

Board Notes — November 11, 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, November 11, 2024, in the Board of Education meeting room located at 308 E 1st, Newton, KS.

Members Present: Ian Long, Mallory Morton, Andy Ortiz, Melissa Schreiber, Dayna Steinmetz and Erica Stevens

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

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

Presentations: A. Fall Sports, Fine Arts and Other Student Recognitions

The board recognized students for outstanding performance in fall sports and the Harvey County Constitution Contest as well as the USD 373 Fine Arts teachers for their KSHSAA exemplary recognition.

Reports: B. CTE Highlights

CTE Director, Diane Moser, gave an update on the CTE program including highlights from 2023-24, community partnerships, addition of the electrical classroom and goals for 2025-26 school year.

3. Comments from the Public

Sara Graber and Johann Crouse-Dick addressed the board regarding the need for shade structures in the green space at Santa Fe 5/6 Center. Sara Getchell addressed the board regarding goals set for the district.

4. Consent Agenda

— Approve the October 28, 2024 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

— Approve the November 11, 2024 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/Term
Crittenden	Jana	Counselor	NHS	6/1/2025		x
Antonowich	Lisa	PE Teacher	NHS	6/1/2025		x
Hodgkins	Mary	Custodian	Cooper	12/31/2024		x
Gonzalez	Chywonna	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	11/7/2024	x	
Getman	Haylea	2nd Shift Custodian	NHS	11/7/2024	x	
Mowrey	Jennifer	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	11/5/2024	x	
Gibson	Kari	Occupational Therapist	Cooper	1/6/2025	x	
Lewis	Ernie	Bus Driver	Service Center	10/29/2024	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Woodley	Jaric	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	10/28/2024	From 7 hrs/week to 8 hrs/week	

Roth	Shari	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	10/15/2024	SMD Long Term Substitute @ NHS
Foudray	Courtney	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	11/11/2024	Sp. Ed. Para @ SS
Catlett	Joseph	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	11/11/2024	Substitute Teacher @ District-Wide

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

- Approve the September 2024 Treasurer's Report.
- Approve the annual credit card limits as presented.
- Approve the annual renewal of CISCO SmartNet maintenance and support for current district network hardware.

5. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Full Vision, Inc.	Newton High RaileRobotics	Assist with starting a 2nd team	\$500.00
Randall & Elizabeth Kaufman	Newton High RaileRobotics	Assist with travel expenses & supplies	\$500.00
Prestressed Concrete	Newton High RaileRobotics	Assist with travel expenses & supplies	\$1,000.00
Cottonwood Pediatrics	Newton High RaileRobotics	Assist with travel expenses & supplies	\$4,000.00
Moridge Mfg, Inc.	Newton High RaileRobotics	Assist with travel expenses & supplies	\$1,000.00
Wickiser Family	Newton High RaileRobotics	Assist with travel expenses & supplies	\$2,000.00
Kansas Electric	Newton High RaileRobotics	Assist with travel expenses & supplies	\$1,000.00
The Barn	Newton High CTE	Electrical program	\$500.00
Millennium Machine & Tool	Newton High CTE	Precision Machining program	\$5,000.00
Bethel College Mennonite Church	USD 373 Social Workers	Purchase basic needs for families	\$500.00

Gifts Under \$500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Brian Donley - BMO	Newton High School	Snacks & drinks for Experiential Learning Day	\$200.00
Lona Duncan	Santa Fe 5/6 Center	Cricut and supplies	\$200.00

- Approve the participating agreement with Butler Community College for the 2024-25 school year.
- Approve increasing the adult breakfast meal price to \$3.05 effective immediately.
- Approve early graduation requests for Newton High School and Opportunity Academy as presented.
- Approve that the Board of Education adopt and file the Notice of Federal Interest regarding the use of federal pass-through grant funds for the improvement of Newton High School and that Superintendent Fred Van Ranken be authorized to execute and file the Notice of Federal Interest with the Harvey County Register of Deeds.
- Approve the new ELL position serving grades 5-8 beginning on November 18, 2024.
- Approve the RailerStars program pending acquisition of personnel.

ELA Novel Review for Information

The ELA Novel Review committee made a recommendation for three novels to be used in ELA classrooms. Administration will be seeking approval at the December 9, 2024 meeting.

New Course Proposals for 2025-2026

New proposed course information was presented to the board for Chisholm Middle, Newton High and Opportunity Academy. Information on the courses can be found in BoardDocs and administration will be seeking approval at the December 9, 2024 meeting.

Student Activity Admission

Brian Becker and Chad Nulik shared information on student admission prices, student attendance at games and answered questions from the board. The board engaged in conversation on ticket prices, community sponsorships, supervision and asked for information regarding revenue from gate tickets from last year and this year.

Transportation Software

Superintendent Van Ranken shared information on bus tracking software the district is planning to purchase and use beginning with the second semester of this year.

Parents as Teachers Policy & Procedures Manual

Parents as Teachers provided their updated policy and procedures manual to the board for review and will be requesting approval at the December 9, 2024 board meeting.

Newton High School Out-of-State Contests

Newton High School provided information on anticipated out-of-state contests for 2024-25.

6. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Mallory Morton wasn't able to attend the last Head Start policy council meeting, but did encourage board members to read the Cooper reports provided in the building report section. Head Start is preparing for their Focus Area 2 visit.

Andy Ortiz shared that Albert is still working on the final plans for the Santa Fe project and will share more information as it becomes available.

Melissa Schreiber attended the Harvey County Interagency Council meeting.

Fred Van Ranken asked board members to give the name of their representative on the Facility Planning Committee to Joni or Fred as soon as possible.

Building and Department Reports

Building reports for Cooper Early Education Center, Northridge, Slate Creek, South Breeze, Sunset, Santa Fe 5/6 Center, Chisholm Middle, Newton High School and Opportunity Academy were provided to the board for information. Department reports for Instructional Services, Facilities/Maintenance and Technology Services were provided as well.

7. 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. Fred Van Ranken was invited to join the executive session.

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 members thanked all district veterans for their service. Appreciation was given to the admins and students that attended the board meeting.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:54 p.m.

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