

Board Notes – August 11, 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, August 11, 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. Presentations/Reports

Jane Nichols presented an overview of the proposed FY26 budget.

3. Comments from the Public

Public Comments

Stephanie Murillo, Sara McAllister, Stephen Owens, Ryan Suderman, Ryan Gale, Alexander Gale, and Mario Murillo addressed the board regarding the renewal of KSHSAA Cooperative Agreements.

4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

– Approve the July 28, 2025 and August 1, 2025 minutes as presented.

– Approve the August 11, 2025 Personnel Report as presented.

| Last Name | First Name | Position | Location | Effective Date | Hire | Resignation/ Termination |
|----------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|------|-----------------------------|
| McDermed | Shelley | Reg. Ed. Aide | SS | 5/22/2025 | | x |
| Darnell-Watson | Emma | Sp. Ed. Para | Cooper | 5/22/2025 | | x |
| Kauffman | Addie | Kdgt Teacher | SS | 7/28/2025 | | x |
| Lunsford | Michael | Perm Substitute | CMS | 5/23/2025 | | x |
| Fisher-Soukup | Abriauna | Reg. Ed. Aide | SS | 5/22/2025 | | x |
| Hamilton | Paris | Sp. Ed. Para | SS | 5/22/2025 | | x |
| Torres | Emily | Reg. Ed. Aide | SF | 5/12/2025 | | x |
| Garcia | Paula | Substitute Tchr | District-Wide | 8/13/2025 | x | |
| Williams | David | Perm Substitute | NHS | 8/11/2025 | x | |
| Merrill | Desiree | Reg. Ed. Aide | Cooper | 8/8/2025 | x | |
| Howard | Lisa | Sp. Ed. Para | SF | 8/6/2025 | x | |
| Childs | Desmond | Sp. Ed. Para | SF | 8/6/2025 | x | |
| Church | Abbygail | Sp. Ed. Para | HCSEC | 8/6/2025 | x | |
| Brandewiede | Emily | Sp. Ed. Para | HCSEC | 8/6/2025 | x | |
| Garcia | Madison | Baking Depart Helper | NHS | 8/6/2025 | x | |

| Reser | Brian | Welding Aide | NHS | 8/6/2025 | x | |
|---------------|------------|--|----------------|----------------|--|--|
| Hansen | Summer | Sp. Ed. Para | SB | 8/6/2025 | x | |
| Gonzalez | Genny | Sp. Ed. Para | SB | 8/6/2025 | x | |
| Edwards | Jhenine | Sp. Ed. Para | SB | 8/6/2025 | x | |
| Cotton | Amber | Reg. Ed. Aide | OA | 8/6/2025 | x | |
| Thompson | Shealeese | Reg. Ed. Aide | Cooper | 8/6/2025 | x | |
| Eason | Anne | Sp. Ed. Para | Cooper | 8/6/2025 | x | |
| Hamm | Alyssa | Sp. Ed. Para | Cooper | 8/6/2025 | x | |
| Barnaby-Tyler | Bethany | Reg. Ed. Aide | Cooper | 8/6/2025 | x | |
| Thomas | Patricia | Sp. Ed. Para | Cooper | 8/6/2025 | x | |
| Hager | Carlisa | Sp. Ed. IR Teacher | CMS | 8/1/2025 | x | |
| Lower | Elizabeth | Kindergarten Tchr | SS | 8/1/2025 | x | |
| Gaeddert | Elaine | Food Service Dir. | NHS | 7/31/2025 | x | |
| Meridith | Laura | Sp. Ed. Para | HCSEC | 8/7/2025 | x | |
| Ledesma | Glenda | Bus Driver | Transportation | 8/6/2025 | x | |
| Letcher | Robyn | Sp. Ed. Para | SB | 8/7/2025 | x | |
| Last Name | First Name | Position | Location | Effective Date | Change of Assignment/Transfer | |
| Torres | Emily | RegEd Aide/Asst HS Girls Wrestling Coach | SF/NHS | 5/12/2025 | Asst HS Girls Wrestling Coach@NHS Only | |
| Loehr | Ferne | Bus Aide | Transportation | 8/14/2025 | From 5.75 hrs/day to 6.25 hrs/day | |
| Gaeddert | Margo | Sp. Ed. Para | SC | 8/7/2025 | From 35 hrs/week to 33.75 hrs/week | |
| Schroeder | Lynda | Reg. Ed. Aide | SS | 8/7/2025 | ESOL Aide @ SS | |
| Hernandez | Jesse | Sp. Ed. Para | NHS | 8/6/2025 | Groundskeeper @ Service Center | |
| Stockebrand | Harley | Sp. Ed. Para | HCSEC | 8/7/2025 | From 35 hrs/week to 33.75 hrs/week | |
| Fisher | Mariah | Sp. Ed. Para | HCSEC | 8/7/2025 | From 35 hrs/week to 33.75 hrs/week | |
| Krueger | Brenda | Sp. Ed. Para | NR | 8/7/2025 | From 33.75 hrs/week to 12 hrs/week | |
| Newton | Lori | Sp. Ed. Para | NR | 8/7/2025 | Add Aide 0.5 hrs/day @ NR | |
| Bacon | Sydney | Sp. Ed. Para | HCSEC | 8/1/2025 | Kindergarten Teacher @ SS | |
| Thomas | Nancy | Substitute Teacher | District-Wide | 8/1/2025 | Sp. Ed. IR Teacher @ HCSEC | |
| Roth | Shari | Substitute Teacher | District-Wide | 8/1/2025 | 8th Gr Science Teacher @ CMS | |
| Brown | Molly | Sp. Ed. Para | Cooper | 8/7/2025 | Reg. Ed. Aide @ Cooper | |
| Escobar | Breny | Sp. Ed. Para | Cooper | 8/7/2025 | Reg. Ed. Aide @ Cooper | |
| Frale | Chelle | Substitute Teacher | District-Wide | 8/6/2025 | Reg. Ed. Aide @ OA | |
| Sheppard | Emma | Reg. Ed. Aide | OA | 8/1/2025 | Administrative Assistant @ OA | |

