Board Notes — February 24, 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 24, 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 Dayna Steinmetz

Members Absent: Ericia 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. Comments from the Public

No comments.

3. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:
— Approve the February 10, 2025 minutes as presented.
— Approve the bills as presented.
— Approve the February 24, 2025 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Dobie	Anna	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	2/20/2025		x
Jost	Josiah	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	2/17/2025	x	
Morlan	Theresa	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	2/17/2025	x	
Michael	Daniell	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	2/17/2025	x	
Ewert	Renee	Asst. Swim Coach	NHS	3/3/2025	x	
Richardson	Torriano	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	2/17/2025	x	
Rivera Escalante	Delmy	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	2/17/2025	x	
Nightingale	Jayden	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	2/11/2025	x	
Last Name	**First Name**	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**	**Change of Assignment/Transfer**	
Baker	Ann	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	2/7/2025	From SMD to IR Para	
Schmidt	LaNita	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	2/24/2025	IR Sp. Ed. Para @ SC	

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

4. Old Business

The board voted to:
— Approve policy DHF-Fundraising as presented.
— Approve the 2025-26 Attendance Calendar as presented.

5. New Business

Gift Requests

The district received the following gift requests which are presented to the board for information. Approval action is not required as they are all under $500.00.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
John & Gwen Horn	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Robotic expenses	$487.38
Rodd & Andrea Fuller	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Robotic expenses	$243.69
NMC Health	HV CO Parents as Teachers	Cash donation for Sleep Safe Baby Shower	$250.00

Leave Committee BOE Member

Mallory Morton will serve as board representation on the leave committee to work with a group of NNEA members and administrators to discuss options that the negotiations team can consider.

Snow Day Calculations & Potential Adjustments

Superintendent Van Ranken gave an update on the inclement weather days the district has had in relation to the KSDE required attendance hours. Administration is reviewing hours closely and making plans for the possible shortfall in hours with the seniors as they typically are out of school a few days earlier than everyone else.

Review of Goal Area #3

Superintendent Van Ranken gave a review of Goal Area #3: Form Partnerships/Connections with Stakeholders. He reported on what the district has done in regards to the goal strategies over the last two years. The board will continue this discussion at the March 10 meeting. Detailed information can be found in the February 24 board agenda in BoardDocs.

Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation Tool

Melissa Schreiber, Ian Long and Superintendent Van Ranken recently met with Britton Hart from KASB to discuss the superintendent evaluation tool. There was board consensus to move forward using this KASB document. The dates of when evaluation documentation is due will be adjusted.

6. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Mallory Morton and Ericia Stevens participated in the board interview part of the Head Start FA2 visit. Mallory thanked the Cooper staff for all of their hard work preparing for this visit and also for working on the Head Start grant renewal. Andy Ortiz recently attended a technology committee meeting and advised of an upcoming visit to Butler County Community College for the culinary committee. Ian long advised of the PBC meeting scheduled for February 26. Themian park project plans are in the final stages.

Building Reports

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

7. Closing of Meeting

BOE Review of Self-Evaluation

There was no BOE self-evaluation feedback form provided at this meeting.

Board Comments

Appreciation was given to maintenance staff for their work in removing snow at all campuses several times this year. Congratulations to the many students attending various competitions and receiving awards. Board members were reminded of the importance of following the state legislature at this time.

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