

Board Notes – July 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, July 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, Dayna Steinmetz and Erica Stevens

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 amended.
- Appoint Joni Jantz as Clerk of the Board and Jane Nichols as Deputy Clerk of the Board for the 2025-26 year.
- Appoint Dawn Archer as Treasurer for the 2025-26 year.

2. Presentations

Stifel Public Finance Presentation

Steve and Brett Shogren from Stifel provided bond financing information to the board and answered questions. They shared a tentative timeline for considering a March 2026 bond.

3. Comments from the Public

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

4. Executive Session

Executive Session - Negotiations

Move that the board convene in executive session for the purpose of discussing negotiations pursuant to the KOMA exception regarding employer-employee negotiations and that the board return to the open meeting in this room at 7:55 p.m. Fred Van Ranken and Jane Nichols are invited to join the executive session.

President Schreiber called a 5-minute recess with returning to the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

5. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

- Approve the June 23, 2025 minutes as presented.
- Approve the bills as presented.
- Approve the July 14, 2025 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Brown	Jermaine	Asst. Basketball Coach	NHS	5/23/2025		x
Banman	Sandra	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/1/2025		x
Darieng	Jennifer	Administrative Assistant	OA	5/29/2025		x
Cordero	Mayra	Reg. Ed. Aide	SC	5/22/2025		x

Quiring	Jacqueline	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	5/22/2025		x
Stanyer	Marsha	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Adame	Frank	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Bisoni-Lais	Christi	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Busenitz	Paige	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Edwards	Erica	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Edwards	Luke	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Johnson	Jane	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Kaiser	Sonja	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Martin	Keegan	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Mcanulty	Penny	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Oberle	Ellen	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Phipps	Noel	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Sauerwein	Jennifer	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Schwalter	Steven	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Sherrill	Sheri	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Smucker	Ruth	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Sweet	Heather	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Wald	Elaina	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Walker	Richard	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Willson	Carol	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Koontz	Matt	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Wright-Frederick	Allie	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Kemph	Staci	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Wilson	Hannah	Substitute Teacher	NHS	5/23/2025		x
Quintero	Mario	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Jost	Josiah	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Gomez	Nichole	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Morrison	Paul	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Mitchell	Max	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Sauerwein	Donald	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/23/2025		x
Hosch	Alexis	Social Worker	SS	8/1/20 25	x	
Phillips	Tara	SMD Teacher	NHS	8/1/2025	x	
Wade	Kainan	Social Studies Teacher	NHS	8/1/2025	x	
Warzeka	Nicole	Autism Coordinator	HCSEC	8/1/2025	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Gomez-Poston	Ocean	Bus Driver	Transportation	8/1/2025	From 28.75 hrs/wk to 20 hrs/wk	
Solomon	Joseph	Bus Driver	Transportation	8/1/2025	From 22.5 hrs/wk to 20 hrs/wk	
Theis	Kami	Kindergarten Teacher	SS	8/1/2025	Sub Tchr@ District-Wide	
Stockebrand	Harley	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/10/2025	From 32.5 hrs/wk to 35 hrs/wk	

Schmidt	Melynda	Food Service	SF	8/7/2025	From 20 hrs/wk to 30 hrs/wk
Richert	Tammy	Food Service	SF	8/7/2025	From 30 hrs/wk to 20 hrs/wk
Thompson	Blake	Building Substitute	NHS	8/1/2025	Sp Ed IR Math Tchr @ NHS
Merrill	Lisa	Food Service	NHS	7/1/2025	Asst Food Service Director@ NHS
Bergman	Cathlina	Library Media Specialist	NHS	7/9/2025	Remove AP Coordinator Only
Jantzi	Scott	Sp. Ed. Teacher/Coach	NHS	6/25/2025	Remove Head Girls Soccer Coach only
Klusener	Bryant	PE Teacher/Coach	SF	7/8/2025	Remove Asst Girls BB Coach only
Schneider	Justin	Business Teacher/Coach	CMS	7/7/2025	Remove Head Girls BBCoach only

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

— Approve the following appointments, designations and authorizations.

