

## Board Notes — February 12, 2024

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, February 12, 2024, in the board room at McKinley Administrative Center, 308 E 1<sup>st</sup>, Newton, KS.

**Members Present:** Brenna Haines, Ian Long, Mallory Morton, Andy Ortiz, Melissa Schreiber, Dayna Steinmetz and Ercia Stevens

**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

Melissa Schreiber called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Melissa Schreiber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

— Adopt the agenda as presented.

### 2. Presentations/Reports

#### Student Recognition

The NHS debate team was recognized for their 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at State. The Chisholm Middle School boys wrestling team was recognized for their league championship.

#### Head Start Presentation

Principal Alyssa Vanderhoof, Julie Stenzel and Kiley Nelson gave a report on the Head Start needs assessment.

### 3. Comments from the Public

Patrick O'Brien addressed the board regarding the future of the Walton school building, Marcia Friesen gave a history of the Head Start program in Newton, Jennie Busenitz thanked the district for the agreement allowing them to rent a portion of the Walton facility, Anthony Cuellar addressed the board regarding the Lindley Hall name on the Santa Fe gymnasium, Sara Getchell suggested that the board create a plan to address enrollment needs and Carol Sue Stayrook Hobbs shared about the programs/activities that are offered in the district.

### 4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

— Approve the January 8 and 22, 2024 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

— Approve the February 12, 2024 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Masters	Jakoby	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	12/23/2023		x
McCray	Kashius	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	12/23/2023		x
Rivera	Tia	Head Start Aide	Cooper	1/24/2024		x
Pickens	James	Custodian	CMS	1/20/2024		x
Hall	Emerie	Science Teacher	NHS	5/24/2024		x
Pfannenstiel	Ashlea	5th Gr Literacy Tchr	SF	5/24/2024		x
Brittain	Kassidy	Speech Lang Path	NR	5/24/2024		x
Dixon	Kobe	Computer App Tchr	CMS	5/24/2024		x

Malone	Jordan	Reg. Ed. Aide	SB	1/26/2024		x
Unruh	Shelby	Music Teacher	St. Mary's	11/17/2023		x
Jordan	Jacquelyn	Sp. Ed. IDD Teacher	NR	5/24/2024		x
Abbott	Caitlin	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	2/21/2024		x
Thaw	JoAnn	Gymnastics Coach	NHS	11/2/2023		x
Guhr	Amy	Admin Assistant	SB	2/23/2024		x
Smith	Blake	Principal	NHS	6/30/2024		x
Terrell	Sherri	Principal	SB	6/7/2024		x
Bedlington	Lori	Custodian	NHS	2/19/2024	x	
Loehr	Ferne	Bus Aide	Transport.	2/12/2024	x	
Crawford	Emily	3rd Grade Teacher	SB	8/1/2024	x	
Wade	Kainan	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	2/8/2024	x	
Koontz	Matthew	Substitute Teacher	Dist-Wide	2/5/2024	x	
Martinez	Adrian	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	2/6/2024	x	
Ayala Esparza	Stephanie	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	2/5/2024	x	
Richardson	Torriano	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	2/1/2024	x	
Quintero	Mario	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	2/1/2024	x	
Gooch	Jeremy	SpEd Transition Coord	NHS	7/1/2024	x	
Martinez	Kaylee	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	1/31/2024	x	
Girtz	Sophie	Reg. Ed. Aide	SC	1/29/2024	x	
Marrufo Castaneda "Delgado"	Yesika	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	1/24/2024	x	
Budde	Brylee	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	1/23/2024	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
McCoy	Tommy	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	2/8/2024	From 15.68 hrs/wk to 12.68 hrs/wk	
Foster	Justin	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	1/24/2024	From 33.75 hrs/wk to 36.25 hrs/wk	
Wieberg	Marsha	Head Start Aide	Cooper	2/9/2024	Substitute Tchr @ District Wide	
Schloneger	Rebecca	Orchestra Teacher	CMS	1/25/2024	Add Railer Power Hr/Connections	
Costantino	Anthony	Building Sub Teacher	NHS	1/31/2024	Substitute Tchr @ District Wide	
Antonowich	Lisa	Physical Education	NHS	2/1/2024	Resign from Track Coach Only	
Durham	Taylor	Asst. Football Coach	NHS	2/26/2024	Add Asst. Baseball Coach @ NHS	
Thomas	Nancy	Gifted Teacher	NHS	2/26/2024	Add Asst. Girls Swim Coach @ NHS	
Warhurst	Amy	5th Grade Literacy	SF	2/26/2024	Add Asst. Boys Golf @ NHS	
Sanchez	Joaquin	MS Asst Fball Coach	CMS	2/26/2024	Add MS Asst. Track Coach @ CMS	
Powell	Kim	FACS Teacher/Coach	NHS	2/6/2024	Resign from Girls Dive Coach Only	
Bradley	Sara	Sp. Ed. Para/Bus Aide	NR	2/12/2024	Resign from Bus Aide Only	
Esau	Zach	Teacher	CMS	2/26/2024	Add MS Asst. Track Coach @ CMS	
Mick	Richard	Teacher	NHS	2/26/2024	Add HS Asst Track Coach @ NHS	
Masem	Robert	STEM Teacher	SF	8/1/2024	K-4 Gifted Tchr @ District-Wide	

