

Board Notes — September 22, 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 22, 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, Ercia Stevens

Others Present: Superintendent Fred Van Ranken, Assistant Superintendent Joe Sample, Director of Business/Human Resources Jane Nichols, and Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk Joni Jantz

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

CTE Presentation

NHS CTE Director, Diane Moser, and five high school students presented information on the CTE program. The students shared what classes/activities they are involved in and Diane presented on the CTE goals, data review, changes in CTE requirements, and upcoming events.

3. Comments from the Public

There were no comments.

4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

— Approve the September 8, 2025 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

— Approve the September 22, 2025 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Loehr	Ferne	Bus Aide	Transportation	9/12/2025		x
Boyd	Amy	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	10/3/2025		x
Nattier	Sadie	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	9/18/2025		x
Schulte	Steven	Van Driver/Sub Bus Aide	Transportation	9/18/2025	x	
Salaiz	Zoe	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	9/16/2025	x	
Miller	Lara	Reg. Ed. Aide	Cooper	9/16/2025	x	
Stilwell	Kyley	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	9/16/2025	x	
Guerrero	Krystal	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	9/11/2025	x	
August	Cedric	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	9/9/2025	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Block	Kristina	Bus Driver	Transportation	8/13/2025	From 20 hrs/wk to 22.5 hrs/wk	
Haines	Nicholas	Meat Department Manager	NHS	8/13/2025	From 31.25 hrs/wk to 35 hrs/wk	
Zaldivar-Jaso	Veronica	5th Grade Teacher	SF	9/2/2025	Add Athletic Worker	

Fraley	Chelle	Reg. Ed. Aide	OA	9/2/2025	Add Athletic Worker
Berg	Pamela	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	9/2/2025	Add Athletic Worker
Ney	Craig	Sub Bus Driver/Bus Aide/Athletic Worker	Transportation	8/1/2025	Athletic Worker Only
Russell	Annessa	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	9/2/2025	Add Athletic Worker
Russell	Annessa	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	9/16/2025	From 33.75 hrs/wk to 33 hrs/wk
Hultman	Connor	Software App Specialist	ETC	9/8/2025	Add Assist Robotics Coach@NHS
Amerdid	Marial	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	9/16/2025	From 9.84 hrs/wk to 5 hrs/wk
Woodley	Jaric	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	9/16/2025	From 6.5 hrs wk to 3 hrs/wk
Madison	Trevon	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	9/16/2025	From 33.75 hrs/wk to 25.25 hrs/wk
Rosser	Kaiden	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	9/16/2025	From 9.5 hrs/wk to 11.5 hrs/wk

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

- Approve the participating agreement with Butler Community College for the 2025-26 school year.
- Approve the NRC MOU for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.
- Approve the bid from T L Steel LLC in the amount of \$59,709.00.

5. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Hesston College	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Team expenses	\$500.00
Moridge Mfg Inc.	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Team expenses	\$1,000.00
Safe Kids Kansas	Cooper Early Education Center	Cribettes for Hv Co Community Baby Shower	\$1,200.00

Gifts Under \$500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Dennis Campbell	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Team expenses	\$200.00
Dan's Cycle	USD373 Adapted PE	Modified equipment for PE	\$480.00
NMC Health	Cooper Early Education Center	Donation for Community Baby Shower	\$250.00

- Approve the request for unpaid leave as presented for Dianna Carreon.
- Approve the Newton Recreation Commission MOU as presented.

6. Old Business

Bond Update

Superintendent Van Ranken provided an update on the bond planning progress. He gave an overview of Option 5 which reflects work the team is reaching consensus on. There is one more meeting scheduled on September 30 with plans to present their final recommendation to the board on October 13.

7. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Ian Long reported that the potential artist for the Santa Fe mural project will provide a draft in color along with a cost estimate to the board at the October 13 meeting.

Building Reports

Building reports for Santa Fe 5/6 Center, Newton High School, Opportunity Academy and USD 373 Athletics were provided to the board for information.

8. 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 on non-elected personnel and that the board return to the open meeting in this room at 8:05 p.m.

— 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 on non-elected personnel and that the board return to the open meeting in this room at 8:20 p.m.

9. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Comments included:

- Erica Stevens inquired about school spirit at football games and questioned what was allowed for students to participate in, specifically chants.
- Superintendent Van Ranken referenced Rule 52 on sportsmanship and will share that information with board members. Newton admin staff do a nice job on monitoring student sportsmanship at activities. He also noted that the district is fortunate to have Diane Moser as our CTE Director and recognized all her work in providing many opportunities for students.
- Melissa Schreiber advised of the Foundation meeting she and Superintendent Van Ranken will be attending on Friday in Maize.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:26 p.m.

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