

Board Notes — January 27, 2025

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, January 27, 2025, in the Board of Education meeting room located at 308 E 1st, Newton, KS.

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

Members Absent: 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

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

Head Start FA 2 Visit Information

Cooper Early Learning Center Principal, Alyssa Vanderhoof, provided the BOE with information pertinent to the FA 2 review scheduled for the week of February 17, 2025. As part of this review, an interview is scheduled with board members on February 19 at 1:30 p.m. Mallory Morton and Erica Stevens will participate in the FA 2 interview.

Board Member Recognition

January is School Board Recognition Month. Superintendent Van Ranken thanked board members for their dedication in serving on the USD 373 Board of Education. A meal was provided for board members this evening.

3. Comments from the Public

There were no comments.

4. Consent Agenda

The board approved to:

— Approve the January 13, 2025 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

— Approve the January 27, 2025 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Gonzalez	Brandon	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	12/19/2024		x
Girtz	Sophie	Reg. Ed. Aide	SC	12/17/2024		x
Shultz	Richard	Math Teacher	NHS	5/24/2025		x
Robinson	Amanda	1st Grade Teacher	SS	5/24/2025		x
Brueggeman	Denise	Psychologist	HCSEC	5/24/2025		x
Foster	Jarrod	Adaptive PE Teacher	NHS	5/24/2025		x
Farmer	Owen	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	1/10/2025		x
Claassen	Samuel	Asst MS Tennis Coach	CMS	1/21/2025		x

Colvin	Jonathan	Food Service	SS	1/14/2025		x
Mayhue	Kristen	Payroll Coordinator	DO	4/11/2025		x
Patton	Colby	School Counselor	NHS	8/1/2025	x	
Archer	Matthew	Substitute Teacher	Dist.-Wide	1/22/2025	x	
Forkenbrock	Michaela	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	1/21/2025	x	
Shaffer	Nicolas	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	1/21/2025	x	
Bieker	LaKaya	Psychologist	HCSEC	8/1/2025	x	
Darnell-Watson	Emma	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	1/16/2025	x	
Stegman	Shae'Lynn	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	1/16/2025	x	
Bacon	Sydney	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	1/16/2025	x	
Marial	Amerdid	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	1/16/2025	x	
Murphy	Kathy	Athletic Worker	NHS	1/15/2025	x	
Baker	Ann	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	1/14/2025	x	
Colvin	Jonathan	Food Service	SS	1/14/2025	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Budde	Brylee	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	1/13/2025	From 20.25 hrs/wk to 30.25 hrs/wk	
Ferrier	Ernest	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	1/13/2025	From 4.25 hrs/day to 6.75 hrs/day	
Fisher-Soukup	Abriauna	Reg. Ed. Aide	SS	1/21/2025	From 27.5 hrs/wk to 26.68 hrs/wk	
Norris	Kai	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	1/13/2025	From 12.58 hrs/wk to 9.5 hrs/wk	
Olsen	Jessica	Media Clerk	St. Mary's	2/1/2025	Add Athletic Worker	
Reichenberger	Paul	Business Tchr/Coach	NHS	2/1/2025	Add Asst. Boys Tennis Coach@CMS	
Weeks	Brooke	Payroll Clerk	DO	3/17/2025	Payroll Coordinator @ DO	

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

- Approve the facilities assessment proposal from Gravity Works as presented for a total of \$25,000.
- Approve the Microsoft Annual Renewal as presented.
- Approve the Capital Outlay purchase for memory upgrade of UCS blades at a cost of \$33,699.60.
- Approve the Capital Outlay purchase for Dell desktop computers and prosupport for the district at a cost of \$104,882.40.

5. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Millennium Machine & Tool	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Assist with robotics expenses	\$1,000.00
Kansas Electric	Newton High School CTE	CTE Scholar Scholarship	\$2,000.00
Susan Wickiser	USD 373	Assist with unpaid meals	\$1,000.00
Newton Rotary	Newton High School	Sunshine Squad expenses	\$500.00

Gifts Under \$500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Union State Bank	Cooper Early Education Center	Supplies for Infant-Toddler home visits	\$200.00

- Approve early graduation requests for Opportunity Academy as presented.
- Approve the Head Start Federal Financial Report as presented.

KESA Update

Assistant Superintendent, Joe Sample, gave an overview on the work that the district is doing for Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA).

KASB Recommended Policy Revisions

The December 2024 KASB recommended policy revisions were presented to the board for review. This included revisions, new policies and deleted policies. Administration will be seeking approval of these revisions at the February 10 board meeting.

6. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Mallory Morton gave an update of the work that the Head Start Policy Council has been doing including getting ready for the FA 2 visit the week of February 17th. She also attended the January 22nd Facility Planning meeting. Erica Stevens attended the Harvey County Special Education Board meeting and Melissa Schreiber attended the Facility Planning meeting. Melissa is the board representative on the Endowment Committee and she can no longer serve on this committee so a replacement will need to be determined.

Building Reports

Building reports for Santa Fe 5/6 Center, Chisholm Middle School, Opportunity Academy, Newton High School and USD 373 Athletics were provided to the board for information.

7. 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 were appreciative of the meal served this evening, congratulated students for receiving various honors this year, thanked Cooper staff for presenting tonight as well as for the KESA information presented by Joe Sample. Andy Ortiz would like to form a committee to look at the needs of the culinary program at Newton High.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

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