

Board Notes — December 9, 2024

A special meeting of the Board of Education of Newton Unified School District 373 convened in open and public session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 9, 2024, in the Board of Education meeting room located at 308 E 1st, Newton, KS. The regular meeting of the Board of Education began at 7:00 p.m.

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 Special Meeting

Melissa Schreiber called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Melissa Schreiber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

— Adopt the agenda as presented.

Conversation with Legislators

Representatives Avery Anderson and Mike King and Senator Stephen Owens attended the meeting for a question and answer time with board members.

This special meeting ended at 6:48 p.m. and the board recessed until 7:00 p.m. when the regular meeting started.

2. Opening of Regular Meeting

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

— Adopt the agenda as presented.

Public Comments were moved to be heard before the Student Recognition.

3. Comments from the Public

Carol Sue Stayrook Hobbs thanked the district for the many ways that students are involved in our community.

4. Presentations/Reports

The board recognized the NHS Railiners dance team for their 2nd Place Runner Up finish at the 2024 KSHSAA 5A State GameDay Competition.

5. 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 7:20 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 7:35 p.m.

6. Consent Agenda

— Approve the November 11, 2024 minutes as presented.

- Approve the bills as presented.
- Approve the December 9, 2024 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Lee	Airionna	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	10/24/2024		x
Davies	Mary	Accompanist	CMS	1/25/2019		x
Becker	Christopher	5th Grade Sci/SS Tchr	SF	5/23/2025		x
Ewy	Jennifer	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	12/20/2024		x
Rossiter	Susie	Reg. Ed. Aide	Cooper	11/26/2024		x
Sydow	Craig	Night Lead Custodian	NHS	11/22/2024		x
Magnuson	Bret	2nd Shift Custodian	NHS	11/22/2024		x
Arellano	Mike	Bus Aide	Service Center	12/2/2024		x
Carter	Kylah	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	12/19/2024		x
Gouvion	Brianna	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	12/6/2024		x
Theis	Kami	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	12/6/2024	x	
Johnson	Treasure	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	12/5/2024	x	
Quintero	Mario	Substitute Teacher	District Wide	12/4/2024	x	
Hook	Jess	Sp Ed Para/Sub Bus Aide	SB/Service Ctr	12/3/2024	x	
Diaz Garcia	Cristian	Asst. Wrestling Coach	NHS	12/2/2024	x	
Smith	Ashley	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	11/14/2024	x	
Caudill	Ella	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	11/14/2024	x	
Berg	Pamela	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	11/14/2024	x	
Nattier	Sadie	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	11/12/2024	x	
Spencer	Ashley	Administrative Assistant	SC	12/2/2024	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Henkelman	Chandler	Sp. Ed. Teacher	HCSEC	11/18/2024	Add Basketball Para @ HCSEC	
Pimentel Anton	Joaquin	Substitute Teacher	District Wide	11/18/2024	ELL Long Term Sub @ SF	
Thompson	Caren	Bus Driver/Sp. Ed. Para	Service Ctr/NR	11/18/2024	Bus Driver Only @ Service Ctr	
Janzen	Christina	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	1/7/2025	Sp. Ed. Para @ SB	
Walker	Nathan	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	11/1/2024	Add Athletic Worker	
Carter	Kyla	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	11/19/2024	From 21 hrs/wk to 25 hrs/wk	
Gomez	Searra	Bus Aide	Service Center	12/2/2024	Substitute Bus Aide	
Newdigger	Cali	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	1/7/2025	Substitute Tchr @ District-Wide	
Caudill	Ella	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	1/7/2025	From 8 hrs/wk to 7.5 hrs/wk	

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

- Approve the renewal quote of the student information system from Computer Information Concepts in the amount of \$61,739.00.

7. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the Parents As Teachers policy and procedures manual as presented.
- Approve the three novels presented to be used in ELA classrooms.
- Approve the recommended new courses for the 2025-26 school year.

Student Activity Admission

Board members continued their discussion from the 11/11/24 board meeting on student activity admission. Brian Becker provided information on gate receipt revenue. Supervision of students was discussed along with community partnerships. The board came to a consensus to have administration put together a plan to be presented to the board in February.

Newton High School Out-of-State Contests

Newton High School provided information on an out-of-state contest for the debate team on December 13-15, 2024 in Iowa.

8. New Business

The board voted to:

— Approve the gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Burlington School District	Newton High School CTE	Small engines	\$8,100.00
T-Mobile	Newton High School	Friday Night 5G Lights Contest-football program, facilities, equipment	\$5,000.00
Newton Railers Jr Football Club	NHS/CMS Football	Buy football bags for Chisholm Middle School	\$3,225.00
Knights of Columbus	Harvey County Special Education	Circle of Friends expenses	\$1,400.00
Harvey County	Newton High School CTE	Electrical classroom donation	\$35,000.00
Millennium Machine & Tool	Newton High School Machining	Donation of materials	\$950.00
Newton Women's Community Foundation	South Breeze Elementary	Grant to purchase washer and dryer	\$1,200.00
Newton Women's Community Foundation	Cooper Early Ed. Ctr.	Grant to help with student achievement & growth opportunities	\$2,400.00

Gifts Under \$500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Virgil Penner	Newton High School Railer Boxcar	Cash Donation	\$300.00
Anonymous	Newton High School Railer Boxcar	Cash Donation	\$100.00
Kurt Harper Memorial	South Breeze Elementary	Purchasing books	\$50.00

First Quarter Data Review

Joe Sample provided information on the first quarter district data for FastBridge and Interim assessments.

Curriculum Evaluation and Adoption Update

Joe Sample presented information on the curriculum evaluation and adoption process for new resource adoptions. More information can be found in the BoardDocs agenda.

Head Start Standards of Conduct and Policies & Procedures

The Head Start Standards of Conduct and Policy and Procedures documents were presented to the board. Administration will be seeking approval of these items at the January 13, 2025 board meeting.

2025-26 Capital Outlay Requests

Jane Nichols presented information on the 2025-26 Capital Outlay requests and budget. Administration will be recommending approval at the January 13, 2025 board meeting.

9. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Mallory Morton reported on Head Start policy council meeting and encouraged board members to read the Cooper reports provided in the building report section. The Cooper FA2 attachment provides information on the upcoming FA2 visit. Mallory attended the first facility planning meeting and the KASB Convention.

Ian Long reported that the PBC is still in the planning stages of the Themian Park project. He also attended the KASB Convention as did Melissa Schreiber.

Building and Department Reports

Building reports for Cooper Early Education Center, Northridge, Slate Creek, South Breeze, Sunset, Santa Fe 5/6 Center, Chisholm Middle, USD 373 Athletics, Newton High School and Opportunity Academy were provided to the board for information. Department reports for Instructional Services, Business/HR/Payroll, Technology Services, and Facilities/Maintenance were provided as well.

10. 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 district office administrators for their work and reporting on capital outlay, data review and curriculum adoptions.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:46 p.m.

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