

Board Notes — December 11, 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, December 11, 2023, in the board room at McKinley Administrative Center, 308 E 1st, Newton, KS.

Members Present: Luke Edwards, Brenna Haines, Mallory Morton, Andy Ortiz, Ian Long Reid, Melissa Schreiber, Dayna Steinmetz

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.

— Appoint Ian Long to the USD 373 Board of Education effective December 11, 2023 to fill the vacancy by Matt Treaster.

— Adopt the agenda as presented.

2. Presentations/Reports

BOE Member Recognition

Superintendent Van Ranken recognized Matt Treaster for serving 3 terms (12 years) and Luke Edwards for serving 1 four year term on the USD 373 Board of Education. Both were presented a thank you gift.

Fall Sports and Activity Recognition

The district recognized outstanding student achievements for the Newton High girls fall of 2023 in golf, tennis, and Railiners dance.

CTE Highlights from Newton High School

Diane Moser gave an update on CTE program including current classes, future plans and their goals moving forward. Lacie Fair and Katharine Honeyman reported on the Ag Program classes offered and plan for future growth which includes an expansion of the school farm.

3. Comments from the Public

Larry Lee with Newton Community for Racial Justice shared information about the upcoming Roots of Justice training on January 12-14, 2024 at the Newton Recreation Center. Carol Sue Staybrook Hobbs shared a NHS graduate success story.

4. Executive Session

Convene in Executive Session - Personnel

Move that the board convene in executive session for the purpose of discussing issues concerning an employee pursuant to the KOMA exception regarding personnel matters of non-elected personnel and that the board return to the open meeting in this room at 7:55 p.m. Fred Van Ranken and Jane Nichols are invited to join the executive session.

5. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

— Approve the November 13 and 16, 2023 minutes as presented.

- Approve the bills as presented.
- Approve the December 11, 2023 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Welch	Jaylene	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	10/30/2023		x
Sellman	Ty	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	10/16/2023		x
Catlett	Joseph	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	12/20/2023		x
Benewiat	Ashlee	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	11/28/2023		x
Murphy	Kathy	Sp. Ed. Teacher	SB	5/23/2024		x
Burns	Elizabeth	Art Teacher	SC	5/23/2024		x
Hoagland	Traci	Transition Coord.	HCSEC	8/1/2024		x
Welsch	Emilia	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	11/17/2023		x
Culp	Ronald	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	12/6/2023		x
Nicholson	Maira	Lead Family Consult.	Cooper	12/22/2023		x
Wallace	Tanner	Asst Bball Coach/Sub	NHS	12/14/2023		x
Sweely	Tucker	Asst Baseball Coach	NHS	5/27/2023		x
Campos	Joana	Admin Assistant	Cooper	12/15/2023		x
Roux	Rhonda	Kindergarten Tchr	NR	6/1/2024		x
Olson	Michelle	Music Teacher	NR/SS	5/23/2024		x
Williams	David	Debate/Speech Tchr	NHS	6/1/2024		x
Wagner	Cole	Part-Time Music Tchr	St. Mary's	12/14/2023	x	
Weber	Carolyn	Substitute Teacher	Dist-Wide	12/4/2023	x	
Dietz	Greg	Asst Principal	SB	11/28/2023	x	
Foster	Justin	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	11/28/2023	x	
Masters	Jakoby	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	11/21/2023	x	
Kruger	Brenda	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	11/21/2023	x	
Baeza	Andrew	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	11/21/2023	x	
Roth	Ashton	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	11/21/2023	x	
Boese	Tyler	Asst Girls Bball Coach	NHS	11/15/2023	x	
Torres	Emily	Asst Girls Wrest. Coach	NHS	11/15/2023	x	
Culp	Ronald	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	11/20/2023	x	
Kirtley	Aaron	Asst Boys Wrest. Coach	CMS	11/15/2023	x	
Schrick	Ann	ED Sp. Ed. Teacher	NHS	11/27/2023	x	
Coley	Keenan	Asst. Boys Bball Coach	NHS	11/15/2023	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Baysinger	Melissa	Sp. Ed. Teacher	CMS	11/16/2023	Add Railer Power Hr & Connections	
Conrad-Lindeman	Mercy	ISS Monitor	CMS	11/16/2023	Add Railer Power Hr & Connections	
Becker	Fred	Career/Colleg Advocate	NHS	8/31/2024	Substitute Teacher @ District-Wide	
Helsper	Sandra	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	11/29/2023	Sp. Ed. Para @ SS	
Krehbiel	Amber	Reg. Ed. Aide	CMS	12/11/2023	Reg. Ed. Aide @ NR	
Toebe	Michael	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	11/29/2023	Add Railer Power Hr & Connections	
Arellano	Michael	Bus Aide	Service Ctr	12/4/2023	Add Substitute Van Driver	
Archibald	Kamryn	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	1/4/2024	From 9.5 hrs/wk to 15.85 hrs/wk	

