

Board Notes — October 13, 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, October 13, 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

Members Absent: 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 Technology Brenda Thompson

1. Opening of Meeting

Melissa Schreiber called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Melissa Schreiber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

— Adopt the agenda as presented.

2. Presentations/Reports

Bond Presentation

Troy Hertel and Gary Holler from Schaefer Architecture presented their formal recommendation to the board from the work done by the Bond Development Team. There will be time for public comment on the bond proposal at the October 27 meeting and approval of the resolution to pursue the bond at the November 10 meeting. Two informational sessions have been scheduled for October 21 at Chisholm Middle and October 22 at Newton High.

Newton Recreation Commission Proposal for Facilities

Brian Bascue, Newton Recreation Commission Superintendent, presented a plan for adding a new restroom and storage facility to the soccer fields on Boyd Street. The NRC will provide the funding for this project and the City of Newton will provide the necessary utilities. At this time the NRC is asking for the board's support on the project. Board members were all in consensus for the Rec Commission to move forward on this project.

3. Comments from the Public

Public Comment

Carol Sue Stayrook Hobbs addressed the board regarding successes of Newton High graduates.

4. Executive Session

Convene in Executive Session - Personnel

— Move that the board convene in executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel 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 8:09 p.m.

— Move that the board convene in executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel 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 8:30 p.m.

5. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

- Approve the September 22 & 29, 2025 minutes as presented.
- Approve the bills as presented.
- Approve the October 13, 2025 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Vasquez	Olivia	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	9/29/2025		x
Williams	Deanna	Pre-K Teacher	Cooper	5/22/2026		x
Rivera Escalante	Delmy	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	10/17/2025		x
Ramos-Thaw	Araseli	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	10/8/2025	x	
Michael	Daniell	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	10/7/2025	x	
Unruh	Sarahanne	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	10/6/2025	x	
Adams	Kaaliyah	Reg. Ed. Aide	SS	10/2/2025	x	
Siegel	Jeffrey	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	9/30/2025	x	
Wilson	Teresa	Bus Aide	Transportation	9/30/2025	x	
Smith	Megan	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	9/30/2025	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Gomez	Searra	Bus Aide	Transportation	9/22/2025	From 4.5 hrs/day to 6.75 hrs/day	
Davidson	Jacelyn	PE Teacher/Coach	NHS	9/19/2025	Add Athletic Worker	
Bartel	Debra	Reg. Ed. Aide	SC	9/19/2025	Add Athletic Worker	
Valle	Esmeralda	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	9/29/2025	ELL Aide @ SF	
Schulte	Steven	Van Driver	Transportation	9/30/2025	Bus Aide @ Transportation	
Dowell	Kathy	Bus Aide	Transportation	9/30/2025	Van Driver @ Transportation	
Walton	Lorese	Bus Aide	Transportation	10/6/2025	Add Sub Van Driver	
Merrill	Desiree	Reg. Ed. Aide	Cooper	10/1/2025	Reg. Ed. Aide @ SS	
Norris	Kai	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	9/16/2025	From 6 hrs/week to 7 hrs/week	
Thompson	Shealeese	Reg. Ed. Aide	Cooper	10/2/2025	From 27.5 hrs/wk to 40 hrs/wk	
Blackwell	Narissa	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	10/1/2025	From 19.75 hrs/wk to 15.5 hrs/wk	
Petrie	Shawndrea	Sp. Ed. Para/Bus Aide	NHS	10/6/2025	Sp Ed Para/Substitute Bus Aide	
Krueger	Brenda	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	9/29/2025	From 12 hrs/wk to 31.25 hrs/wk	
Wade	Kainan	Social Studies Tchr	NHS	10/1/2025	Add Asst. Boys Wrestling @ NHS	
Kennell	Brian	History Teacher	NHS	10/1/2025	Add Spring Concessions Mgr@NHS	
Crabtree	Jessica	Business Teacher	NHS	10/1/2025	Resign Spring Concessions Mgr@NHS	

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

6. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the request for unpaid leave as presented for Shanda Swanson.

Board Policy DFH Fundraising Activities

Revisions to policy DFH—Fundraising Activities were presented to the board. Administration will be seeking approval at the October 27 board meeting.

7. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Bunting Magnetics	Newton High School Machining and Welding	Materials for student use	\$5,400.00
Jon & Sue Ann Jantz (Cottonwood Pediatrics)	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Robotic expenses	\$4,000.00
Bill Patton	Newton High School CTE Construction Prog.	Dust Collector	\$800.00

Gifts Under \$500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Lefty's Garage	Newton High School Machining	Donation for supplies/activities	\$50.00
Kiwanis Club	USD 373	Donation for student needs-supplies/meal accts	\$150.00

— Approve early graduation requests for Opportunity Academy as presented.

Professional Development Evaluations

Evaluations for Professional Development days from August-September 2025 were shared with the Board of Education.

Newton High School Out-of-State Contest

Newton High School provided information on an anticipated out-of-state contest for the RaileRobotics team. No funds are requested and this item was for information only.

8. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Mallory Morton attended a Head Start Policy Council meeting and there continues to be good parent participation.

Ian Long reported that he should be receiving a color rendition of the Santa Fe mural project this week. There is a Themian Park stakeholders meeting coming up and there will be some small changes to the agreement.

Building Reports

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

Department Reports

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

9. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Comments included:

- Mallory Morton encouraged everyone to be informed about the bond project by going to the district website, reading the newspapers and attending the information nights.
- Ian Long thanked those that served on the RSP committee and bond development committee. Urged everyone to be informed about the bond proposal and ask questions.
- Melissa Schreiber shared about a recent visit with a teacher and students from Germany who were on a 2-week cultural visit to learn about our schools.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:43 p.m.

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