

Board Notes — April 14, 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, April 14, 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

Northridge – Arts Partners Report

Ellamonique Baccus and Esther Runck from Arts Partners presented information on the arts-in-education program they have implemented at Northridge Elementary this year.

3. Comments from the Public

No comments.

4. Executive Session

Convene in Executive Session-Personnel

The board voted to:
— Convene in executive session for the purpose of discussing issues concerning an employee pursuant to the KOMA exception regarding personnel matters of non-elected personnel and that the board return to the open meeting in this room at 7:30 p.m. Fred Van Ranken is invited to join the executive session.

5. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:
— Approve the March 24, 2025 minutes as presented.
— Approve the bills as presented.
— Approve the April 14, 2025 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Hamm	Alyssa	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	4/11/2025		x
Wilson	Amy	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	6/1/2025		x
Rodriguez	Pamela	Baking Department Mgr	NHS	5/23/2025		x
Serrano	Gene	Food Service	NHS	3/26/2025		x
Quispe	Eden	Art Teacher	NHS	5/23/2025		x
Rhodes	Shelby	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	5/22/2025		x
Michael	Daniell	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	4/11/2025		x

Mitts	Michelle	6th Grade ELA Tchr	SF	5/23/2025		x
Allmon	Ashley	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	5/21/2025		x
Meridith	Laura	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	5/21/2025		x
Stegman	Shae'Lynn	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	3/25/2025		x
Raines	Kylea	Infant/Toddler Tchr	Cooper	8/1/2025	x	
Harder	Andrew	Substitute Bus Driver	Transportation	4/11/2025	x	
Escobar	Breny	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	4/10/2025	x	
Burke	Jadyn	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	4/8/2025	x	
Zinn Stahly	Katelyn	Sp. Ed. IR Teacher	CMS	8/1/2025	x	
Blincoe	Edward	Sp. Ed. IR Teacher	NHS	8/1/2025	x	
Black	Jill	Substitute Nurse	District-Wide	3/24/2025	x	
Regier	Eli	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	3/25/2025	x	
Coppinger	Shianne	Social Worker	SB	8/1/2025	x	
Heddin	Matthew	Food Service	NHS	3/25/2025	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Holmes	Carol	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	3/38/2025	Perm. Building Substitute @ SC	
Fisher-Soukup	Abriauna	Reg. Ed. Aide	SS	4/3/2025	From 26 hrs/wk to 24.68 hrs/wk	
Harper	Alicia	MS Asst. Track Coach	CMS	4/7/2025	Add Sp. Ed. Para @ NHS	
Pfannenstiel	Valorie	STEAM Teacher	SF	8/1/2025	ELL Teacher @ SF/CMS	

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

- Approve auditing services as provided.
- Approve the bid presented by Star Commercial Flooring for various flooring projects across the district.
- Approve the bid from Encore Pavement for the paving project at NHS.
- Approve membership in the KASB Legal Assistance Fund at a cost of \$2,750.00 for the 2025-26 fiscal year.
- Approve the Interagency agreement between ESSDACK and USD 373 as presented.
- Approve a revision to the March 14, 2023 Walton Rural Life Center Scholarship MOU as presented.

6. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the renewal of PreK-12 IXL ELA licenses for the 2025-26 school year.
- Approve the 2025-26 Newton High School Course Guide as presented.
- Approve the JAG programs at Newton High School and Chisholm Middle School for 2025-26 as presented.
- Approve the additional Interventionist position at South Breeze Elementary as presented.
- Approve the RailerStars Handbook as presented.

Revisit Goal Area 2 Review

Superintendent Van Ranken and board members continued discussion on Goal Area #2: Improve and/or Sustain Culture to consider what adjustments could be made and what this goal would look like moving forward.

7. New Business

The board voted to:

— Approve gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Brenna Haines	Newton High School	Donation of beef for culinary program	\$500.00
Central KS Community Foundation	Newton High School	RaileRobotics competition expenses	\$5,000.00
Ryan Koehn	Newton High School	RaileRobotics competition expenses	\$722.78
Christopher and Laura Pace	Newton High School	National Debate tournament expenses	\$500.00

Gifts Under \$500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Steven Thieszen	Newton High School	RaileRobotics competition expenses	\$235.40
Philip Graber	Newton High School	RaileRobotics competition expenses	\$126.00

— Approve the revised Waiver of Compulsory Attendance Form as presented.

Solution Tree Purchase Agreement for 2025-26

The Solution Tree agreement for 2025-26 professional development and proposed dates for PLC coaching was presented. Administration will be seeking approval of the agreement at the April 28, 2025 board meeting.

2025-26 Student Fees Draft

The 2025-26 Student Fees were presented to the board and administration will be seeking approval of the fee schedule at the April 28, 2025 board meeting.

Open Discussion of State & Federal Level Legislative & Policy Changes

Superintendent Van Ranken gave an update on education related action at the state level. Board members engaged in conversation regarding funding. The board suggested that the district keep an open dialogue with our legislators and continue to invite them to future meetings.

8. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Mallory Morton attended the Head Start Policy Council where they gave a review of the FA2 visit and will be attending an upcoming leave committee meeting.

Andy Ortiz attended a recent Harvey County Special Education board meeting where they learned about the support that Brian Skinner is giving special education teachers. The culinary committee continues to meet and form partnerships in the community. The board will need to find another artist to work on the Santa Fe gym mural.

Ian Long reported that the PBC has not had a recent meeting.

Melissa Schreiber feels that the board's decision to have two members assigned to the different committees is working well.

Building Reports

Building reports for Cooper Early Education Center, Northridge Elementary, Slate Creek Elementary, South Breeze Elementary, and Sunset Elementary were provided to the board for information.

Department Reports

Reports for Business/HR/Payroll, Technology Services, Harvey County Special Education and Instructional Services were provided to the board for information.

9. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

There are many school activities to attend as the end of the year is approaching. A group of community members are organizing a parade, recognition and meet and greet for Wyatt Hendrickson on April 30. Board members should let Fred know if they are planning to attend. There is currently an open seat on the board and the deadline for filing to run is June 2. Board members encouraged volunteering at Cooper Early Education Center.

Action: B. Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

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