Epp	Christa	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	12/5/2023	Permanent Building Sub @ NR
Sebree	Laura	Food Service/Bus Aide	NHS	12/21/2023	Food Service only
Martinez	Jesus	Ind Arts Long Term Sub	CMS	10/30/2023	Add Athletic Worker
Ney	Craig	Athletic Worker	NHS	12/11/2023	Add Bus Aide PM only
Weidenbener	Jill	Permanent Building Sub	NR	1/4/2024	Permanent K-4 Sub

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

- Approve the October 2023 Treasurer's Report.
- Approve the CTE Cooperating Agreement with Remington school district.
- Approve the renewal of the ESSDACK Interlocal Agreement.
- Approve the quote to GameTime as part of the All Together Now Playground.
- Approve the McDonald Hopkins invoice for October 2023.
- Approve the disposal of equipment as presented.

6. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the new policy JBCC—Enrollment of Nonresident Students as presented.
- Approve revisions to policy JBC Enrollment as presented.
- Approve the CTE certification as well as the Newton High and Opportunity Academy new course proposals for 2024-25 as presented.
- Approve the 2024-25 Capital Outlay requests as presented.

Graduation Requirements for Class of 2028

Sheila Wendling presented information on the KSDE adjustment to the graduation requirements and what this will look like for Newton. Board members engaged in discussion and asked clarifying questions. Administration will be seeking approval at the January 8, 2024 board meeting.

ELA Novel Review

Sheila Wendling presented two novels to be used in NHS ELA classrooms. Administration will be seeking approval at the January 8, 2024 board meeting.

7. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Kansas Electric	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Travel and supply expenses	\$1,000.00
Wickiser Family	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Travel and supply expenses	\$2,000.00
Central KS Community Foundation	Slate Creek Elementary	All Together Now playground fund	\$1,253

Gift Requests Under \$500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Stephanie Thompson	Sunset Elementary	Assist with negative lunch accounts	\$250.00
Intrust Bank	Newton High School	Experiential Learning Day expenses	\$250.00
Citizens State Bank	Newton High School	Experiential Learning Day expenses	\$250.00
Union State Bank	Newton High School	Experiential Learning Day expenses	\$100.00
White Eagle Credit Union	Newton High School	Experiential Learning Day expenses	\$250.00
Edward Jones	Newton High School	Ink & t-shirt production items	\$250.00
Kansas Electric	Newton High School-CTE Small Business	Screen prints & ink	\$250.00

— Approve early graduation requests from Opportunity Academy & Newton High School.

Naloxone Administration Protocol

After board approval of policy JGFGA-Administration of Emergency Opioid Antagonists in July 2023, the school nurses are working on the district's protocol for Naloxone administration.

2024-25 Newton High School Course Guide Proposal

The Newton High 2024-25 course guide proposal was presented to the board for review. Administration will be seeking approval at the January 8, 2024 meeting.

8. Executive Session

Convene in Executive Session - Personnel

Move that the board convene in executive session for the purpose of discussing issues concerning an employee pursuant to the KOMA exception regarding personnel matters of non-elected personnel and that the board return to the open meeting in this room at 8:50 p.m.

9. Building Reports

Building reports were provided for Cooper Early Ed Center/Head Start, Northridge Elementary, Slate Creek Elementary, South Breeze Elementary, Santa Fe 5/6 Center, Chisholm Middle, Opportunity Academy, Newton High School and USD 373 Athletics.

Department reports were provided for Maintenance/Facilities, Harvey County Special Education Cooperative and Technology Services.

10. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Board comments included appreciation to Luke for serving on the board, congratulations to Ian Long who began his term tonight, comments from Luke expressing gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the BOE and wishing all staff a restful holiday break.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

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