

Board Notes — March 4, 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, March 4, 2024, in the board room at McKinley Administrative Center, 308 E 1st, Newton, KS.

Members Present: Brenna Haines, Ian Long, Andy Ortiz, Melissa Schreiber, Dayna Steinmetz and Erica Stevens

Members Absent: Mallory Morton – arrived at 7:06 p.m.

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 7:02 p.m.

Melissa Schreiber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

— Adopt the agenda as presented.

2. Comments from the Public

Patrick O'Brien addressed the board regarding the future of the Walton school building and Carol Sue Stayrook Hobbs shared a NHS graduate success story.

3. Executive Session

Action: A. 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 7:21 p.m. Fred Van Ranken is invited to join the executive session.

— 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 7:35 p.m. Fred Van Ranken is invited to join the executive session.

4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

— Approve the February 12, 19 and 27, 2024 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

— Approve the March 4, 2024 Personnel Report as presented.

| Last Name | First Name | Position | Location | Effective Date | Hire | Resignation/ Termination |
|-----------|------------|---|----------|----------------|------|-----------------------------|
| Anderson | Shirene | Sp. Ed. Para | SS | 2/12/2024 | | x |
| Henson | John | Asst. Track Coach | CMS | 5/31/2023 | | x |
| Weatherby | Seth | Asst. Track Coach | NHS | 5/31/2023 | | x |
| Krehbiel | Amber | Reg. Ed. Aide | NR | 2/27/2024 | | x |
| Frary | Tawnya | Sp. Ed. Para | NHS | 2/16/2024 | | x |
| Johnson | Laurie | Reg. Ed. Aide | SB | 2/23/2024 | | x |
| Slade | Greg | Head Fball Coach, Asst Ath Director, Weights Tchr | NHS | 5/24/2024 | | x |

| Pierce | Mark | Asst. Boys Soccer Coach | NHS | 11/31/2023 | | x |
|----------------|------------|---|----------------|----------------|---|---|
| Deyo | Dennis | Food Service Substitute | District-Wide | 2/16/2024 | | x |
| Dietz | Greg | Asst. Principal | SB | 2/1/2024 | | x |
| Washington | Floretia | Sp. Ed. Para | NR | 3/8/2024 | | x |
| Huslig | Sarah | English Teacher | NHS | 5/24/2024 | | x |
| Bartel | Debra | Science Teacher | SC/SS | 6/1/2024 | | x |
| Ortiz | Josh | Interrelated Special Ed Tchr | HCSEC | 5/24/2024 | | x |
| Esau | Zach | 7th Gr Science Tchr/Coach | CMS | 5/24/2024 | | x |
| Corino | Ronald | Sp. Ed. Para | SS | 3/4/2024 | x | |
| Ewy | Jeni | Sp. Ed. Para | HCSEC | 3/4/2024 | x | |
| Madlock | Hailie | Reg. Ed. Aide | NR | 2/29/2024 | x | |
| Rivera | Delmy | Sp. Ed. Para | SB | 2/29/2024 | x | |
| Watson | Michaela | Administrative Assistant | SB | 3/4/2024 | x | |
| Reichenberger | Anneliese | German Teacher | NHS | 8/1/2024 | x | |
| Jordan | Jackie | Substitute Teacher | District-Wide | 8/1/2024 | x | |
| Cooper | Katherine | School Psychologist | HCSEC | 8/1/2024 | x | |
| Roberts-Parker | Payton | SpEd Para& Asst Track Coach | NHS | 2/26/2024 | x | |
| Hultman | Connor | Software App Specialist | ETC | 3/4/2024 | x | |
| Somers | Emallie | Substitute Bus Aide | Transportation | 2/26/2024 | x | |
| Stafford | Krista | 6th Grade Teacher | SF | 8/1/2024 | x | |
| Damon | Becky | Reg. Ed. Aide | OA | 2/26/2024 | x | |
| Thompson | Caren | Bus Aide | Transportation | 2/22/2024 | x | |
| Martin | Keegan | Substitute Teacher | NHS | 2/21/2024 | x | |
| Decker | Dianne | Asst. Azteca Coach | NHS | 2/13/2024 | x | |
| Finley | Hannah | Asst. Girls Diving Coach | NHS | 2/26/2024 | x | |
| Last Name | First Name | Position | Location | Effective Date | Change of Assignment/Transfer | |
| Arellano | Michael | Transportation | Transportation | 2/26/2024 | Remove PM Bus Aide & Add Assist Girls Softball Coach@ NHS | |
| Doerksen | Michael | Sp. Ed. Para | NHS | 5/22/2024 | Athletic Worker Only | |
| Sebree | Laura | Food Service | NHS | 2/20/2024 | Add Athletic Worker | |
| Letcher | Robyn | Sp. Ed. Para | SB | 2/12/2024 | From 33.75 hrs/wk to 34.75 hrs/wk | |
| Joynes | Jamal | Introductory Business Tchr | CMS | 8/1/2024 | Computer Appl Tchr @ CMS | |
| Ybarra | Renee | Social Worker | NHS | 8/1/2024 | Student Support Coach @ NHS | |
| Dotson | Marc | 7th Gr Social Studies Tchr | CMS | 8/1/2024 | Introductory Business Tchr@CMS | |
| Puttroff | Blair | Sp. Ed. Para | SS | 2/27/2024 | From 6.75 hrs/day to 4.17 hrs/day | |
| Hein | Johannah | Interrelated Spec Ed Tchr | SS | 8/1/2024 | Sp. Ed. IR Tchr @ Hesston Elem. | |
| Christner | Heather | Structured Learning Special Education Teacher | NHS | 8/1/2024 | Autism Coordinator @ NHS | |
| Sanchez | Joaquin | Track/Football Coach | CMS | 2/29/2024 | Football Coach Only | |

