

Board Notes — July 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, July 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, Dayna Steinmetz, 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 presented.

2. Comments from the Public

There were no comments.

3. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

— Approve the July 14, 2025 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

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

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Dunne	Kimberli	8th Grade Science Tchr	CMS	7/15/2025		x
Clipper	Taylor	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	5/22/2025		x
McHenry	Susanne	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	5/22/2025		x
Baeza	Andrew	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	5/22/2025		x
Mock	George	Asst HS Boys Wrestling Coach	NHS	7/24/2025		x
Murry	Jaymie	Asst HS Girls Wrestling Coach	NHS	7/23/2025		x
Letcher	Robyn	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	6/26/2025		x
Buller	Stacy	Reg. Ed. Aide	CMS	5/22/2025		x
Koontz	Matthew	Head Boys & Girls Golf Coach	NHS	8/1/2025	x	
O'Neal	Starr	Library Media Specialist	SB	8/1/2025	x	
Lawrence	Teresa	Permanent Bldg Sub	CMS	8/7/2025	x	
Headrick	John	Industrial Arts Teacher	NHS	8/1/2025	x	
Weishaar	Cara	Deaf/HOH Teacher	HCSEC	8/1/2025	x	
Perdue	Kaydence	Asst Debate/Speech Coach	NHS	7/9/2025	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Camarena	Chase	Teacher/Coach	NHS	7/17/2025	Remove HS Winter Concessions Mgr Only	
Janzen	Christina	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	8/1/2025	Sp. Ed. Para @ Cooper	
Haines	Nicholas	Food Service	NHS	8/7/2025	Meat Department Mgr @ NHS	

Gantt	Elizabeth	Food Service	NHS	8/7/2025	Baking Department Mgr @ NHS
Chamberlain	Brian	Groundskeeper	Service Ctr	7/28/2025	Maintenance @ Service Center
Sheppard	Emma	Reg. Ed. Aide	OA	8/7/2025	From 33.75 hrs/wk to 35 hrs/wk
Burke	Jadyn	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	8/7/2025	Sp. Ed. Para @ SS
Kelsey	Jennifer	Reg. Ed. Aide	NR	8/7/2025	ESOL Aide @ NR
Miller	Sarah C	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	8/7/2025	Reg. Ed. Aide @ NR
Edson	Rebecca	Reg Ed Aide/Sp Ed Para	NR	8/7/2025	Reg. Ed. Aide only @ NR
Allen	Sarah C	Reg Ed Aide/Sp Ed Para	NR	8/7/2025	Reg. Ed. Aide only @ NR
Sweeden	Donna	Reg Ed Aide/Sp Ed Para	NR	8/7/2025	Reg. Ed. Aide only @ NR
Buethner	Karleigh	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	8/7/2025	Reg. Ed. Aide 2 hrs/week
Floro	Adrianna	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	8/7/2025	Reg. Ed. Aide 2 hrs/week
Bennett	Reese	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	8/7/2025	From 19.25 hrs/wk to 33.75 hrs/wk
Denson	Brittany	PAT Coordinator	Cooper	8/1/2025	Add Inf./Toddler Coord @ Cooper

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

- Approve the report of funds as presented.
- Approve early release on Friday, May 1, 2026 for a 4th grade orientation at Santa Fe 5/6 Center.
- Approve the milk bid for the school lunch program for the 2025-26 school year as presented.

4. Old Business

Action, Discussion: A. Facilities/Bond Discussion

Board members engaged in discussion regarding feedback they received from community members on the potential bond and dollar amount they would support. Once a bond cap is set, there will be a Bond Development Committee that will begin meeting to look at the recommendations from RSP and the facilities assessment to bring a formal recommendation to the board for the scope of work that would fit within the cap. The meeting times and location will be announced to those that want notice of meetings.

- Move that we consider a potential bond cap of \$50 million for consideration as the district works through the process of defining what will be priorities within this potential bond.

5. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the renewal of VMware software as presented with the ability to look at other options at the next renewal.

Needs Assessment Review

Superintendent Van Ranken provided an overview of the 2025 Needs Assessment. Documents are available to view in the 7/28/25 BoardDocs board agenda.

KSHSAA Cooperative Agreements Discussion

Superintendent Van Ranken presented information on the district's practice of having cooperative KSHSAA agreements with area smaller districts mainly for activities that are individual competition (swimming, bowling, gymnastics, etc.). The board will make a decision on the district's position as it relates to continuing these agreements at the August 11 board meeting.

- Approve the Professional Development 5-year Plan as presented.
- Approve the 2025-26 Classified and Substitute Handbooks as presented.

6. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Mallory Morton reminded certified staff to check their email for information regarding the 25-26 negotiated agreement and voting on the agreement this week.

Andy Ortiz attended a recent HCSEC meeting and will provide the agenda to board members that are interested. Andy will have Joni Jantz send this information out.

Ian Long inquired about the status of the Santa Fe mural project and asked about enlisting more members for the committee. It was agreed to add this to a future board agenda for further discussion.

7. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Comments included:

- Parents can check the district website for back-to-school information, the Free/Reduced meal application and Consent for Disclosure form.
- The NHS RaileRobotics team is hosting a robotics camp which starts on July 29, 2025.
- Melissa Schreiber and Superintendent Van Ranken presented bond information to the Newton Rotary.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

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