

Board Notes — June 9, 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, June 9, 2025, in the Board of Education meeting room located at 308 E 1st, Newton, KS.

Members Present: Ian Long, Mallory Morton, Melissa Schreiber, Dayna Steinmetz, Erica Stevens

Members Absent: Andy Ortiz

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 Recognitions

The board recognized NHS students that were state medalists in tennis and track.

3. Comments from the Public

None

4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

— Approve the May 27, 2025 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

— Approve the June 9, 2025 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Meza Hernandez	Evelia	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	5/20/2025		x
Lawrence	Teresa	IR Sp. Ed. Teacher	CMS	5/23/2025		x
Crittenden	Gary	Asst. Softball Coach	NHS	5/28/2025		x
Potluri	Colin	Ind. Arts Tchr/Coach	NHS	5/23/2025		x
Meridith	Tia Ashley	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	5/22/2025		x
Kirkpatrick	Korrine	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	5/22/2025		x
Smith	Melody	Food Service	NHS	5/23/2025		x
Regier	Eli	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Nevil	Raylene	Sub Bus Driver	Transportation	6/4/2025		x
Hancock	Kendra	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/22/2025		x
Heddin	Charla	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/22/2025		x
Noordhoek	Stacey	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/22/2025		x
Duong	Lan	Reg. Ed. Aide	NR	5/22/2025		x

Damon	Becky	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	5/22/2025		x
Vancuren	Brent	5th Gr. ELA Teacher	SF	8/1/2025	x	
Hale	Rebecca	Vocal Music Teacher	CMS	8/1/2025	x	
Robinson	Greg	8th Gr Math Teacher	CMS	8/1/2025	x	
Hughes	Faith	Agriculture Teacher	NHS	8/1/2025	x	
Buhler	Katie	6th Gr. ELA Teacher	SF	8/1/2025	x	
Jones	Jamie	Accts Payable Clerk	DO	6/2/2025	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
DeMartino	Emily	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	8/1/2025	6th Gr. Sci/SS Teacher @ SF	
Baker	Laura	8th Gr. Science Tchr	SF	8/1/2025	Sp. Ed. IR Teacher @ SF	

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

- Approve the Instructure Renewal for 2025-26 as presented.
- Approve adoption of the Member Participation Agreement in the Kansas Association of School Boards Workers Compensation Fund, Inc. as presented.
- Approve the purchase for the Chisholm Middle School RTU replacement as part of 2025-26 Capital Outlay.

5. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the 2025-26 handbooks for Elementary Parents, Chisholm Middle Students, Chisholm Middle Staff, Opportunity Academy Students, Opportunity Academy Staff, Transportation, South Breeze Staff, Santa Fe 5/6 Students and Santa Fe 5/6 Staff as presented.

CMS & NHS Visit Debrief & Discussion Related to Facilities Assessment

Board members toured Chisholm Middle and Newton High at the May 27, 2025 board meeting and completed a worksheet answering these questions: what surprised you, what was reinforced that you were able to tie into existing information, what do you want to learn more about/explore and other comments related to the visits. Board members shared their answers to these questions. RSP will be providing their formal recommendation from their facilities assessment work at the June 23 board meeting. Superintendent Van Ranken shared a tentative timeline of necessary tasks that could potentially lead to a bond vote in March 2026. The board discussed the process.

6. New Business

Cardiac Response Plans

Policy EBBG – Cardiac Emergency Response Planning, adopted on August 15, 2024, states that the district shall develop Cardiac Emergency Response Plans (CERP) that shall be submitted to KDHE per KS.A. 72-6288 by July 31, 2025. Sarah Miller worked with various departments to develop these plans which were provided for review and administration will be seeking approval at the June 23 BOE meeting.

2025-26 Handbooks for Review

The following 2025-26 draft handbooks were provided to the board for review: Cooper Family and Cooper Staff Handbooks. Administration will be recommending approval at the next board meeting.

Newton High School Out-of-State Contest

Newton High School provided information on an out-of-state contest for the robotics team that was held June 7-8, 2025 in Missouri. No funds are requested and this item is information only.

End of Year Building Site Council Reports

Each building provided a Site Council report summarizing activities for 2024-25.

7. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Many of the board appointed committees are not meeting over the summer months. Mallory, Ian and Melissa are involved in negotiations and there are meetings scheduled for this week on June 10 and 12.

8. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

A reminder was given regarding the summer food program for students 18 and under, locations and times can be found on the district's website; congratulations to the OA students who graduated; and condolences were given for the passing of Keith Woolery, a long time USD 373 employee.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:14 p.m.

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