

Board Notes – August 25, 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 25, 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 Technology Brenda Thompson

1. Opening of Meeting

Melissa Schreiber called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Melissa Schreiber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

– Adopt the agenda as presented.

2. Comments from the Public

There were no comments.

3. Executive Session

Convene in 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 7:13 p.m. Fred Van Ranken is invited to join the executive session.

– 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 7:30 p.m. Fred Van Ranken is invited to join the executive session.

– 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 7:45 p.m. Fred Van Ranken is invited to join the executive session.

4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

– Approve the August 11, 2025 minutes as presented.

– Approve the bills as presented.

– Approve the August 25, 2025 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Kohman	Kelli	Pre-K Teacher	Cooper	8/8/2025		x
Ewert	Renee	Asst. Girls Swim Coach	NHS	8/20/2025		x
Pauls	Tanner	Asst. Bowling Coach	NHS	8/20/2025		x
Hauck	Autumn	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	8/21/2025		x
Craig	Lauri	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	8/25/2025	x	
Unruh	Elizabeth	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	8/21/2025	x	

Martindale	Jewel	Sp. Ed. Para	OA	8/21/2025	x	
Wendling	Sheila	Substitute Principal	NR	8/21/2025	x	
Miller	Lovella	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	8/20/2025	x	
Tenpenny	Bobby	Substitute Bus Driver	Transportation	8/20/2025	x	
Hershberger	Madison	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	8/19/2025	x	
Mosqueda	Rachael	Vegetable Depart Mgr	NHS	8/19/2025	x	
Decker	Isabella	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/19/2025	x	
Yount	Rebecca	Reg. Ed. Aide	SS	8/19/2025	x	
Moore	Bethany	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/12/2025	x	
Wollenberg	Tanya	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/12/2025	x	
Stegman	Shae'Lynn	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	8/18/2025	x	
Lane	Loren	8th Gr Science Teacher	CMS	8/1/2025	x	
Miller	DeMya	Reg. Ed. Aide	SC	8/14/2025	x	
Bratcher	Massiah	ISS Aide	SF	8/14/2025	x	
Sutton	Cheryl	Food Service	NR	8/14/2025	x	
Vickers	Donald	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/7/2025	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Martinez-Mata	Jesus	Industrial Arts Teacher	CMS	8/15/2025	District-Wide Substitute Teacher	
Hornberger	Elizabeth	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	8/25/2025	Add District-Wide Sub. Teacher	
Rankin	Heather	Custodian	District-Wide	9/1/2025	Custodian @ SF	
Cartmell	William	Custodian	SF	9/1/2025	Custodian @ District-Wide	
Hefling	Kylie	4th Grade Teacher	NR	8/11/2025	Add Assist MS Volleyball Coach@CMS	
Roberts-Parker	Payton	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	8/11/2025	Add Assist HS V.ball Coach@NHS	
Abrile De Paiva	Maira	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	8/13/2025	From 19.34 hrs/wk to 15 hrs/wk	
Hiebert	Page	PE Teacher/Coach	CMS	8/8/2025	Remove Asst. MS Track Only	
Monarez	Alexis	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/7/2025	From 34.16 hrs/wk to 33.75 hrs/wk	
Hayes	Ida	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	8/7/2025	From 34.6 hrs/wk to 33.75 hrs/wk	
Funk	Taleigha	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	8/7/2025	From 40 hrs/wk to 32.5 hrs/wk	
Letcher	Robyn	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	8/7/2025	From 35 hrs/wk to 33.75 hrs/wk	
Kuhn	Diana	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/7/2025	From 35.83 hrs/wk to 33.75 hrs/wk	
Boyd	Amy	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/7/2025	From 35 hrs/wk to 33.75 hrs/wk	
Bressler	Stacey	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	8/7/2025	From 35 hrs/wk to 33.75 hrs/wk	
Gomez	Searra	Substitute Bus Aide	Transportation	8/18/2025	Bus Aide @ Transportation	
Fryhover	Sarah	Sp. Ed. Para	OA	8/7/2025	Reg. Ed. Aide @ OA	
Loescher	Brigitte	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	8/7/2025	From 35 hrs/wk to 33.75 hrs/wk	
Kaufman	Anthony	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	8/20/2025	From 33.75 hrs/wk to 36.25	
Miller	Noah	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	8/7/2025	From 34.16 hrs/wk to 33.75 hrs/wk	
Martel De Macias	Maria	Food Service	SS	8/13/2025	From 20 hrs/wk to 28.75 hrs/wk	
Thompson	Shealeese	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	8/20/2025	Reg. Ed. Aide @ Cooper	
Ives	Amy	Vocal Music	NHS	8/1/2025	Remove Prom Coord/Add Jr. Class Spsr	
Foster	Tamika	Food Service Helper	NR	8/13/2025	Food Service Manager @ NR	

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

5. Old Business

Bond Update

Superintendent Van Ranken provided an update on the bond planning progress. The first meeting for the Bond Development Team is scheduled for Tuesday, August 26, 2025. The agenda will include reviewing the areas that need updated and looking at possible plans provided by the architects.

6. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve gift request as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Bridges Construction	Newton High School FFA	Purchase t-shirts for every member	\$1,000.00

Gifts Under \$500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Full Vision	Newton High School	Staff meal	\$100.00

- Approve the modified Administrator and Director index rates as presented.

KASB Recommended Policy Revisions

The KASB recommended policy revisions were provided to the board for review. Administration will be seeking approval of the revisions and two new policies at the September 8, 2025 board meeting.

7. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Ian Long provided an update on the Santa Fe gym mural project. He has been in contact with a local artist who provided a preliminary sketch. This was shared with board members and Ian is seeking input from the board.

Building Reports

Reports from all buildings will begin in September.

8. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Comments included:

- Melissa Schreiber and Superintendent Van Ranken made a bond presentation to the Lions Club.
- It has been a good start to the school year.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 7:56 p.m.

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