

Board Notes — January 13, 2025

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, January 13, 2025, 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 Ercia 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 6:01 p.m.

Melissa Schreiber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

— Adopt the agenda as presented.

Work Session with Nate Regier

Nate Regier with Next Element led a discussion with board members on the Process Communication Model.

This special meeting ended at 6:58 p.m.

2. Opening of Regular Meeting

Melissa Schreiber called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

— Adopt the agenda as presented.

— Appoint Melissa Schreiber as board president for January 2025 - January 2026.

— Appoint Ian Long as board vice-president for January 2025 - January 2026.

— Approve setting the regular Board of Education meeting dates for 2025-2026 school year at the organizational board meeting on July 14, 2025.

3. Presentations/Reports

Presentation of Financial Audit

Cheryl Bishop from Knudsen Monroe presented a recap of the district's financial audit for the 2023-24 school year.

4. Comments from the Public

Carol Sue Stayrook Hobbs shared a success story of a Newton High graduate.

Several JAG students thanked the board for supporting the JAG program at Newton High and Chisholm Middle. NHS principal, Emily Snyder, thanked board members for their service.

5. Consent Agenda

The board approved to:

— Approve the December 9, 2024 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

— Approve the January 13, 2025 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Rivera Escalante	Delmy	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	12/19/2024		x
Hitt	Erica	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	12/10/2024		x
Calder	Logan	Math Teacher	NHS	5/23/2025		x
Brinklow	Suzan	CTE Admin Assistant	NHS	12/20/2024		x
Foudray	Courtney	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	12/9/2024		x
Fisher	Kenneth	Bus Driver	Service Ctr	12/13/2024		x
Roth	Ashton	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	12/19/2024		x
Switzer	Jennifer	Social Worker	SB	5/23/2025		x
Caudill	Ella	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	12/5/2024		x
Jacobs	Lorelei	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	12/19/2024		x
Bristol	Jenny	Admin Assistant	SF	1/17/2025		x
Kennedy	Tea	Sp Ed ED Teacher	SS	1/21/2025	x	
Rosser	Kaiden	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	1/13/2025	x	
Shy	Jeffrey	2nd Shift Custodian	NHS	1/13/2025	x	
Thomas	Nancy	Substitute Tchr	Dist-Wide	1/1/2025	x	
Farmer	Owen	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	12/19/2024	x	
Loganbill	Shelly	Substitute Tchr	Dist-Wide	12/18/2024	x	
Trujillo	Jared	Bus Aide	Service Ctr	12/17/2024	x	
DeMartino	Emily	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	12/17/2024	x	
Hamilton	Paris	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	12/12/2024	x	
Zieammermann	Steven	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	12/10/2024	x	
Wells	Alexus	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	12/10/2024	x	
Pritchard	Jeffrey	Asst. MS Boys Basketball Coach	CMS	1/6/2025	x	
Murry	Jaymie	Asst Wrestling Coach	NHS	12/10/2024	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Bohnert	Sarah	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	12/2/2024	From 33.75 hrs/week to 35 hrs/week & Add Railer Power Hour	
Hornberger	Elizabeth	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	12/9/2024	Sp. Ed. Para @ SS	
Dotson	Marc	Business Teacher	CMS	8/14/2024	Add PM Bus Supervision	
Murphy	Madison	7th Gr ELA Tchr	CMS	12/11/2024	Add PM Bus Supervision	
Weibert	Kirstyn	6th Gr Sci/SS Tchr	SF	8/1/2025	5th Grade Sci/SS Teacher @ SF	
Floro	Adriana	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	1/7/2025	From 7.5 hrs/week to 9 hrs/week	
Yoder	Jim	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	1/7/2025	From 22.5 hrs/week to 30 hrs/week	
Buentello	Adrian	2nd Shift Custodian	NHS	12/23/2024	Night Lead Custodian @ NHS	
Ramirez	Herica	Food Service	SF	1/13/2025	Headstart Aide @ Cooper	

Christianson	Lucila	Food Service	SS	12/19/2024	Food Service Manager @ SF
Sweeden	Donna	Reg. Ed. Aide	NR	1/7/2025	Add PM Bus Aide
Hammel	Ronna	Kdgn Teacher	SS	1/15/2025	Railer Stars Teacher @ SS
Miller	Noah	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	1/7/2025	From 20.25 hrs/wk to 33.75 hrs/wk
Petrie	Shawndrea	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	12/16/2024	Add PM Bus Aide
Rempel	Caleb	6th Gr Math Tchr	SF	1/1/2025	Add Head 7th Gr Boys BB Coach@CMS
Mock	Heydon	Asst. Boys Wrestling Coach	CMS	1/1/2025	Add Asst Girls Wrestling Coach @ CMS
Buckle	Rachel	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	1/1/2025	Add Athletic Worker
Theis	Kami	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	1/15/2025	Kindergarten Teacher @ SS

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

6. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve revisions to the Head Start Standards of Conduct and the Policy and Procedures documents.
- Approve the 2025-26 Capital Outlay requests as presented.

7. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Everygy	Newton High School Electrical Program	Donation for classroom expenses	\$3,332.00
Rusty Eck Ford	Newton High School Automotive Program	2024 Ford Edge	\$57,000.00
Credit Union of America	Newton High School	2024 F24 Fall TGIF Grant for art supplies	\$1,000.00
Hesston College	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Assist with team expenses	\$500.00

Gifts Under \$500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Grabers	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Assist with team expenses	\$200.00
Roofing Services	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Assist with team expenses	\$100.00
Union State Bank	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Assist with team expenses	\$100.00
Community National Bank	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Assist with team expenses	\$100.00
LH Goossen	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Assist with team expenses	\$100.00

- Approve early graduation requests for Opportunity Academy as presented.
- Approve the audit report of the district's financial records for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.
- Approve release days for Opportunity Academy on April 8 and 9, 2025 as presented.

Professional Development Evaluations - Aug-Dec 2024

Evaluations for Professional Development days from August-December 2024 were shared with the Board of Education.

8. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Mallory Morton attended the Cooper Policy Council meeting and learned about all of the family engagement activities they hold. She encouraged board members to read the Cooper report provided in the building report section. The FA2 visit is scheduled for the week of February 17. She attended the second facilities planning meeting on December 18. Ian Long reported that the PBC is still in the planning stages of the Themian Park project and working with the Railer Foundation for funding. Superintendent Van Ranken reminded board members to read through the reports that RSP has provided on the facilities planning work.

Building and Department Reports

Building reports for Cooper Early Education Center, Northridge Elementary, South Breeze Elementary and a department report for Instructional Services were provided to the board for information.

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

Board members thanked district maintenance and custodial staff for getting snow and ice cleared from the school campuses, advised of the upcoming stem cell donor drive at NHS on 1/18/25 and are looking forward to this second semester and working together as a board.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.

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