

Board Notes — August 14, 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, August 14, 2023, in the Board of Education meeting room located at 308 E 1st, Newton, KS.

Members Present: Luke Edwards, Brenna Haines, Mallory Morton, Andy Ortiz, Melissa Schreiber, Dayna Steinmetz, 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 7:00 p.m.
Mallory Morton led the Pledge of Allegiance.
— Adopt the agenda as amended.

2. Presentations/Reports

Newton High School teacher, Amy Ives, announced that the Newton High Tri-M Honor Society was named the 2022-23 State Chapter of the Year.

3. Comments from the Public

Kris Schmucker, Ani Koontz, Melanie Zuercher, Catia Sawatsky, Angela Becker, Mara Oswald, and Josue Coy Dick addressed the board regarding novels used in the ELA curriculum. Paul Nelson, Steven Tieszen, and Ron Dietzel addressed the board regarding the Railer Way Code of Conduct. Ian Long commented on the start of the school year, Sara Getchell commented on the website and WRLC scholarship. Carol Sue Stayrook Hobbs shared a success story of a current student.

A 5-minute recess was called for technical issues regarding the livestream.

4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

- Approve the July 24, 2023 minutes as presented.
- Approve the bills as presented.
- Approve the August 14, 2023 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Rodriguez	Shiann	Sp. Ed. Para	Walton	7/27/2023		x
Talley	Jordan	Reg. Ed. Aide	Cooper	8/1/2023		x
Emmitt	Ryan	Teacher	SF	6/20/2023		x
Lopez	Adriana	Head Start Aide	Cooper	8/4/2023		x
Johns	Taja	Asst. Cheer Coach	NHS	7/31/2023		x
Hiebert	Morgan	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	8/7/2023		x
Church	Abbygail	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/8/2023		x
McCord	Kiley	Reg. Ed. Aide	SS	5/24/2023		x
Werner	Summer	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	8/11/2023		x
Weaver	Kendrick	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	8/14/2023		x

Werner	Solle	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	5/24/2023		x
Hernandez	Esmeralda	Reg. Ed. Aide	OA	8/14/2023		x
Grimmett	Georgetta	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	8/14/2023	x	
Polley	Catherine	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	8/15/2023	x	
Loescher	Brigitte	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	8/11/2023	x	
Sneed	Seneca	Sp Ed Long Term Sub	SB	8/7/2023	x	
Rivera	Tia	Head Start Aide	Cooper	8/9/2023	x	
Swaney	Megan	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	8/9/2023	x	
Delgado	Miriam	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	8/9/2023	x	
Sanders	Katie	Head Start Aide	Cooper	8/9/2023	x	
Maldonado-Galdamez	Maribel	Food Service	CMS	8/9/2023	x	
Frary	Tawnya	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	8/14/2023	x	
Bower	Destiny	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	8/9/2023	x	
Kelsey	Jennifer	Reg. Ed. Aide/ELL Aide	NR	8/17/2023	x	
Benewiat	Ashlee	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	8/9/2023	x	
Hamm	Alyssa	Head Start Aide	Cooper	8/9/2023	x	
Valdivia-Morales	Stephanie	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	8/9/2023	x	
Fernandez	Anthony	Custodian	NHS	8/11/2023	x	
Voth	Rita	Reg. Ed. Aide	OA	8/9/2023	x	
Catlett	Joseph	Head Start Aide	Cooper	8/9/2023	x	
Jaso	Lindsay	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/9/2023	x	
Castillo	Emily	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	8/9/2023	x	
Dalton	Jill	Reg. Ed. Aide	Cooper	8/9/2023	x	
Lundry	Nichole	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	8/9/2023	x	
Gerk	Katelyn	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	8/9/2023	x	
Lawrence	Teresa	Sp. Ed. IR LTS	CMS	8/7/2023	x	
Kerns	Ruth	Food Service Manager	CMS	8/9/2023	x	
Young	Emma	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	8/9/2023	x	
Buckle	Rachel	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	8/9/2023	x	
Krehbiel	Amber	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	8/9/2023	x	
Robbins	Treva	Food Service	Cooper	8/9/2023	x	
Fuller	Terrie	Reg. Ed. Aide	NR	8/9/2023	x	
Welch	Jaylene	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/9/2023	x	
Bass	Kaci	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	8/11/2023	x	
Kater	Maegan	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	8/14/2023	x	
Schroeder	Lynda	Reg. Ed. Aide	SS	8/9/2023	x	
Neff	Dorothy	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/9/2023	x	
Burkett	Cheyenne	Head Start Aide	Cooper	8/9/2023	x	
Schwind	Amy	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	8/9/2023	x	
Gibson	Toni	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	8/9/2023	x	
Nichols	Sheryl	Reg. Ed. Aide	Cooper	8/9/2023	x	

