

Board Notes — March 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, March 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, 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

Winter Sports, Fine Arts and Other Student Recognitions

Newton High School students were recognized and given certificates for placing at state competitions in boys swimming, boys and girls wrestling, the Jazz I ensemble and two students in the state powerlifting competition.

BRSP District Operations Study Update

GINNA WALLACE and TODD WHITE from RSP presented information on the work that has taken place on the District Operations Study. Their presentation is available to view in the BoardDocs March 24 board agenda.

3. Comments from the Public

Public Comment

ABRAM WALL addressed the board about clarification of seminar release time for seniors.

4. Executive Session

Convene in Executive Session-Negotiations

The board approved to:

- Convene in executive session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations pursuant to the KOMA exception regarding employer-employee negotiations and that the board return to the open meeting in this room at 8:45 p.m. Fred Van Ranken and Jane Nichols are invited to join the executive session.
- Convene in executive session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations pursuant to the KOMA exception regarding employer-employee negotiations and that the board return to the open meeting in this room at 9:00 p.m. Fred Van Ranken and Jane Nichols are invited to join the executive session.

5. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

- Approve the March 10, 2025 minutes as presented.
- Approve the bills as presented.

— Approve the March 24, 2025 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Penner	Debra	ELL Aide	SS	6/1/2025		x
Rogers	Janel	Social Worker	NR	6/1/2025		x
Leo	Philomena	Permanent Bldg Sub	SB	5/22/2025		x
Logan	Jennifer	Occupational Therapist	SB/SC	5/23/2025		x
Ochoa	Chandler	Spanish Teacher	NHS	5/23/2025		x
Stockebrand	Harley	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	3/24/2025	x	
Boese	Abigail	1st Grade Teacher	SS	8/1/2025	x	
Hauck	Autumn	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	3/24/2025	x	
Allen	Hannah	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	3/11/2025	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Friesen	Shelby	Science Teacher/Coach	NHS	5/24/2025	Resign Asst Debate/Forensics Coach Only	
Abrile De Paiva	Maira	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	3/10/2025	From 13.5 hrs/week to 19.34 hrs/week	

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

— Approve the district's matching portion for precision machining equipment purchase as presented.

6. Old Business

The board voted to:

— Approve the revision to policy CN—Public Records as presented.

— Approve the Head Start Continuation Grant Application as presented.

Andy Ortiz declared a conflict of interest for the Themian Park action item and left the meeting at 9:05 p.m. He returned after the vote at 9:06 p.m.

— Approve the Themian Park Interlocal Agreement as presented.

7. New Business

The board voted to:

— Approve gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
United Way	Cooper Early Education Center	Infant Toddler program expenses	\$4,000.00

Gifts Under \$500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Walmart	Cooper Early Ed-PAT Program	Supplies for Community Baby Shower	\$100.00
First Presbyterian Women	USD 373	Assist with unpaid meals	\$300.00

— Approve the adjustment in capital outlay spending to purchase wireless controllers from Logicalis as presented.

2025-26 Newton High School Course Guide Proposal

The Newton High School 2025-26 Course Guide was presented for information. The new NHS courses that were approved 12/9/24 are reflected in this document.

Administration will be asking for approval of this course guide at the April 14, 2025 board meeting.

Jobs for America's Graduates Program Extension

The 2025-26 Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) agreement was presented to the board. Administration is recommending continuing participation in this program and will be seeking approval of the agreement at the April 14, 2025 board meeting.

Goal Area 2 Review

Superintendent Van Ranken gave a review of Goal Area #2: Improve and/or Sustain Culture. He reported on what the district is doing in regards to the goal strategies and tasks. Detailed information can be found in the March 24, 2025 board agenda in BoardDocs.

Interventionist Position at South Breeze

Joe Sample presented a proposal for an additional interventionist position at South Breeze Elementary and job description. Administration will be seeking approval of this position at the April 14, 2025 board meeting.

Information for RailerStars Handbook

The RailerStars Handbook was presented to the board for information. Administration will be seeking approval of this handbook at the April 14, 2025 board meeting.

Professional Development Evaluations – January-March 2025

Evaluations for Professional Development days from January-March 2025 were shared with the Board of Education.

8. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Andy Ortiz reported on the status of the Santa Fe mural project. Andy will reach out to the artist regarding a timeline and costs associated with completing a draft. The board had consensus to propose asking for a draft sketch by April 30, 2025. More information will be shared on this.

Ian Long thanked the board for approving the Themian Park Interlocal Agreement.

Building Reports

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

9. Closing of Meeting

BOE Review of Self-Evaluation

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

Board Comments

Congratulations was given to Wyatt Hendrickson for his recent wrestling accomplishments and acknowledged the investment that our staff have in student success. Appreciation was shared regarding the work that RSP and community participants have done. Also, the board was 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 9:56 p.m.

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