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

- Approve auditing services as presented.
- Approve the purchase of weight room equipment from the 2023-24 capital outlay plan.

- Approve the firewall, wireless controller/access points, WAN and internet bid.
- Approve the January 2024 McDonald Hopkins invoice.
- Approve the Microsoft Annual Renewal as presented.
- Approve the 2024-25 Newton High Course book as presented.

5. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve purchasing the Skyward School Business Suite.
- Approve six novels to be used in ELA classrooms as presented.
- Approve the capital outlay expenditures as part of the 2024-25 capital outlay budget.
- Approve the 2024-25 Attendance Calendar as presented.
- Approve the revised School Bus Transportation Request Form as presented.

Planning for Next Year-continuation of the discussion

Superintendent Van Ranken suggested scheduling a special board meeting to discuss planning for next year in regards to staffing needs and fiscal planning. The special meeting was tentatively planned for March 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Walton Facilities Discussion

The board engaged in conversation on the Walton school building and property. The Board of Education came to a consensus on getting an appraisal of the facility and having a discussion with the City of Walton regarding the park property. The follow action was taken.

- Approve for Fred to engage with the City of Walton for the transfer of the park to the City of Walton.
- Approve Superintendent Fred Van Ranken to look at a building appraisal for WRLC to begin talks with the Walton community in relation to facilities discussions.

Melissa Schreiber made the comment that it was two motions and Brenna Haines agreed.

- Approve Superintendent Van Ranken move forward with obtaining an appraisal of the Walton school building.
- Approve Superintendent Van Ranken engage in conversation with the City of Walton after the appraisal in relation to the park property.

6. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the gift requests as presented.

| Donation From | To Building/Dept | Description | Value/Amt |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|--|------------|
| Susan Wickiser | USD 373 | Pay off negative food service accounts | \$1,000.00 |
| Citizens State Bank | Newton High School CTE | Electrical program | \$2,000.00 |
| Bridges Inc. | Newton High School CTE | CTE Scholarship Funds | \$500.00 |
| Bethel College Mennonite Church | USD 373 | Assist with unpaid meal fees | \$500.00 |

Gift Requests Under \$500: For Information Only

| Donation From | To Building/Dept | Description | Value/Amt |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Toshia Widener | Northridge Elementary | Microwave | \$75.00 |
| Shana McGinnis | Opportunity Academy | Donation to assist with school needs | \$301.00 |

- Approve the JAG programs at Newton High School and Chisholm Middle School for 2024-25 as presented.
- Approve the early graduation request from Opportunity Academy.
- Approve the updated job description for the principal at Cooper Early Education Center and the new job description for the Assistant Principal at Cooper.

Head Start 2024-25 Continuation Application

The Head Start Continuation Grant Application was presented for information. The grant will provide the funding for the Head Start Program at Cooper Early Education Center for the 2024-25 school year. This will be year three of a five-year grant cycle. Administration will be seeking approval of the renewal at the March 25, 2024 board meeting.

Update on Lindley Hall BOE Project

Andy Ortiz provided an update of the community committee's work on a project to honor the history of the facility and those impacted over time in our community.

KSHSAA BOE Representative

Information was provided on the KSHSAA Congressional District 4 official ballot for the Appeal Board. The item will be on the March 25, 2024 agenda for approval.

2024-25 Student Fees Draft

The 2024-25 student fee scheduled was presented to the board. Administration will be seeking approval at the March 25, 2024 board meeting.

7. BOE Committee, Building and Department Reports

BOE Committee Reports

- Mallory Morton shared that there is a tremendous amount work done for the Head Start continuation grant renewal process.
- Ian Long attended a recent PBC meeting and reported that they approved the purchase of new turf for Fischer Field.

Building/Department Reports

Reports were provided for Cooper Early Ed Center/Head Start, Northridge Elementary, Slate Creek Elementary, South Breeze Elementary, and Sunset Elementary.

Department reports were provided for Technology Services and Maintenance/Facilities.

8. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Board comments included board member attendance at school activities and all the spring events going on, a reminder of the Santa Fe gymnasium open house on Thursday, thank you to Andy for the report on the Santa Fe Lindley Hall committee group and a thank you to board members for their participation in the board development sessions by KASB. The board will implement a board evaluation to be completed at the end of each meeting and turned in before leaving.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

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