

Board Notes — November 10, 2025

A work session of the Board of Education of Newton Unified School District 373 convened in open and public session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 10, 2025, in the Board of Education meeting room located at 308 E 1st, Newton, KS. The regular meeting of the Board of Education began at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Ian Long, Melissa Schreiber, and Erica Stevens
Andy Ortiz arrived at 6:14 p.m.
Mallory Morton arrived at 7:07 p.m.

Members Absent: Dayna Steinmetz

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

With only three members present at 6:00 p.m. there was informal conversation with Representatives Avery Anderson and Mike King, and Senator Stephen Owens. Andy Ortiz arrived at 6:14 p.m. at which time President Schreiber called the meeting to order.

1. Opening of Meeting

Melissa Schreiber called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.
Melissa Schreiber led the Pledge of Allegiance.
— Adopt the agenda as presented.

Conversation with Legislators

Representatives Avery Anderson and Mike King and Senator Stephen Owens attended the meeting for a question and answer time with board members.

The work session ended at 6:58 p.m.

2. Opening of Regular Meeting

Melissa Schreiber called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
— Adopt the agenda as presented.

3. Presentations/Reports

Certificates were given to Jessica Crabtree, Parents As Teachers staff, and Project SEARCH staff members for their recent accomplishments. Fall sports athletes receiving state recognition were presented with certificates and the Newton High School students that took first and second place in the Harvey County Constitution Contest were recognized.

4. Comments from the Public

Public Comment

Sara Getchell addressed the board regarding the bond, Themian Park MOU and the Santa Fe mural project.

Carol Sue Stayrook Hobbs shared a Newton High graduate success story.

5. 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 7:50 p.m. Fred Van Ranken joined the executive session at 7:42 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 7:57 p.m.

6. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

- Approve the October 27, 2025 minutes as presented.
- Approve the bills as presented.
- Approve the November 10, 2025 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Smith	Ashley	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	11/14/2025		x
Schwind	Amy	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	11/14/2025		x
Brewer-Wadley	Devin	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	11/6/2025	x	
Davis	Piper	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	11/4/2025	x	
Camacho	Adriana	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	11/4/2025	x	
Shaw	Elizabeth	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	11/4/2025	x	
Moates	Megan	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	10/28/2025	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Fraley	Chelle	Reg Ed Aide/Sub Tchr	OA	11/3/2025	Substitute Tchr @ District-Wide	
Miller	Jade	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	10/29/2025	From 3.67 hrs/day to 4.17 hrs/day	
Thurston	Caileane	Reg. Ed. Aide	Cooper	10/29/2025	From 32 hrs/wk to 26 hrs/wk	
Eason	Anne	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	10/29/2025	From 4 hrs/day to 4.67 hrs/day	
Woodley	Jaric	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	10/27/2025	From 3 hrs/wk to 4 hrs/wk	
Rosser	Kaiden	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	11/3/2025	From 11.5 hrs/wk to 3 hrs/wk	
Anderson	Karin	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	9/23/2025	Add Bus Aide	

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

- Approve the updated 403(b) Plan Document and Adoption Agreement with Omni & TSACG Compliance Services.
- Approve the ESSDACK Virtual Student invoice.

7. Old Business

The board voted to:

— Approve RESOLUTION #11-10-25 AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE CALLING OF A BOND ELECTION IN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 373, HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS (NEWTON) FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT THE QUESTION OF ISSUING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE DISTRICT; AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE AUTHORITY TO CALL THE BOND ELECTION AND FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT STATE AID; AND PROVIDING FOR THE GIVING OF NOTICE OF THE BOND ELECTION.

— Ratify the 2025-2026 Negotiated Agreement between the Newton Education Association and USD 373 Board of Education.

8. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the new course proposals for 2026-27 as presented.
- Approve the new course proposal for spring of 2026 as presented.

Themian Park MOU

The Railer Foundation continues to work on fundraising efforts for the improvements to Themian Park. The MOU has been modified to allow for more intentional phasing in of the project. Administration will be seeking approval of the MOU at the December 8 BOE meeting. Board members asked for clarification on item #5 as it relates to the term "Parties" and also the land donated by the district for the parking lot in the event that the renovations be terminated for any reason.

9. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Mallory Morton attended a recent Head Start Policy Council meeting with good parent representation. Cooper students are busy with field trips and parent engagement nights. Ian Long has reached out to the Santa Fe mural project artist to check in on the progress of the rendering to present to the board.

Melissa Schreiber attended a recent ICC meeting.

Building Reports

Building reports for Cooper Early Education Center, Slate Creek Elementary, South Breeze Elementary, Sunset Elementary, Santa Fe 5/6 Center, Chisholm Middle, Newton High School, Opportunity Academy, 373 Athletics and department reports from Instructional Services, Harvey County Special Education and Facilities/Maintenance were provided to the board for information.

10. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Comments included:

- Congratulations to the newly elected board members and to all the students and staff that were recognized this evening for their accomplishments.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

Background information on agenda items may be found in BoardDocs at:

<https://go.boarddocs.com/ks/usd373/Board.nsf/Public>