- Appoint Food Service Authorized Representative: Elaine Gaeddert
- Appoint Determining Official for Free and Reduced Priced Meal Applications: Tena Savage and Elaine Gaeddert
- Appoint Federal Programs and Projects Representatives: Joe Sample (Local Consolidated Plan), Reagan Seidl (Early Childhood Pass Through and Title VI B Pass Through), and Jane Nichols (Secondary Program Improvement)
- Appoint Truancy Reporters:
 - Fred Van Ranken, Superintendent
 - Reagan Seidl, Director of Harvey County Special Education Cooperative
 - NHS: Chad Nulik, Principal; Emily Snyder, Asst Principal; Scott Stuhlsatz, Asst Principal; Julie Tucker, Asst Principal
 - OA: Tyler Swalley, Principal
 - CMS: Tiffany Stephey, Principal; Petrina Griffitts, Asst Principal
 - SF: Brandon Simmelink, Principal; Belinda Preston, Asst Principal
 - Elementary: Kate Bremerman, Northridge Principal; Tena Alfaró, Slate Creek Principal; Joey Menninga, South Breeze Principal; Michael Kirkpatrick, Sunset Principal
 - Cooper: Alyssa Vanderhoof, Principal; Denise McFall, Asst Principal
- Appoint Compliance Coordinator for Homeless Children: Joe Sample
- Appoint KPERS Representative: Brooke Weeks
- Appoint Freedom of Information Officer: Fred Van Ranken
- Appoint Federal Anti-Discrimination Compliance Officer: Fred Van Ranken
- Designate Official Newspaper for Legal Publications: The Newton Kansan
- Authorize the Business Director and Treasurer, pursuant to K.S.A. 43-105b 12-105b(e) to pay claims against the District in advance of the regular board meeting in order for the District to benefit from discounts or to avoid assessment of a penalty for late payment.
- Appoint Hearing Officer for Free and Reduced Priced Meal Application Appeals for 2025-26: Fred Van Ranken.
- Appoint Hearing Officer Teams for extended term suspensions and expulsions conducted under the Suspension and Expulsion of Pupils Act, KSA 72-6114.
- Appoint Jeff Lowe as the district appeal hearing officer for 2025-26.
- Designate alternate signatories for official Head Start grant paperwork: Fred Van Ranken and Jane Nichols.
- Authorize purchase of fidelity bonds for the treasurer in the amount of \$100,000.
- Adopt the 1116-hour school year as follows: Kindergarten through Grade 11 - 1116 hours, and Grade 12 - 1086 hours.
- Adopt the state mileage rate of 0.70 cents per mile.
- Appoint John Robb of Somers, Robb and Robb as USD 373's Legal Counsel.
- Designate May 18, 19, 20, 21 as inclement weather make-up days.
- Adopt guidelines for activity funds and gate receipts according to K.S.A. 72-1178.

— Approve the ESSDACK Embedded Services for 2025-26.

- Approve the renewal of Frontline Education as presented.
- Approve the food service yearly program renewal as presented.

6. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the 2025-26 Newton High School Student and Staff Handbooks as presented.
- Approve the athletic trainer contract with Newton Medical Center for 2025-26 as presented.

Facilities Discussion

Board members and Superintendent Van Ranken engaged in discussion on the bond financing options, bond cap, timeline and appointing a small committee for bond work.

- Approve Stifel Public Finance as the bond underwriter for the potential bond project that will take place during the 2026 school year.
- Approve Schaefer as the Architect of Record for the bond project that will take place during the 2026 school year.
- Approve Superintendent Van Ranken appoint the small committee for continued work on the bond project.

7. New Business

- Adopt Resolution 2026-07-1 Designating Eligible Financial Institutions as depositories.
- Adopt Resolution 2026-07-2 Authority for Petty Cash Funds, Resolution 2026-07-3 Authorizing Petty Cash Funds for Newton High School and Resolution 2026-07-4 Authorizing Petty Cash Funds for District Office.
- Adopt Resolution 2026-07-5 Waiver of Fixed Asset Accounting and General Accepted Accounting Principles for 2025-26.
- Adopt Resolution 2026-07-6 to Establish Board of Education Meeting Dates, Times and Location as presented.
- Adopt Resolution 2026-07-7 to Establish Home Rule by Board of Education.
- Adopt Resolution 2026-07-8 to Rescind Policy Statements in Previous Year's Minutes.
- Adopt Resolution 2026-07-9 for the USD 373 Gift Fund.
- Adopt Resolution 2026-07-10 of Authority for District Account.
- Adopt Resolution 2026-07-11 for Facsimile Signatures.
- Adopt Resolution 2026-07-12 for Activity Funds.
- Adopt Resolution 2026-07-13 of Authority for Newton High School account.
- Appoint Ian Long to serve as the board's representative and Melissa Schreiber as the alternate to the KASB Governmental Relations Network for the 2025-26 year, including voting rights for Delegate Assembly.
- Appoint Andy Ortiz to serve as the board's representative and Erica Stevens as the alternate to the Special Education Cooperative Board for the 2025-26 year.
- Approve board member appointments to committees for 2025-26 as presented.
 - Education Endowment Committee: Melissa Schreiber/Dayna Steinmetz
 - Public Building Commission: Ian Long/ Andy Ortiz
 - District Wellness Committee: Dayna Steinmetz/Erica Stevens
 - Technology Committee: Andy Ortiz/Erica Stevens
 - Interest-Based Bargaining Team/Negotiations: Ian Long/Mallory Morton/Melissa Schreiber
 - Head Start Policy Council: Mallory Morton/Melissa Schreiber
 - Interagency Coordinating Council: Melissa Schreiber/Ian Long

Only one person will attend committee meetings and in the event they cannot attend, they will contact the alternate. The IBB appointed members will all attend negotiation sessions.

— Approve the gift request as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Full Vision	Newton High School CTE	Help fund scholarships	\$500.00

— Approve the school meal prices for 2025-26 as presented.

Melissa Schreiber declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

— Approve the Career and Technical Education Scholarship Fund as presented.

Melissa Schreiber returned to the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

— Approve the extension of the school zone in front of Chisholm Middle School to extend to the East past the existing crosswalk to Sherman Street.

— Approve the exclusive agreement with Adidas Apparel through BSN Sports as our primary vendor.

8. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Mallory Morton reported that negotiations finished up and there will be an email to all teachers regarding a scheduled zoom meeting for an update.

9. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

The free and reduced meal application is available on the district’s website. Board members were encouraged to get community feedback regarding the bond discussion and information presented tonight.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:44 p.m.

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