiz at our High School, Chris Vamvakides at our Middle School, and various leaders at our Elementary Schools who always put the needs of our students first. We are seamless and building a school system that other districts should and will admire long into the future.

With this leadership team in place, the continued support of the Connecticut Department of Education, and entry

into the Commissioner's Network, New London will be one step closer to providing the support that our staff needs and our students require as they complete their academic journey. We are not in this alone. We are partners, and together we will actively participate with our youth as they grow and become the leaders of the future.

I ask this committee to have faith in New London Public Schools, our leaders, our plan, and to vote to admit New London Public Schools into the Commissioner's Network. Our district is "United in Excellence", and I ask you to join us.

I thank you for your time.

Bryan Doughty