

Board Notes — April 28, 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 28, 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, Ericia 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

Student Achievement Recognition

The board recognized NHS students that were named 2025 Kansas Career and Technical Education Scholars and also the RaileRobotics team members for their successful competition season.

Facilities Assessment Report – Gravity Works

Several team members with Gravity Works presented preliminary information on the district's Facilities Assessment Report. The final report will be shared with the board at the May 12, 2025 meeting.

3. Comments from the Public

No comments.

4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

— Approve the April 14, 2025 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

— Approve the April 28, 2025 Personnel Report as presented.

| Last Name | First Name | Position | Location | Effective Date | Hire | Resignation/ Termination |
|-----------|------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|------|-----------------------------|
| Sneed | Marcia | Admin Assistant | OA | 6/13/2025 | | x |
| Berner | Corbin | IR Sped. Ed. Tchr | SF | 5/23/2025 | | x |
| Heck | Marleta | Reg. Ed. Aide | OA | 4/7/2025 | | x |
| Buckman | Katelyn | Deaf/HOH Teacher | HCSEC | 5/23/2025 | | x |
| Waller | Charlene | PreK Teacher | Cooper | 5/23/2025 | | x |
| Phillips | Renee | Accts Payable Clerk | DO | 6/5/2025 | | x |
| Getman | Haylea | 2nd Shift Custodian | NHS | 4/30/2025 | | x |
| Unruh | Diane | Substitute Teacher | District-Wide | 4/23/2025 | | x |
| Bristol | Derek | Assistant Principal | NHS | 4/28/2025 | | x |

| Pham | Stephanie | SLP | HCSEC | 5/23/2025 | | x |
|----------------|------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Forkenbrock | Michaela | Sp. Ed. Para | HCSEC | 2/28/2025 | | x |
| Tenpenny | Bobby | Bus Driver | Transportation | 5/22/2025 | | x |
| Baeza | Leticia | Sp. Ed. Para | SB | 5/22/2025 | | x |
| Walker | Amanda | Sp. Ed. Para | SC | 5/22/2025 | | x |
| Nevarez | Amber | School Psychologist | HCSEC | 8/1/2025 | x | |
| Solomon | Chasity | P/T Head Start Head Coach | Cooper | 8/1/2025 | x | |
| Monton | Elisha | Payroll Clerk | DO | 4/28/2025 | x | |
| David | Brilee | Sp. Ed. Para | NHS | 4/22/2025 | x | |
| Meza Hernandez | Evelia | Sp. Ed. Para | Cooper | 4/22/2025 | x | |
| Rice-Beltran | Michelle | Sp. Ed. Structured Learning Teacher | NHS | 8/1/2025 | x | |
| Gonzalez | Brandon | 3rd Grade Teacher | SB | 8/1/2025 | x | |
| Last Name | First Name | Position | Location | Effective Date | Change of Assignment/Transfer | |
| Baker | Ann | Sp. Ed. Para | NHS | 8/1/2025 | Sub Teacher @ District-Wide | |
| Hayes | Ida | Sp. Ed. Para | SS | 9/9/2024 | From 6.75 hrs/day to 6.92 hrs/day | |
| Nattier | Sadie | Sp. Ed. Para | NR | 3/24/2025 | From 3 hrs/day to 6.75 hrs/day | |
| Morlan | Theresa | Substitute Teacher | District-Wide | 8/1/2025 | Math Teacher @ NHS | |
| Ferrier | Ernest | Sp. Ed. Para/Coach | NHS | 8/1/2025 | Adaptive PE Teacher @ NHS | |
| Harder | Lorisa | Registrar | NHS | 4/1/2025 | Add Athletic Worker @ NHS | |
| Reichenberger | Anneliese | German Teacher | NHS | 4/1/2025 | Add Athletic Worker @ NHS | |
| Anderson | Karin | Sp. Ed. Para | SC | 4/14/2025 | From 6.5 hrs/day to 6.75 hrs/day | |
| Damon | Becky | Sp. Ed. Para | SC | 4/14/2025 | From 4.5 hrs/day to 5.25 hrs/day | |
| Zieammermann | Steven | Sp. Ed. Para | SC | 4/14/2025 | From 6.5 hrs/day to 6.75 hrs/day | |
| Gaeddert | Margo | Sp. Ed. Para | SC | 4/14/2025 | From 6.75 hrs/day to 7 hrs/day | |
| Burke | Jadyn | Sp. Ed. Para | SB | 4/22/2025 | Sp. Ed. Para @ SS | |
| Burke | Jadyn | Sp. Ed. Para | SS | 8/1/2025 | Sp. Ed. Para @ SB | |
| Raleigh | Alexis | Family Consultant | Cooper | 8/1/2025 | Social Worker @ NR | |

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

- Approve the Special Education Title IV-B Assurances and Certification as presented.
- Approve the purchase of student/staff laptops and lease agreements from Logicalis.

5. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the Solution Tree, Inc. Purchase Agreement for the 2025-26 school year.
- Approve the 2025-26 Student Fees as presented.

6. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve gift requests as presented.

| Donation From | To Building/Dept | Description | Value/Amt |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---|------------|
| Prestressed Concrete | Newton High School CTE | CTE Scholar funding | \$500.00 |
| Megan & Kellen Kerscher | Newton High School CTE | CTE Scholar funding | \$500.00 |
| Millennium Machine & Tool | Newton High School CTE | CTE Scholar funding | \$1,500.00 |
| AGCO | Newton High School CTE | CTE Scholar funding | \$1,700.00 |
| Fraternal Order of Eagles | Cooper Early Education Ctr | Supplies for Head Start weekend food kits | \$3,800.00 |

Gifts Under \$500: For Information Only

| Donation From | To Building/Dept | Description | Value/Amt |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Platinum PDR + Paint | Slate Creek Elementary | Assist w/ student snacks on Fitness Day | \$100.00 |
| Noel Pollard | Newton High School Machining Program | Donation for student activities | \$200.00 |

- Approve early graduation requests for Opportunity Academy as presented.
- Approve the open enrollment slots and projection numbers as presented.

Fiscal Considerations for 2025-2026

Superintendent Van Ranken and Jane Nichols presented information on possible fiscal considerations for 2025-26. The discussion included information on increased health insurance and board contribution, keeping the priority of competitive teacher base salary, and ways to increase revenue.

7. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Mallory Morton attended a recent leave committee meeting in preparation for negotiations, Head Start will be meeting next week.

Andy Ortiz gave an update on the culinary committee, funds are coming in for the Themian Park project and possible artists for the Santa Fe gym mural.

Building Reports

Building reports for Santa Fe 5/6 Center, Chisholm Middle, Opportunity Academy, Newton High School and 373 Athletics were provided to the board for information.

8. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

There are many school activities to attend as the end of the year is approaching. The all district band concert will be held inside this year on May 4 at the Ravenscroft gym. Activities for the Wyatt Hendrickson day on April 30 include a parade at 3:45pm, recognition at 5:00pm at NHS and a meet and greet at 7:00pm at The Barn at Grace Hill. If anyone is interested in serving on the 373 Board of Education, the deadline for filing for one of the three seats is June 2, 2025.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:53 p.m.

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