

Board Notes — April 22, 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, April 22, 2024, in the board room at McKinley Administrative Center, 308 E 1st, 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 Recognitions

Wrestling coach, Tommy Edgmon, presented certificates to the boys and girls who were medalists at the state wrestling meet. Diane Moser presented certificates to the RaileRobotics team members for their performance at regionals and awards received. She also recognized and presented certificates to state CTE scholars.

Sunset Elementary

Teresa Tosh provided grade level highlights of student activities throughout this school year.

3. Comments from the Public

Pam Stevens commented on the need to increase teacher salary for retention of staff.

4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

— Approve the April 8 & 10, 2024 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

— Approve the February 2024 Treasurer's Report.

— Approve the April 22, 2024 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Montez	Tabitha	IR Sp. Ed. Teacher	SF	5/24/2024		x
Mills-Weis	Mollie	Math Teacher	NHS	5/24/2024		x
Williams	Demetric	Head Boys Basketball Coach	NHS	3/9/2024		x
Boztas	Dale Anna	6th Grade Literacy Tchr	SF	5/24/2024		x
Loeffler	Robert	Head Cross Country/ Asst Track Coach	NHS	6/1/2024		x
Andrews	Leota	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	4/19/2024		x
Adame	Frank	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	4/19/2024		x
Entz	Brookelynn	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	4/19/2024		x
Schmidt	Donald	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	4/19/2024		x

Venable	Kyle	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	4/19/2024		x
Shaw	John	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	4/19/2024		x
Rikoff	Jessica	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	4/19/2024		x
Pritchett	Jeffery	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	4/19/2024		x
Markham	Daylon	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	4/19/2024		x
Pfeifer	Joni	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	4/19/2024		x
Lopo	Mary	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	4/19/2024		x
Gouvion	Brianna	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	4/19/2024		x
Garcia	Paula	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	4/19/2024		x
Clayton	Janine	5th Gr Sci/Soc Studies Tchr	SF	5/24/2024		x
Gillespie	Amanda	Business Teacher	NHS	5/24/2024		x
Harris	Rachel	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	4/17/2024		x
Baker	Ann	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	4/19/2024		x
Fontes	Jessica	Administrative Assistant	DO	5/2/2024		x
Tosh	Teresa	Principal	SS	6/30/2024		x
Harris	Alayna	3rd Grade Teacher	SB	8/1/2024	x	
Garnica	John	Grounds Keeper	Service Center	4/23/2024	x	
Chavez	Rocio	Food Service	CMS	4/23/2024	x	
Counts	Taylor	Asst. Athletic Dir./Head FB Coach/Weights	NHS	5/28/2024	x	
Henkelman	Chandler	IR Sp. Ed. Teacher	HCSEC	8/1/2024	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Johnson	James	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/1/2024	Substitute Teacher @ District-Wide	
Pimentel Anton	Joaquin	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	4/18/2024	Sp. Ed. Para @ SF	
Budde	Brylee	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	5/1/2024	From 13.5 hrs/week to 20.25 hrs/week	
Geyer	Tamera	Sp. Ed. Teacher/Coach	NHS	6/1/2024	Resign from NHS Asst. CC & MS Asst. Track Coach Only	
Regehr	Bethany	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	8/1/2024	2nd Grade Teacher @ SS	

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

- Approve the purchase of student accident insurance from Student Assurance Services Inc.
- Approve the March 2024 McDonald Hopkins invoice.

5. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the non-resident enrollment capacity as presented to meet statutory requirements.
- Approve the authorization of district staff to maximize approved LOB authority for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion Failed (3-4)

Superintendent Van Ranken reviewed several options regarding fiscal adjustments for the 2024-25 school year. After board discussion, the following motions were made.

- Approve the fiscal adjustments as outlined in the planning recommendation as presented by Mr. Van Ranken.

ELA Novel Review for Information

The ELA Novel Review committee made recommendations for another 10 novels to be used in ELA classrooms. Novel reviews are available in BoardDocs and administration will be seeking approval of the novels at the May 13 board meeting.

6. New Business

The board voted to:

— Approve the gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Horn's Auto Repair	NHS RaileRobotics	Assist with supplies & competition expenses	\$1,000.00

— Approve the early graduation requests from Opportunity Academy.

— Approve contract extensions for the building administrators and directors through the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

Newton High School:

Brian Becker, Athletic Director (district-wide)

Derek Bristol, Assistant Principal

Tige Stone, Assistant Principal

Tiffany Stephey, Assistant Principal

Diane Moser, CTE Director

Opportunity Academy:

Robert Swalley

Santa Fe 5/6 Center:

Brandon Simmelink, Principal

Lisa Burgess, Assistant Principal

Elementary Schools:

Tenae Alfaro, Slate Creek Elementary, Principal

Kate Bremerman, Northridge Elementary, Principal

Cooper Early Childhood Center:

Alyssa Vanderhoof, Principal

— Approve contract extensions for the district office licensed and classified administration through the 2024-25 school year as presented.

Licensed Administration:

Reagan Seidl, Director of Special Education

Amber Warsnak, Assistant Director of Special Education

Brenda Lampman Thompson, Director of Technology

Classified Administration:

Jane Nichols, Director of Business and Human Resources

Dustin Glavin, Director of Grounds and Maintenance

Sheila Zwahlen, Director of Transportation

Elaine Gaeddert, Director of Food Service

Carly Stavola, Director of Communications

— Approve the professional development proposal from Solution Tree as presented.

— Approve a budget revision to purchase a bus for Head Start students as presented.

7. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Building Reports

Reports were provided for Santa Fe 5/6, Chisholm Middle, Newton High, Opportunity Academy and USD 373 Athletics.

8. Closing of Meeting

BOE Review of Self-Evaluation

BOE self-evaluation feedback was provided to board members. Reminder to board members to complete their form and leave it with Mr. Van Ranken.

Board Comments

Board comments included appreciation for the student recognitions tonight and for staff and community emails regarding the planning for 2024-25. An apology was given to staff for any anxiety over the last few weeks regarding the fiscal planning and staffing for next year. Brenna Haines submitted her resignation from the Board of Education effective tonight, April 22, 2024.

Melissa Schreiber advised of the next steps to fill Brenna's seat.

- Move to amend the agenda.
- Accept the resignation from Brenna Haines effective April 22, 2024.
- Adopt Resolution 2024-4-22

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the membership of the Board of Unified School District No. 373, Harvey County, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 25-2022 authorizes a Board of Education to fill such vacancies no sooner than fifteen (15) days following publication of notice in a newspaper having general circulation in the school district.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the clerk of the Board of Education of Unified School District No. 373, Harvey County, Kansas, shall cause such notice to be published in the Newton Kansan.

The board decided to table discussion on filling this vacancy until the May 13, 2024 board meeting.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 9:03 p.m.

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