

Board Notes — February 10, 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, February 10, 2025, in the Board of Education meeting room located at 308 E 1st, Newton, KS.

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

Members Absent: Melissa Schreiber

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

Ian Long called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Ian Long led the Pledge of Allegiance.

— Adopt the agenda as presented.

2. Presentations/Reports

Student Recognitions

The board recognized Vaden Kumar and Riley Ney for their first place finish at the KSHSAA 5A State Debate competition. The students that will be participating at the KMEA State Music Convention from February 27-March 1 were also recognized.

ELL Update

Kendall Smith, ELL Coordinator for USD 373, shared an update on the ELL program, including some of the changes that have been made to the Newcomer program for this year.

3. Comments from the Public

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

4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

— Approve the January 27, 2025 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

— Approve the February 10, 2025 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Johnson	Treasure	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	12/19/2024		x
Trujillo	Jared	Bus Aide	Transportation	12/19/2024		x
Geyer	Tamera	Sp. Ed. IR Teacher	NHS	5/23/2025		x
Egan	Robert	Debate/Speech Long Term Sub.	NHS	6/23/2025		x
Yost	David	2nd Shift Custodian	NHS	2/27/2025		x
Cooper	Katherine	Psychologist	HCSEC	3/31/2025		x
Hook	Jess	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	2/7/2025		x

O'Flannagan	Jessica	Social Worker	NHS	2/24/2025	x	
Vanderweg	Nancy	Admin Assistant	SF	2/10/2025	x	
Bartel	Debra	Reg. Ed. Aide	SC	2/5/2025	x	
Perkins	Taylor	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	2/4/2025	x	
Salas	Samuel	Asst. Baseball Coach	NHS	2/3/2025	x	
Rodriguez Navarro	Rafael	2nd Shift Custodian	NHS	1/29/2025	x	
Madison	Trevon	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	1/28/2025	x	
Funk	Taleigha	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	1/28/2025	x	
Miller	Sarah	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	1/28/2025	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
McMichael	Jesse	Sp. Ed. Teacher	SF	1/20/2025	Add Asst. Softball Coach @ NHS	
Thompson	Blake	Bldg Sub/Coach	NHS	2/1/2025	Add Asst. Track Coach @ NHS	
Potter	Charity	Reg. Ed. Aide	NHS	1/15/2025	CTE Admin Assistant @ NHS	
Doerksen	Michael	Reg Ed Aide/Ath Wrkr	NHS	12/19/2024	Athletic Worker Only	
Derome	Kayla	Sp. Ed. Para/Bus Aide	SS	1/30/2025	Remove Bus Aide	
Bass	Kaci	Sp. Ed. Para/Bus Aide	SS	1/30/2025	Remove Bus Aide	
Woodley	Jaric	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	2/3/2025	From 8 hrs/wk to 6.5 hrs/wk	
Noris	Kai	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	2/3/2025	From 9.5 hrs/wk to 6 hrs/wk	
Marial	Amerdid	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	2/3/2025	From 10.34 hrs/wk to 9.84 hrs/wk	
Roth	Ashton	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	1/20/2025	From 12.5 hrs/wk to 4 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 revisions to board policies BDA, CG, CNA, DE, DFAC, GAE, ICA, IDACA, JGFGBA, and KN, deletion of CD and CGI and adopt new policies CC and JGFGAA.

Policy DHF – Fundraising Activities

Superintendent Van Ranken presented a new policy for fundraising activities which is being recommended by KASB to provide general guidelines to fundraisers that occur at school, on school property, and at school-sponsored events. This has been reviewed by 373 administration and will be recommended for approval at the February 24 board meeting.

6. New Business

The board voted to:

— Approve the gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Full Vision	Newton High School CTE	CTE Scholarship	\$500.00
Bunting Magnetics	Newton High School CTE	CTE Scholarship	\$500.00
DeVore & Sons	South Breeze Elementary	Donation for classroom supplies	\$500.00

Gifts Under \$500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Eugene Voth	Newton High School Machining Program	Donation for service	\$65.00

— Approve early graduation request for Opportunity Academy as presented.

Draft 2025-26 Attendance Calendar

Superintendent Van Ranken presented the proposed calendar for the 2025-2026 school year for the BOE to review. It is very similar to the current calendar with only a few adjustments based upon recommendations from the committee. Administration will be recommending final approval at the February 24, 2025 BOE meeting.

Newton High School Out-of-State Contests

Newton High School provided information on an out-of-state contest for the RaileRobotics team on March 27-29, 2025 in Riverside, MO. No funds are requested and this item was for information only.

7. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Mallory Morton attended the Head Start Policy Council and they are focusing on the upcoming FA2 visit. Head Start is recommending that three board members participate in the interview part of this visit. Andy Ortiz agreed to join Mallory Morton and Erica Stevens for the interview. Ian Long advised of the upcoming PBC meeting scheduled for February 26.

Building/Department Reports

Building reports for Cooper Early Education Center, Northridge Elementary, Slate Creek Elementary, South Breeze Elementary and Sunset Elementary and department reports for Instructional Services and Maintenance/Facilities were provided to the board for information.

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

Ian Long asked board members about interest in serving on the Endowment Committee to fill the vacancy by Melissa and serving on the culinary program discussion group. Erica agreed to being the board representative on the Endowment Committee and Dayna agreed to the Culinary Committee.

Action: C. Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 7:41 p.m.

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