

Board Notes — June 23, 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 23, 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, Dayna Steinmetz, Ericia Stevens

Others Present: Superintendent Fred Van Ranken, Assistant Superintendent Joe Sample, 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

RSP Presentation

GINNA WALLACE and TODD WHITE with RSP & Associates gave their final report and findings on the Facility Master Plan. This report can be found in the 6/23/25 BoardDocs agenda.

3. Comments from the Public

Public Comment

CAROL SUE STAYROOK HOBBS shared a success story of a Newton High School graduate.

4. Executive Session - Personnel

— Move that the board 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 7:53 p.m. Fred Van Ranken is invited to join the executive session.

5. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

— Approve the June 9, 2025 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

— Approve the June 23, 2025 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Schowalter	Marna	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/22/2025		x
Morris	William	Social Studies Teacher	NHS	6/16/2025		x
Flavin	Mike	Bus Driver	Transportation	5/22/2025		x
Richardson	Torriano	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	5/19/2025		x
Sanchez	Joaquin	Head Fball Coach-MS (7th)	CMS	6/19/2025		x
Schmidt	LaNita	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	5/22/2025		x
Dunne	Kimberli	8th Gr Science Tchr	CMS	8/1/2025	x	
Pfannenstiel	James	Asst MS Football Coach	CMS	6/23/2025	x	

Hernandez	Judy	Admin Assistant	SS	7/24/2025	x	
Botterweck	Braiden	Asst MS Football Coach	CMS	6/16/2025	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Buller	Stacy	Reg. Ed. Aide	CMS	8/1/2025	Sp. Ed. Para @ CMS	
Moore	Tammie	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	8/1/2025	Sp. Ed. Para @ NR	
Baker	Laura	8th Gr Science	CMS	8/1/2025	SpEd IR Tchr@CMS-Correction f/ 6/9/25	
Abramowich	Nicholaus	2nd Shift Custodian	NHS	6/23/2025	Night Lead Custodian @ NHS	
Buck	Jacelyn	PE Teacher	NHS	7/1/2025	Add Asst. Softball Coach @ NHS	
Ferrier	Ernest	Adaptive PE Teacher	NHS	6/2/2025	Add Asst. Football Coach @ NHS	
Pauls	Lane	8th Asst Boys BB Coach	CMS	6/2/2025	Remove Asst 8th BB, add Asst Boys BB@NHS	
Boese	Tyler	MS Head Bball Coach	CMS	6/2/2025	Asst Boys Basketball Coach @ NHS	
Rempel	Caleb	6th Gr Tchr/MS Coach	SF/CMS	7/1/2025	Remove Head 7th BB, add Head 8th BB Coach, add Head 7th Girls BB Coach	
Perales	Rachel	Reg. Ed. Aide	OA	8/1/2025	Sp Ed IR Teacher @ OA	

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

- Approve the property casualty insurance renewal as presented.
- Approve the Santa Fe 5/6 bond change order as presented.
- Authorize administration to pay year end bills and complete fund transfers as necessary to close FY25.

6. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the 2025-26 Cooper Family Handbook and Cooper Staff Handbook as presented.
- Approve the district's Cardiac Emergency Response Plans as presented.

Facilities Conversation

The board engaged in conversation regarding the RSP presentation and next steps for moving forward with a bond vote. Superintendent Van Ranken is recommending a small committee be formed to prioritize the district's needs and will provide a tentative list of members at the next board meeting. Staff from Stifle will present bond/financing information to the board at the July 14 board meeting.

7. New Business

2025-26 Handbooks for Review

The 2025-26 Newton High School Student and Staff Handbooks were provided to the board for review. Administration will be recommending approval at the next board meeting.

Athletic Trainer Services Agreement

The contract with Newton Medical Center to provide athletic trainer services for NHS for the 2025-26 school year was presented to the board. The contract terms remain the same as last school year and the compensation also remains the same at \$25,000. Administration will be recommending approval of the agreement at the July 14, 2025 board meeting.

2025 Spring Data Review

Mr. Sample presented spring data on FastBridge, KSDE Interim, and ELL/KELPA. The State Assessment Scores were not available at this time due to the KSDE setting cut scores for the new assessment.

Proposed 2025-26 BOE Meeting Dates

The 2025-26 Board of Education meeting dates will be on the July 14 agenda for approval. Proposed dates were presented to the board.

Board Appointments to Committees

Board of Education committee appointments for 2025-26 will be on the July 14 agenda for approval. Current assignments were reviewed. It was suggested that due to changes in K.S.A. 45-219 (HB2134), only one member would attend a committee meeting and in their absence the alternate would attend.

8. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Mallory, Ian and Melissa continue to meet with the negotiations team. The next meeting is scheduled for July 1, 2025.

9. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Comments included:

- Thank you to staff members that put in extra time over the summer for student activities.
- Reminder about the summer food program for students 18 and under, locations and times can be found on the district's website.
- Ian shared about Dig Safe-811 educational and safety material he has and will ask Joni Jantz to share a power point with all board members.
- Inquired about any further development on the Santa Fe mural project. It was suggested to reach out to the community mural and arts organization.
- Inquired about the status of the culinary committee meetings.
- Shared that Mike Fellows has reached out to see if any board members want to assist with judging the Constitutional Essay contest with Harvey County schools. If interested, board members should reach out to the superintendent. Judging will take place on October 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.

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