

## Board Notes — May 12, 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, May 12, 2025, in the Board of Education meeting room located at 308 E 1<sup>st</sup>, Newton, KS.

**Members Present:** Ian Long, Mallory Morton, Andy Ortiz, Melissa Schreiber, Dayna Steinmetz, Erica Stevens (arrived at 7:30 p.m.)

**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 who placed at the National Business Professionals of America competition and students that received their KSDE Seal of Biliteracy.

#### Facilities Assessment Report – Gravity Works

Vince Haines and Gary Holler presented their final report on the district's facilities assessment and answered questions from board members. Each board member will receive a copy of the report.

### 3. Comments from the Public

#### Information: A. Public Comment

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

### 4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

— Approve the April 28, 2025 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

— Approve the May 12, 2025 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Buentello	Adrian	Night Lead Custodian	NHS	5/9/2025		x
Fischer	Kandy	Food Service Mgr	NHS	6/1/2025		x
Gerhardt	Allison	Sp. Ed. IR Teacher	HCSEC	5/23/2025		x
Moates	Megan	8th Grade Math Tchr	CMS	5/23/2025		x
Adams	David	8th Grade Science Tchr	CMS	5/23/2025		x
Briley	Robert	4th Grade Teacher	SC	5/23/2025		x
Stice	Jaylyn	Pre-K Teacher	Cooper	5/23/2025		x
Lee	Brenda	Bus Aide	Transportation	5/1/2025		x
Slief	Marissa	5th Grade ELA	SF	5/23/2025		x
Wade	Kainan	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	5/16/2025		x

Abrile De Paiva	Maira	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	5/8/2025		x
Gayden	Patterson	7th Grade ELA	CMS	8/1/2025	x	
Entz	Schlyer	2nd Grade Teacher	SB	8/1/2025	x	
Warkentine	Patty	Athletic Worker	NHS	5/5/2025	x	
Walker	Amanda	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	5/22/2025	x	
Pauls	Joanie	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	8/13/2025	x	
Carver	Paul	STEAM Teacher	SF	8/1/2025	x	
Nguyen	Amy	Psychologist	HCSEC	8/1/2025	x	
Graber	Jesse	Art Teacher	NHS	8/1/2025	x	
Pettersen	Devyn	Spanish Teacher	NHS	8/1/2025	x	
Smith	Jason	Maintenance Director	Service Center	5/27/2025	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Hershberger	Sarah	P/T Interventionist	SS	8/1/2025	F/T Interventionist @ SB	
Rankin	Heather	Food Service Floor Mgr	NHS	5/27/2025	Custodian @ District-Wide	
Fierros Martinez	Adrian	Custodian	DO	4/15/2025	Custodian @ Cooper	
Wieberg	Marsha	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	8/1/2025	Substitute Tchr @ District-Wide	
Heddin	Matthew	Food Service	NHS	4/24/2025	From 20 hrs/wk to 30 hrs/wk	
Epp	Christa	5th Grade Sci/SS Tchr	SF	8/1/2025	PreK Teacher @ Cooper	

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

- Approve the 2025-26 EmberHope-OA MOU as presented.
- Approve the purchase of student accident insurance from Student Assurance Services Inc.
- Approve the Prairie view MHIT/Mental Health MOU as presented.
- Approve the Capital Outlay purchase for chromebooks, licenses and service agreements for the district at a cost of \$210,822.25.

## 5. Old Business

### Fiscal Considerations for 2025-2026

The board engaged in a discussion surrounding fiscal considerations for 2025-26 that included raising the LOB and the possibility of shifting maintenance salary expenses to capital outlay if necessary.

The board voted to:

- Move raise the Local Option Budget to 33%.

Superintendent Van Ranken asked if there is board consensus for consideration of shifting maintenance salary expenses to capital outlay. There was board consensus for this.

