

## Board Notes — April 24, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Education of Newton Unified School District 373 convened in open and public session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 24, 2023, in the Newton High School Auditorium located at 900 W 12<sup>th</sup>, Newton, KS.

**Members Present:** Luke Edwards, Brenna Haines, Mallory Morton, Andy Ortiz, Melissa Schreiber, Dayna Steinmetz, and Matt Treaster

**Others Present:** Superintendent Fred Van Ranken, Assistant Superintendent Sheila Wendling, Director of Business/Human Resources Jane Nichols, Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk Joni Jantz, and Director of Communications Carly Stavola

### 1. Opening of Meeting

Mallory Morton called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.  
 Mallory Morton led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
 — Adopt the agenda as presented.

### 2. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:  
 — Approve the April 10, 2023 minutes as presented.  
 — Approve the bills as presented.  
 — Approve the March 2023 Treasurer’s Report.  
 — Approve the April 24, 2023 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Torres	Jacob	Mechanic	Transportation	4/28/2023		x
Casey	Amanda	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	5/3/2023		x
Buller	Abigail	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	4/21/2023		x
Kauffman	Jeffrey	Teacher	NHS	5/26/2023		x
Hanzlicek	Edna	Admin Assistant	SC	6/1/2023		x
Meredith	Levi	Custodian	NHS	4/18/2023		x
Yoder	Hanna	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	5/25/2023		x
Wirtz	Ashley	Teacher	Cooper	5/26/2023		x
LeFevre	Alexa	Teacher	NR	5/26/2023		x
Baysinger	Melissa	IR Sp. Ed. Tchr	CMS	8/1/2023	x	
Pfannenstiel	Ashlea	6th Grade Tchr	SF	8/1/2023	x	
Cowden	Trianna	Food Service	Walton	4/24/2023	x	

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer
Lembke-Beckham	Sandra	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	3/30/2023	IR Para 4.75 hrs/day/ED Para 2hrs/day
Miller	Sarah	Nurse	NHS	8/10/2023	Head Nurse
Voth	Angela	CTE Admin Assistant	NHS	6/1/2023	12 Month Admin Assistant @ NHS
Letcher	Robyn	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	4/24/2023	Add AM aide 25 min/day
Nagel	Megan	Principal	NR	8/17/2023	Principal @ SB

Resignation/Termination/Transfer/Change of Assignment shall be deemed accepted upon approval of this report by the Board of Education.

- Approve the 2023-24 Student Fees as presented.
- Approve the bid proposal in the amount of \$2,344,478 for the high school HVAC package.
- Approve the purchase of a CO2 laser machine from DEPCO for a total of \$24,585.00.
- Approve increasing the maintenance wage rate to \$16.00 per hour.
- Approve the invoice presented by DLR for the Santa Fe/Lindley Hall bond project.

### **3. Public Hearing**

#### **Hearing Procedures and Public Comment**

President Morton advised of the Public Hearing process. Comments were heard from the public regarding the Resolution for Closing a Building. The list of speakers is attached. President Morton called for a 5-minute recess with resuming the board meeting at 9:05 p.m. The Public Hearing officially closed at 9:07 p.m.

#### **Discussion and Action Regarding Resolution**

Board members engaged in discussion regarding the resolution to close Walton Rural Life Center.

- Approve to adopt the resolution as presented.

### **RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, Kansas law, K.S.A. 72-1431, authorizes the board of education of any unified school district to close any school building by majority vote of the board; and

WHEREAS, Unified School District No.373, Harvey County, Kansas timely published notice of and held a public hearing on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023 to hear and consider testimony and evidence on the proposed building closure(s); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Unified School District No. 373, Harvey County, Kansas has found and determined that the closing of Walton Rural Life Center would improve the school system of the unified school district.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Unified School District No. 373, Harvey County, Kansas in a meeting lawfully assembled this 24th day of April, 2023, that the Walton Rural Life Center shall be closed at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

ADOPTED by the Board of Education of Unified School District No. 373, Harvey County, Kansas, the 24th day of April, 2023.

### **4. New Business**

#### **Discussion and Potential Action Based Upon the Result of the Hearing**

Superintendent Van Ranken advised on the next steps needed in preparation of getting ready for the 2023-24 school year. This includes getting employment placements for staff confirmed and a possible request for a special meeting for this purpose. Work will begin on options for the portable buildings and school boundary conversations. Updates will be provided to the board.

- Approve the restoration of two sections per grade level at Northridge Elementary and Slate Creek Elementary schools.

### **5. Building Reports**

Building reports for Santa Fe 5/6 Center, Chisholm Middle, Newton High School, Opportunity Academy and 373 Athletics were provided to board members.

## 6. Closing of Meeting

### Board Comments

Mallory Morton shared that Slate Creek has been recognized for receiving the Challenge Award from KSDE for the second time in three years.

### Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 9:55 p.m.

Background information on agenda items may be found in BoardDocs at: <https://go.boarddocs.com/ks/usd373/Board.nsf/Public>

USD 373 Board of Education		
Public Hearing		
Newton High School Auditorium		
April 24, 2023		
NAME	TOPIC TO ADDRESS	DATE
Stephanie Ashby - City of Walton	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Colby Gomez	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Ian Long	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Julia Long	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Neil Williams	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Sara Getschell	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Olivia Lyles	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Berry Wentz	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Tom Cowan	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Matthew Scholfield	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Madison Starwalt	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Kai Starwalt	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Will Regier	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Leah Gaeddert	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Connie Weber	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Michael Crist	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Tim Robbins	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
John Esau	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Elisha Blount	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Jason Busenitz	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Dana Shifflett	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Jennie Busenitz	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Dean Davis	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Walt Chappell	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Eric Puttroff	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Kari Schmidt	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Sarah Tieszen	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Cierra Twitchell	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Shawn Hayes	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Steven Tieszen	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Mary Gillmore	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23
Dawn Cuellar	Resolution for School Closing	4/24/23