Board Notes — September 8, 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, September 8, 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, Ericia 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 7:00 p.m.
Melissa Schreiber led the Pledge of Allegiance.
— Adopt the agenda as presented.

2. Public Hearings

Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing

President Schreiber opened the RNR Hearing. Following no comments, the hearing was closed.
— Adopt by roll call vote Resolution No. 09082025 to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate.

2025-2026 Budget Hearing

President Schreiber opened the Budget Hearing. Following no comments, the hearing was closed.

3. Presentations/Reports

Kansas Teacher of Year Nominees

The board recognized Jennifer Criswell, South Breeze Elementary teacher, and Elizabeth Gunn, Newton High School teacher, as 2027 KTOY nominees.

4. Comments from the Public

There were no comments.

5. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:
— Approve the August 25, 2025 minutes as presented.
— Approve the bills as presented.
— Approve the September 8, 2025 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Vickers	Donald	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/29/2025		x
Enriquez	Jordan	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	8/29/2025		x
Schneider	Jay	2nd Shift Custod.	NHS	9/13/2025		x
Moore	Bethany	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	9/3/2025		x
Tovar	Andrew	Business Tchr	NHS	8/11/2025		x

Bell	Emanon	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	9/4/2025	x	
Rippe	Chandra	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	9/4/2025	x	
Ford	Erica	Reg. Ed. Aide	SS	9/4/2025	x	
Sauerwein	Jennifer	Substitute Tchr	District-Wide	9/4/2025	x	
Hall	Jared	7/8 Gr Sci Tchr	CMS	9/15/2025	x	
Chavez	Naomi	ELL Aide	SC	9/2/2025	x	
Ashmore	Darrin	8th Gr Sci Tchr	District-Wide	10/1/2025	x	
Carter	Patti	Substitute Tchr	District-Wide	8/28/2025	x	
Bergen	Nanette	Substitute Tchr	District-Wide	8/27/2025	x	
Weaver	Crystal	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/26/2025	x	
Leo	Philomena	Substitute Tchr	District-Wide	8/26/2025	x	
Gutierrez Carruyo	Alejandra	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	8/26/2025	x	
Last Name	**First Name**	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**	**Change of Assignment/Transfer**	
Ayala Esparza	Stephanie	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	8/20/2025	From 10.5 hrs/wk to 28.35 hrs/wk	
Roth	Shari	8th Gr Sci LTS	Chisholm	8/22/2025	Sub Tchr @ District Wide	
Barnaby-Tyler	Bethany	Aide	Cooper	8/12/2025	PreK Teacher @ Cooper	
Gomez-Poston	Ocean	Bus Driver	Transportation	8/13/2025	From 28.75 hrs/wk to 21.25 hrs/wk	
Boston-Wedel	Chris	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/25/2025	From 15 hrs/wk to 17.5 hrs/wk	
Wilkes	Daysharisa	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	8/13/2025	From 9 hrs/wk to 19.25 hrs/wk	
Hornberger	Elizabeth	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	8/25/2025	From 15 hrs/wk to 16.25 hrs/wk	
Patton	Colby	Counselor	NHS	8/25/2025	Add Athletic Worker	
Harper	Alicia	SpEd Para/Asst MS Track Coach	NHS	8/1/2025	Asst MS Track Coach @ CMS Only	
Block	Kristina	Bus Driver	Transportation	8/13/2025	From 6.5 hrs/day to 4 hrs/day	

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

— Approve the agreement between Slippery Rock University and USD 373.

6. Old Business

The board voted to:

— Approve the 2025-2026 budget as presented. It should be noted in the minutes that as a part of this process the board was included in the needs assessment and state assessment review as follows: The needs assessments were provided and evaluated by the USD 373 Board of Education. The USD 373 Board of Education used the needs assessment as part of the process to approve the 2025-2026 USD 373 budget.

— Approve the LOB percentage resolution for 2025-26.

— Approve revisions to policies BBC, CN, DFE, IB, JBC, JGFGB, JH, KBC, KGB, KM, KN and adopt new policies GAACB and JBCD as presented.

Bond Update

Superintendent Van Ranken provided an update on the bond planning progress. The Bond Development Team has met twice and continues to work on defining the bond projects. There are two more meetings scheduled.

7. New Business

The board voted to:

— Approve gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
AGCO Corporation	Newton High School Machining & Welding programs	Materials for projects	$1,200.00
Mac Tool & Machine	Newton High School Machining program	Materials for projects	$800.00

Gifts Under $500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Emily & Mark Schmidt	Santa Fe 5/6 Center	Conn 5H Victor Trombone	$300.00
Lefty's Garage	Newton High School Machining program	Cash donation for supplies, SkillsUSA memberships	$60.00

— Approve the Head Start One Time Supplemental Nutrition Grant as presented.
— Approve the Head Start Carry Over request as presented.
— Approve the Cooper Quality Improvement Plan and Policy SAF112 Safety Practices: Food Allergies as presented.
— Approve the requests for unpaid leave as presented for Nancy Thomas, Marc Dotson and Alexis Raleigh.

8. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Mallory Morton attended the first Head Start Policy Council meeting for this year. There was good parent participation.
Ian Long attended the Harvey County Interagency Coordinating Council this past week. Agenda included discussing new policies and looking at challenges.

Building Reports

Building reports for Cooper Early Education Center, Northridge Elementary, Slate Creek Elementary, South Breeze Elementary and Sunset Elementary were provided to the board for information.

Department Reports

Reports for Business/Hr/Payroll Services, Technology Services and Instructional Services were provided to the board for information.

9. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Comments included:

- Ian Long provided an update on the Santa Fe gym mural project. He has been in contact with the local artist who provided a preliminary sketch and asked for input from the board. Superintendent Van Ranken and board members asked about seeing the sketch in color before any commitment. It was also noted that it should include the vision of the original committee working on the project. Mallory will provide these notes to be shared with the board.
- Melissa Schreiber reminded board members of upcoming meetings.
- Superintendent Van Ranken reported that the legislators have been invited to a work session with board members at 6:00 p.m. prior to the November 10 board meeting.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 7:36 p.m.

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