## 6. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
United Way of the Plains	Cooper Early Education Center	Weekend food kits	\$3,000.00
United Way of the Plains	Santa Fe 5/6 Center	Field trip expenses	\$1,860.00

### Gifts Under \$500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Sean & Roxanne Tomlinson	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Team expenses	\$150.00
Jr. Rainers Basketball	Newton High School Basketball	Team expenses	\$150.00

— Approve contract extensions for the building administrators and directors through the 2025-2026 school year as presented.

Newton High School:

- Chad Nulik, Principal
- Brian Becker, Athletic Director (dist-wide)
- Taylor Counts, Assistant Athletic Director
- Emily Snyder, Assistant Principal
- Julie Tucker, Assistant Principal
- Diane Moser, CTE Director

Opportunity Academy

- Tyler Swalley, Principal

Chisholm Middle School:

- Tiffany Stephey, Principal
- Petrina Griffiths, Assistant Principal

Santa Fe 5/6 Center

- Brandon Simmelink, Principal
- Belinda Preston, Assistant Principal

Elementary Schools:

- Tenae Alfaro, Slate Creek Elem, Principal
- Kate Bremerman, Northridge Elem, Principal
- Michael Kirkpatrick, Sunset Elem, Principal
- Joey Menninga, South Breeze Elem, Principal

Cooper Early Childhood Center:

- Alyssa Vanderhoof, Principal
- Denise McFall, Assistant Principal

— Approve contract extensions for the district office licensed and classified administration through the 2025-2026 school year as presented.

Licensed Administration:

- Joe Sample, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services
- Reagan Seidl, Director of Special Education
- Amber Warsnak, Assistant Director of Special Education
- Brenda Lampman Thompson, Director of Technology

Classified Administration:

- Jane Nichols, Director of Business and Human Resources
- Sheila Zwahlen, Director of Transportation
- Elaine Gaeddert, Director of Food Service
- Carly Stavola, Director of Communications

— Appoint Jeff Lowe as the district appeal hearing officer for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.

### Preliminary Building Needs Assessment Summary

Mr. Van Ranken shared the preliminary results from building needs assessments. Administration will continue to review this document and address needs were possible moving forward. Mr. Sample reported that the Railer Stars program has two students enrolled and feedback has been positive. There are some areas that will need clarification and there will be updates to the handbook.

### 2025-26 Handbooks for Review

The following 2025-26 draft handbooks were provided to the board for review: Elementary Parent Handbook, Chisholm Student Handbook, Chisholm Staff Handbook, Opportunity Academy Student Handbook, Opportunity Academy Staff Handbook and Transportation Handbook. Administration will be recommending approval at the next board meeting.

## **Newton High School Science Resource Adoption**

Joe Sample presented information and a quote for the high school science 5 year adoption. Administration will be seeking approval at the May 27, 2025 board meeting.

## **Renaissance 5-year Renewal Quote**

Joe Sample presented information on a 5 year renewal of the district's subscription to FastBridge. Administration will be seeking approval at the May 27, 2025 board meeting.

## **7. Reports**

### **BOE Committee Reports**

Mallory Morton attended a leave committee meeting in preparation for negotiations, a Head Start Policy Council meeting, and a RSP facilities meeting. The next facilities meeting will be on May 14 and the community is invited to provide feedback. The meeting will be at Chisholm Middle from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Melissa Schreiber also attended the RSP meeting and encouraged attendance at the May 14 public input session.

### **Building Reports**

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

## **8. Closing of Meeting**

### **Board Comments**

It was suggested that a joint meeting with the city and county government entities could be beneficial in discussion of future project planning and especially as each group begins their budget planning. Superintendent Van Ranken asked for clarification on who would be attending a joint meeting and noted that there is a group of government entities that already meets quarterly. It was suggested that board members email the superintendent with their thoughts and ideas of how this might look.

Congratulations was given to all graduates. Graduation is Saturday, May 17 at 6:00 p.m. and if board members would like to carpool to Fischer Field, they should meet at McKinley at 5:20 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

Move to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.

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