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

- Approve the December 2023 Treasurer's Report.
- Approve the December 2023 McDonald Hopkins invoice.

- Approve the proposal by Innovative Groups for the Chisholm Choir Room HVAC project.
- Approve the invoice from Logicalis for the purchase of switches for the air sensor project.

**5. Old Business**

**Goal Review**

Superintendent Van Ranken presented an update on the USD 373 Goal Areas and the objectives, strategies and tasks that accompany each of the three goals. Detailed information can be found in the 2/12/24 agenda in BoardDocs.

**ELA Novel Review**

The ELA Novel Review Committee is recommending six novels to be used in ELA classrooms. The review forms were provided to the board and administration will be seeking approval of these novels at the March 4 board meeting.

**6. New Business**

The board voted to:

- Approve the gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Wunderman Thompson	Newton High School	E-Sports career talk opportunities	\$6,600.00
La Belle, McPherson	Opportunity Academy	Donation of clothing and shoes for clothing bank	\$5,300.00
NMC Health	Newton High School	Scholarship for students attending HOSA conference	\$750.00
AGCO Corp.	Newton High School	Donation of materials for student projects	\$6,000.00

**Gift Requests Under \$500: For Information Only**

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Union State Bank	Cooper Early Education Ctr	Assist with expenses related to the Infant Toddler Program	\$200.00
Newton Free Masons	Chisholm Middle School	Help cover cost of team t-shirts	\$300.00
Millennium Machine & Tool	Newton High School	Cutting tools for student use	\$299.11

- Approve board appointments for the Technology Committee-Ericia Stevens, Negotiations Representative-Melissa Schreiber, Public Building Commission-Ian Long and the KASB Advocacy Network-Mallory Morton continuing.
- Approve the revision for the ELL newcomer courses at Chisholm and Newton High as presented.
- Approve the updated elementary ESOL teacher job description as presented.

**Draft 2024-25 Attendance Calendar**

The calendar committee has met several times and a final draft of the 2024-25 calendar was presented to the board. Administration will be recommending approval of this calendar at the March 4 board meeting.

**Planning for Next Year**

Superintendent Van Ranken presented information to begin discussion on planning for next year. The board discussed enrollment, teacher pay, teacher retention and fiscal planning. More information will be brought to the March board meeting.

## **KASB Recommended Policy Revisions**

The December 2023 KASB recommended policy revisions and new policies were presented to the board. Any questions on these policies should go to the superintendent. Administration will be asking approval at the March 4 meeting.

## **Walton Facilities Discussion**

The board engaged in conversation of the Walton facility including the portables. After discussion, there was board consensus to have Superintendent Van Ranken look into finding a broker to get a value of the property and then share this information with the board.

## **Skyward School Business Suite**

Jane Nichols presented information on Skyward, a new financial accounting system. The district currently uses Alio which is no longer optimal for our district needs. After a presentation from Skyward and reaching out to other districts who use Skyward, administration is recommending approval of this change. This item will be on the March 4 agenda for approval.

## **Newton High School Out-of-State Trips**

Newton High School provided information on two scheduled out-of-state trips this spring. No funds are requested and this item was for information only.

## **Bus Transportation Request Form**

The School Bus Transportation Request Form was revised and presented to the board. Administration will be seeking approval of this form at the March 4 meeting.

## **7. BOE Committee, Building and Department Reports**

### **BOE Committee Reports**

—Mallory Morton attended the Head Start Policy Council and reported on topics of discussion.

—Andy Ortiz attended a Special Education Board meeting noting the student behavior continues to be a concern.

—Melissa Schreiber attended the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) and KASB workshops Prepping for Negotiations and a Board Leadership Conference.

### **Building Reports**

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

Department reports were provided for Business Services/Payroll/Human Resources and Maintenance/Facilities.

## **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 9:49 p.m.

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 10:00 p.m.

## **9. Closing of Meeting**

### **Board Comments**

Board comments included a request from Ian Long to have an update from the Santa Fe gym committee. Andy Ortiz will make this presentation.

### **Adjournment**

Move to adjourn at 10:06 p.m.

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