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

- Approve the bills as presented.
- Approve the June 2025 Report of Funds.
- Approve the MOU with OVM for truancy services as presented.
- Approve the participating agreement with Hutchinson Community College for 2025-26.
- Approve the estimates for HVAC repair as part of 2025-26 Capital Outlay.

- Approve the Activity/School Bus Waiver on employee as presented.
- Approve the disposal of instructional materials and/or old and unused textbooks in the district during the 2025-26 school year.

5. Old Business

KSHSAA Cooperative Agreements Discussion

Andy Ortiz made a motion to end the Cooperative Agreements, but allow sophomores-seniors to finish their program.

Superintendent Van Ranken clarified that KSHSAA regulations would not allow the district to restrict participation in the activities during the length of the agreement. Board members engaged in discussion and provided feedback they received from community members regarding the KSHSAA cooperative agreements.

Andy Ortiz amended his motion to move to end the Cooperative Agreements, second by Erica Stevens. Motion Failed (3-3)

There was board consensus to not take a vote to renew agreements as it would end in a 3-3 vote. The Board’s decision of not taking action to renew the two-year KSHSAA agreements ends our Cooperative Agreements.

Mural Consideration

Superintendent Van Ranken provided background information on the committee that was formed in 2020 to look at recognizing the history of the Santa Fe gym. It was recommended that the committee be reformed to continue moving forward with the planning. There was board consensus for Ian Long and Mallory Morton to join Andy Ortiz on this committee.

Bond Update

Superintendent Van Ranken provided an update on the bond planning progress. Meetings will begin with staff and architects to look at the areas that need improvement and the Bond Development Committee will meet soon.

Final Year End Transfers Report

- Approve final year end transfers as presented.

6. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the 2025-26 budget and revenue neutral rate for publication as presented.
- Approve the 2025-26 Classified Wage Rates as presented.

Gift Request

Gifts Under \$500: For Information Only

| Donation From | To Building/Dept | Description | Value/Amt |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Security Benefit/OFG | USD 373 | Support for Welcome Back meal | \$200.00 |

MOU-Foundation Expendable Fund

Melissa Schreiber declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Superintendent Van Ranken presented information on establishing a new endowment fund.

- Approve the establishment of the USD 373 Education Foundation Expendable Fund as presented.

— Approve the MOU with the Central Kansas Community Foundation USD 373 Academic Enhancement Endowment Fund as presented.

This new MOU combines three existing endowment funds—USD 373 Education Endowment, Railer 100 and Railer 125.

Melissa Schreiber returned to the open meeting at 8:28 pm.

7. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

No reports were given.

8. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Comments included:

- Welcome back to staff and students.
- Thank you to counselors for their work on student schedules.
- There are open houses at various schools this week, including Railerpalooza at NHS on Tuesday.
- Looking forward to an exciting year.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

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