

Board Notes — October 14, 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, October 14, 2024, in the Board of Education meeting room located at 308 E 1st, Newton, KS.

Members Present: Ian Long, Mallory Morton, Melissa Schreiber, Erica Stevens

Members Absent: Andy Ortiz, Dayna Steinmetz

Others Present: Superintendent Fred Van Ranken, Assistant Superintendent Joe Sample, Director of Business/Human Resources Jane Nichols, Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk Joni Jantz, and Director of Communications Carly Stavola

1. Opening of Meeting

Procedural: A. Call to Order

Melissa Schreiber called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Melissa Schreiber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

— Adopt the agenda as presented.

2. Presentations/Reports

John Werner received the distinction as a National PLTW (Project Lead The Way) Outstanding Teacher for 2024-2025.

3. Comments from the Public

Joel Smith and Kyle Coffey addressed the board regarding student admission prices to sporting events. Carol Sue Stayrook Hobbs shared her personal experience moving to Newton in her senior year and expressed her desire to continue offering fine arts classes.

4. Consent Agenda

— Approve the September 23, 2024 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

— Approve the October 14, 2024 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Brown	Jonni	Sp Ed Teacher	Cooper	8/1/2025		x
Dawson	Breckyn	Sp Ed Para	SB	9/24/2024		x
Brown	Mariah	Sp Ed Para	SF	9/27/2024		x
Kirtley	Aaron	Asst Boys Wrestling Coach	CMS	1/31/2024		x
Williams	Hope	Sp Ed SL Long Term Sub	NHS	9/24/2024		x
Bradley	Sara	Sp Ed Para	NR	9/18/2024		x
Epp	Gershom	Sp Ed Para	SF	10/18/2024		x
Burnside	Cindy	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	10/9/2024		x
Robb	Faith	Sp Ed Para	SF	10/7/2024		x
Sherrill	Sheri	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	10/11/2024	x	
Anderson	Marshall	Assist MS Football Coach	CMS	9/23/2024	x	
Antonowich	Taylor	Athletic Event Worker	NHS	10/4/2024	x	
McConnell	Mike	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	10/3/2024	x	

Arismendi Soto	Jenifer	Sp Ed Para	SB	10/3/2024	x	
Carter	Kylah	Reg. Ed. Aide	Cooper	10/3/2024	x	
Catlett	Joseph	Sp Ed Para	SF	10/7/2024	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Wieberg	Marsha	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	10/14/2024	Sp. Ed. Para @ SB	
Wilson	Hannah	SpEd SMD Long Term Sub	NHS	9/30/2024	Sp. Ed. SL Long Term Sub	
Ribble	Jaclyn	Sp Ed Para	SF	10/10/2024	ELL Aide @ CMS	
Petrie	Shawndrea	Food Service	SC	10/7/2024	Sp. Ed. Para @ CMS	
Webb	Margry	Sp Ed Para	SS	10/3/2024	Sp. Ed. Para @ CMS	
Koehn	Katelin	Reg. Ed. Aide	SC	8/14/2024	From 21 hrs/wk to 33.35 hrs/wk	
Girtz	Sophie	Reg. Ed. Aide	SC	8/14/2024	From 12.75 hrs/wk to 15.84 hrs/wk	
Valdivia-Morales	Stephanie	Admin Assistant	SC	9/30/2024	ELL Aide @ SC	
Torres	Emily	Assist Girls Wrestling Coach	NHS	10/7/2024	Add ELL Aide @ SF	
Thompson	Caren	Bus Driver	Transportation	10/7/2024	Add Sp. Ed. Para @ NR	
Gronau	Jennifer	Sp Ed Para/Reg. Ed. Aide	NR	10/9/2024	Reg. Ed. Aide Only @ NR	
Gonzalez	Brandon	Sp Ed Para	SC	8/14/2024	From 33.75 hrs/wk to 27 hrs/wk	

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

5. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the Head Start Policy Council Policies and Procedures as presented.
- Approve the original project scope of work for capital improvements at the Santa Fe campus as presented.

USD 373 Board of Education Guidelines

Board members present were in consensus of moving forward with these guidelines.

6. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Central KS Community Foundation	Cooper Early Education Center	Supplies & food for Head Start weekend food kits	\$1,000.00
Anonymous	Newton High School FFA	Donation to cover cost of FFA Chapter t-shirts	\$1,200.00
All Together Now/Central Kansas Comm. Foundation	Slate Creek Elementary	Donations for All Together Now Playground	\$597,242.93
Horn's Auto Repair	Newton High School Robotics	Assist with robotics expenses	\$1,000.00
Harvey County EDC, Inc.	Newton High School Electrical Classroom	Assist with classroom expenses	\$35,000.0

- Approve the early graduation requests from Opportunity Academy.

PLC and KESA Update

Joe Sample presented information on Professional Learning Communities (PLC) including PLC purpose and vision, team organization and operations, and expectations.

Mr. Sample also gave an overview of KESA 2.0 and the process that USD 373 will be going through for this accreditation cycle.

Executive Session-School Safety Procedures

— Move that the board convene in executive session for the purpose of discussing security matters pursuant to the KOMA exception regarding matters to ensure the security of the school, its buildings and/or its systems is not jeopardized and that the board return to the open meeting in this room at 8:27 p.m. Fred Van Ranken, Reagan Seidl, and Carly Stavola are invited to participate in the session.

7. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Mallory Morton attended the Head Start Policy Council meeting. She gave an overview of topics discussed and encouraged people to sign up to volunteer at Cooper. Ian Long shared copies of the Themian Park master plan and financing. This plan is close to being finalized. Land near ETC is being considered for a parking lot, in which case, the board would need to take action for this to happen.

Building and Department Reports

Building reports for Cooper Early Education, Northridge Elementary, Slate Creek Elementary, South Breeze Elementary, Sunset Elementary as well as Instructional Services, Business/HR/Payroll, Technology and Maintenance/Facilities reports were provided to the board for information.

8. 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 8:55 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 9:10 p.m.

9. 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

Melissa Schreiber suggested that there be a future agenda item to discuss student admission for activities and have this discussion as part of the budget planning process.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 9:14 p.m.

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