Will	Amanda	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	8/9/2023	x	
Forbes	Jennifer	SL Sped Teacher	SB	8/1/2023	x	
Arellano	Mike	Bus Aide	Transportation	8/14/2023	x	
Felix Carrillo	Maria	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	8/9/2023	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Reimer	Courtney	Sp. Ed. Para/Aide	NR	8/1/2023	Reg. Ed. Aide @ NR	
Switzer	Tera	Teacher	SF	8/1/2023	Add Lunch Supervision	
Block	Kristina	Bus Aide	Transportation	7/28/2023	Bus Driver	
Piland	Linessa	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	8/14/2023	Add Bus Supervisor	
Weidenbener	Jill	Perm. Bldg Substitute	SC	8/1/2023	LTS 1st Grade Teacher @ NR	
Budd	Carly	Reg. Ed. Aide	SC	8/1/2023	Perm. Building Substitute @ SC	
Hultman	Adrienne	Admin Assistant	DO	8/7/2023	SPED Administrative Assistant @ DO	
Kessler	Shanna	Reg. Ed. Aide	Cooper	8/3/2023	Sp. Ed. Para @ SB	
Dibbens	Jamie	Teacher	CMS	8/1/2023	Add Breakfast Supervisor	
Gertsenberger	Stephanie	Food Service	CMS	8/10/2023	From 5.75 hrs/day to 4 hrs/day	
Bernard Okpe	Agnes	Food Service	NHS	8/11/2023	2nd Shift Custodian @ CMS	
Costantino	Anthony	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	8/1/2023	Perm. Building Substitute @ NHS	
Ochoa	Chandler	Teacher	NHS	8/17/2023	Add Dept. Chair	
Bergen	Nanette	Teacher/Dept Chair	NHS	8/17/2023	Resign Dept. Chair	
Dotson	Marc	Teacher	CMS	8/17/2023	Add AM Bus Supervisor	
Martin	Shelby	Teacher	NHS	8/14/2023	Add Asst. Debate & Forensics@ NHS	
Brown	Ashtyn	Teacher/Coach	SF	8/14/2023	From Asst Girls BB@ CMS to Asst Girls BB@ NHS	

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

- Approve the McKinley water damage flooring quote.
- Approve the BSN Hardwoods Rewards Agreement for 2023-24.
- Approve the CFC Dating Mining invoice.
- Approve a correction to Resolution 2024-07-13 per request from Union State Bank.

5. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the MOU with the City of Newton regarding the School Resource Officer program as presented.
- Approve the revision to the 2023-24 NHS Student Handbook as presented.
- Approve the revision to the 2023-24 CMS Student Handbook as presented.

Review of Handbooks

The 2023-24 Classified Handbook, Substitute Handbook and Cooper Staff Handbook were presented to the board for review. Administration will be recommending approval at the August 28, 2023 board meeting.

BOE Goal Area Update

Superintendent Van Ranken shared information on the USD 373 Goal Areas and the work that has taken place in each area: Core Instruction, Culture and Partnerships/Connection with Stakeholders.

ELA Novel Review

Sheila Wendling presented information from the novel review committee on two more novels to be used in ELA classrooms. Ryan Kopper and Brian Skinner were present to answer questions regarding the work of the review committee. Administration will be recommending approval of these two novels at the August 28, 2023 board meeting.

6. New Business

The board voted to:

— Approve the gift request as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Newton Rotary (Golf Tournament)	Newton High School	Donation to Railer Boxcar	\$2,000.00

Gift Requests Under \$500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Security Benefit	USD 373	Assist with All Staff Breakfast on 8/14/23	\$125.00

Adjust Attendance Protocol

Superintendent Van Ranken advised of a revision needed in the Attendance Protocol which will reflect current practice followed since February 9, 2023. Administration will recommend approval of this at the August 28, 2023 board meeting.

Railer Way Code of Conduct

Revisions to the Railer Way Code of Conduct were presented to the board. Brian Becker answered questions from the board. There was a concern regarding the sentence "Each situation is different, and administration reserves the right to deviate from the Code of Conduct when deemed appropriate". The document will return on the August 28 for further review and recommended approval.

— Approve the MOU converting the Walton Rural Life Charter School Foundation to the Walton Rural Life Center Scholarship as presented.

— Approve Santa Fe early release on Friday, May 3, 2024 for a fourth grade orientation.

7. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Board comments included appreciation for Ryan Kopper and Brian Skinner for their input on the ELA novel review committee, inquiry on the number of non-public students wanting to participate in activities, update on the work being done for a BOE operations guide, welcome back for the new school year and discussion on the need for a special board meeting following the NEA vote on the negotiated agreement.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

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