

Board Notes — March 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, March 10, 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

Members Absent: 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 Technology Brenda Thompson

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

Alyssa Vanderhoof gave a presentation on the programming at Cooper Early Education Center including the Head Start Continuation Grant application that they are working on.

3. Comments from the Public

Public Comment

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

4. Consent Agenda

— Approve the February 24, 2025 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

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

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Carter	Patti	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	3/13/2025		x
Madlock	Hailie	Reg. Ed. Aide	NR	3/13/2025		x
Rende	Christine	7th Grade ELA Teacher	CMS	5/24/2025		x
Douglas	Lyric	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	3/28/2025		x
Budd	Carly	Permanent Bldg Sub	SC	3/13/2025		x
Born	Bailey	Ag Teacher	NHS	5/24/2025		x
Pauls	Joanie	3rd Grade Tchr/Coach	SB	5/24/2025		x
Glavin	Dustin	Maintenance Director	Service Ctr	4/25/2025		x
Harper	Alicia	MS Asst Track Coach	CMS	3/10/2025	x	
Swallow	Laura	6th Gr. Sci/SS Tchr	SF	8/1/2025	x	
Berg	Derek	2nd Shift Custodian	NHS	3/6/2025	x	
Meridith	Tia-Ashley	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	3/6/2025	x	
Unruh	Jacob	Speech/Debate Tchr	NHS	8/1/2025	x	
Buck	Jacelyn	PE Teacher	NHS	8/1/2025	x	
Remsberg	Maggie	Asst. Track Coach	NHS	3/3/2025	x	

Crittenden	Gary	Asst. Softball Coach	NHS	3/3/2025	x	
Bennett	Reese	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	2/28/2025	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Lindenmeyer	Kylie	Asst. Track Coach	NHS	3/3/2025	FT Coach to PT Coach	
Ferrier	Ernest	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	3/3/2025	Add Asst. Track Coach @ CMS	
Tovar	Andrew	Business Tchr/Coach	NHS	2/25/2025	Resign Asst Boys Swim Coach@NHS Only	
Dills	Sierra	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	2/25/2025	Sp. Ed. Para @ HCSEC	
Rankin	Heather	Food Serv Meat Dept Mgr	NHS	2/25/2025	Food Service Floor Manager@NHS	
Cordero	Mayra	ELL Aide	SC	2/17/2025	From 6.5 hrs/day to 7 hrs/day	
Loehr	Ferne "Jackie"	Bus Aide	Transport.	3/4/2025	Add Substitute Van Driver	
Ives	Tyler	Band Instructor/Coach	NHS	3/5/2025	Resign Asst Football Coach@CMS Only	
Gantt	Elizabeth	Food Service	NHS	1/8/2025	From 25 hrs/wk to 31.25 hrs/wk	
Abrile De Paiva	Maira	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	1/7/2025	From 11 hrs/wk to 13.5 hrs/wk	
Pimentel Anton	Joaquin	ELL Long Term Sub	SF/CMS	5/24/2025	From Long Term Sub to Reg Sub@Dist-Wide	

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

- Approve the October 2024 Treasurer's Report.
- Approve the November 2024 Treasurer's Report.
- Approve the request for unpaid leave for Shelby Martin as presented.
- Approve the revision to Resolution 2025-07-10 Authority for District Account as presented.
- Appoint Brooke Weeks as the KPERS Representative effectively immediately.

5. Old Business

Revisit Review of Goal Area #3

Board members had a discussion on Goal Area #3—Form Partnerships/Connections with Stakeholders to consider what adjustments could be made and what this goal would look like moving forward.

Superintendent Evaluation Timeline

Board members and Superintendent Van Ranken were all in agreement with the adjusted timeline for completion of the superintendent's evaluation.

6. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Gregory & Beth Suderman	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Team expenses	\$500.00
Brenna & Charles Haines	Newton High School Tennis	Team expenses	\$500.00
Project Teacher	South Breeze Elementary	School supplies	\$2,000.00

Gifts Under \$500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Ryan & Sarah Kopper	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Team expenses	\$500.00

- Approve early graduation requests for Opportunity Academy as presented.

Themian Park Agreement

This agenda item was moved to the March 24 board meeting. With only 4 members present and one declaring a conflict of interest, there was not a quorum for a vote. If board members have questions regarding the agreement, they should contact Mr. Van Ranken or Ian Long with your question.

— Approve the Head Start budget revision for purchasing a bus as presented.

Public Records Policy CN

Superintendent Van Ranken presented information on a recommended revision to policy CN—Public Records. The revision will provide clarity to the portion of the policy addressing viewing of district video. Administration will be recommending approval at the March 24, 2025 board meeting.

Head Start 2025-26 Continuation Grant Application

The Head Start Continuation Grant application documentation was presented to the board. This will be year four of the five-year grant. Administration will be recommending approval at the March 24, 2025 board meeting.

IXL Site License Renewal for 2025-2026

The renewal for the PreK-12 IXL ELA license was presented for information and administration will be recommending approval at the March 24, 2025 board meeting.

7. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Mallory Morton attended a recent Head Start Policy Council meeting. Staff are working on the Head Start grant proposal. Mallory also attended the 2/26/25 Facilities meeting with discussion on grade level configurations.

Ian Long and Andy Ortiz recently visited Butler County Community College to look at their culinary program and tour the facility. There was a lot of discussion on potential partnerships with the district.

Building/Department Reports

Building reports for Northridge Elementary, Slate Creek Elementary, South Breeze Elementary, Sunset Elementary, Cooper Early Education Center and 373 Athletics as well as department reports for Instructional Services, Business/HR/Payroll, Technology 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

Appreciation was given to the community for supporting student activities. There has been good attendance and a positive atmosphere this year. Board members were reminded of the importance of following the state legislature at this time. The Chamber is hosting a Legislative Update on March 29, 2025, 9:00 a.m. at McKinley.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

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