

Board Notes — December 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, December 8, 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, Ericia 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 Communications Carly Stavola

1. Opening of Meeting

Melissa Schreiber called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Melissa Schreiber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

— Move to amend the agenda to add an executive session for personnel after the consent agenda.

2. Presentations/Reports

Board Member Recognition

Dayna Steinmetz and Andy Ortiz were recognized for their years of service on the USD 373 Board of Education. Newly elected members will begin their term on January 12, 2026.

Staff Member Recognition

The district recognized Katrina Steiner for being named the KATS Trainer of the Year (Kansas Athletic Trainers' Society) in November of 2025 at their annual symposium in Manhattan, KS.

Staff Years of Service Recognition

The district recognized staff for years of service at 5-year increments. A list was provided recognizing staff for the calendar year 2025 and then starting in January 2026 staff will be recognized each month.

Student Intervention Presentation

Representatives from Student presented information on an intervention system. The proposed pilot would be for Chisholm Middle School taking place in the spring of 2026.

3. Comments from the Public

Public Comment

Carol Sue Stayrook Hobbs congratulated board members for serving on the Board of Education. She also shared a Newton High graduate success story.

4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

- Approve the November 10, 2025 minutes as presented.
- Approve the bills as presented.
- Approve the December 8, 2025 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Rosser	Kaiden	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	11/14/2025		x
Howard	Lisa	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	11/18/2025		x
Bressler	Stacey	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	12/31/2025		x
Voth	Angela	Admin Assistant	NHS	12/29/2025		x
Runge	Robert	Asst Girls BBall Coach	NHS	12/2/2025		x
Hernandez	Jesse	Groundskeeper	Service Center	12/15/2025		x
Soloman	Chasity	Head Start Coach	Cooper	5/22/2026		x
McConnell	Carla	3rd Grade Teacher	SS	6/1/2026		x
Craig	Lauri	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	12/5/2025		x
Wilkes	Daysharia	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	12/4/2025		x
Mosqueda	Michael	Asst Girls BBall Coach	NHS	11/24/2025	x	
Huerta	Rita	Reg. Ed. Aide	SS	11/20/2025	x	
Partridge	Stephen	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	11/13/2025	x	
Cartlich	Bailey	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	11/13/2025	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Krehbiel	Beverly	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	12/1/2025	From 33.75 hrs/wk to 20.8 hrs/wk	
Dowell	Kathy	Van Driver	Transportation	12/1/2025	From 4 hrs/day to 4.5 hrs/day	
Savage	Tena	Food Service	NHS	10/16/2025	From 7 hrs/day to 8 hrs/day	
Miller	Sarah	Nurse	NHS	12/1/2025	Add Asst. Bowling Coach @ NHS	
Ferrier	Ernest	Adaptive PE Tchr/Coach	NHS	1/1/2026	Add Asst. Boys BB Coach @ CMS	
Brown	Ashtyn	Teacher/Coach	SB	12/15/2025	Add Asst. Girls BB Coach @ NHS	
Sweedden	Donna	Reg. Ed. Aide/Bus Aide	NR	11/18/2025	Reg Ed Aide @ NR Only	
Moates	Megan	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	1/5/2026	Industrial Arts Teacher @ CMS	
Salaiz	Zoe	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	12/1/2025	Add Athletic Worker	
Valdivia	Marco	Asst Girls Soccer Coach	NHS	12/5/2025	Head Girls Soccer Coach @ NHS	

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

- Approve the Report of Funds as presented.
- Approve the renewal quote of the student information system from Computer Information Concepts in the amount of \$60,336.00.
- Approve using capital outlay funds to assist Head Start in the payment of a bus received November 20, 2025.
- Approve that the Findings and Report of Hearing Officer Jeff Lowe dated November 11, 2025 in the matter of the Expulsion Appeal of Stanley Vogelman be adopted and ratified by the Board of Education.

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 8:10 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 8:26 p.m. Fred Van Ranken is invited to attend the executive session.

6. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the request for unpaid leave as presented for Sydney Bacon.
- Approve the Themian Park MOA as presented.
- Approve the superintendent's contract as presented.

Santa Fe Leftover Bond Expenditure Proposal

Superintendent Van Ranken presented information on potential Santa Fe projects utilizing leftover bond funds. This item will return on the January 12 board agenda for further discussion.

7. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Newton Rotary	Newton High Sunshine Squad	Staff holiday meal	\$1,200.00
Bethel College Mennonite Church	USD 373 Social Workers	Assist families with basic needs	\$500
Credit Union of America	Newton High Art Department	Teach Grow Inspire the Future Grant for ceramic supplies/equipment	\$940.00

- Approve early graduation requests for Opportunity Academy as presented.
- Approve the NHS hardship diploma request as presented.

Opportunity Academy Request

Opportunity Academy staff would like to attend the Bridging to Resilience conference March 5-6, 2026, adjusting their calendar accordingly to accommodate the request.

- Approve the request from Opportunity Academy as presented.

2026-27 Capital Outlay Requests

Jane Nichols presented information on the Capital Outlay process, budget and requests for 2026-27. Administration will be seeking approval on this at the January 12, 2026 meeting.

Newton High School Out-of-State Contests

Information was provided on two anticipated out-of-state contests/trips this year for the NHS Choir and Ag Academy. No funds are requested, this item was for information only.

8. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Mallory Morton attended a recent Head Start Policy Council meeting with good parent representation. Cooper staff continue to work very hard with dental and vision screenings as students move in and out of the program.

Ericia Stevens attended the Technology Committee meeting.

Ian Long attended a PBC meeting last week where new leadership was selected.

Building Reports

Building reports for 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 Business/HR/Payroll, Harvey

County Special Education and Instructional Services were provided to the board for information.

9. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Comments included:

- Dayna and Andy expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the board.
- Board members thanked Dayna and Andy for serving and wished them well.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

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