

Board Notes — January 12, 2026

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, January 12, 2026, in the Board of Education meeting room located at 308 E 1st, Newton, KS.

Members Present: Bob Diepenbrock, Heidi Hoskinson, Ian Long, Rachel McDaniel, Mallory Morton, Melissa Schreiber, 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.

— Adopt the agenda as presented.

— Appoint Ian Long as board president for January 2026 - January 2027.

— Appoint Bob Diepenbrock as board vice-president for January 2026 - January 2027.

— Approve setting the regular Board of Education meeting dates for 2026-2027 school year at the organizational board meeting on July 13, 2026.

Consider BOE Appointments for Open Positions

Information was provided on committee appointments for the 2025-26 school year. There are some openings to fill after the transition of new board members. There will be further discussion and possible action to fill vacancies at the January 26 board meeting.

2. Presentations/Reports

373 Employee Service Awards

The district recognized those staff that have 5-year work anniversaries in January 2026.

Kent Rychener: District Substitute 5 years

Randy Tolle: Athletic Worker 5 years

Mercy Conrad-Lindeman: ISS Aide 10 years

Lea Ann Reber: Bus Driver 10 years

Frances Siemens: Special Education Para 25 years

Patrick Harper: Food Service Worker 30 years

3. Comments from the Public

Public Comment

Students from CMS and NHS thanked the board for supporting the JAG programs at Newton High and Chisholm Middle.

4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

— Approve the December 8, 2025 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

— Approve the Report of Funds as presented.

— Approve the January 12, 2026 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Johnson	James	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	2/28/2026		x
Marial	Amerdid	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	12/9/2025		x
Ayala Esparza	Stephanie	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	12/18/2025		x
Bratcher	Massiah	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	12/12/2025		x
Anderson	Amber	Permanent Bldg Sub	SB	12/18/2025		x
Berg	Derek	2nd Shift Custodian	NHS	12/19/2025		x
Leatherman	Darian	Choreographer	NHS	5/22/2025		x
Krehbiel	Beverly	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	12/18/2025		x
Murphy	Madison	7th Gr ELA Teacher	CMS	5/22/2026		x
O'Neal	Starr	Library Media	SB	5/22/2026		x
Carreon	Leslie Dianna	SLP	SS	5/22/2026		x
Mick	Richard	PE Teacher	NHS	6/1/2026		x
Rogers	Nancy	Sp. Ed. IR Teacher	NHS	8/1/2026		x
Pfannenstiel	Ashlea	5th Gr Sci/SS Tchr	SF	5/22/2026		x
Preheim	Kiley	7th Gr Science Tchr	CMS	5/22/2026		x
Whitlock	Amy	7-12 Teacher	OA	5/22/2026		x
Will	William	Maintenance	Service Ctr	1/30/2026		x
Costantino	Anthony	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	1/7/2026		x
Gonzalez	Olivia	Reg Ed Aide	SC	1/14/2026		x
Jones	Lisa	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	12/30/2025	x	
Kernal	DesiRay	Bus Aide	Transportation	12/30/2025	x	
Barvais	Savannah	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	12/29/2025	x	
Mitts	Michelle	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	1/5/2026	x	
Nattier	Sadie	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	1/6/2026	x	
Bradley	Sara	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	1/8/2026	x	
Lowe	Brynn	Asst Girls Wrestling Coach	CMS	12/18/2025	x	
Rogers	Janel	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	12/18/2025	x	
Finley	Di'Anna	Food Service Sub	District-Wide	12/17/2025	x	
Garcia Servin	Maria	Food Service	NHS	12/16/2025	x	
Lambert	Karyn	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	12/16/2025	x	
Jones	Michael	2nd Shift Custodian	SF	12/11/2025	x	
Reynolds	Dakota	Reg. Ed. Aide	OA	12/11/2025	x	
Wallace	Sadie	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	12/11/2025	x	
Hancock	Brandon	Asst Boys Wrestling Coach	NHS	12/8/2025	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Nicholson	Myriah	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	1/6/2026	From 13.5 hrs/wk to 33.75 hrs/wk	
Province	Crystal	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	12/9/2025	From 6.75 hrs/day to 7 hrs/day	
Zamorano Guzman	Maria	2nd Shift Custodian	SF	1/5/2026	2nd Shift Custodian @ NHS	

Gunn	Elizabeth	History/ESL Teacher	NHS	5/22/2026	Resign ESL Lead Only
Abrile De Paiva	Maira	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	1/6/2026	From 15 hrs/wk to 11.5 hrs/wk
August	Cedric	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	1/6/2026	From 21 hrs/wk to 10 hrs/wk
Ramirez	Herica	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	1/6/2026	Family Consultant @ Cooper
Meridith	Laura	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	12/17/2025	From 33.75 hrs/wk to 35 hrs/wk

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

- Approve the 2025-26 Agreement with Prairie View, Inc. to provide educational and related services for students who reside in the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility.
- Approve the lease payment for assorted technology including data storage system.
- Approve the Security Enterprise Agreement for yearly Duo, ISE and Firewall renewal.

5. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the 2026-27 Capital Outlay requests as presented.
- Approve the Student pilot initiative at Chisholm Middle School for the spring of 2026.

Santa Fe Leftover Bond Funds

Superintendent Van Ranken presented information on potential Santa Fe projects utilizing leftover bond funds. The project proposal will be considered for approval at the January 26, 2026 board meeting.

6. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Sand Creek Station	South Breeze Elementary	Donation to purchase SNAG golf equipment for PE students	\$1,140.00
Precision Pallet-Justin Groom	Newton High School	Donation of lumber for student projects	\$500.00
Knights of Columbus	USD 373	Support Circle of Friends program expenses	\$1,120.00
Faith Mennonite Church	Sunset Elementary	Donation to assist Sunset families with basic needs	\$1,200.00
Fuqua Insurance Group	Santa Fe 5/6 Center	Donation to purchase adapted PE and classroom materials	\$5,000.00
Newton Masonic Lodge	Slate Creek Elementary	Adaptive walker	\$2,995.00

Gifts Under \$500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Lori & Cliff Baker	South Breeze Elementary	Cover negative lunch balances	\$60.00
Kurt Harper Memorial	South Breeze Elementary	Purchase reading resources	\$50.00
Cooper Front Office Staff	Cooper Early Ed Center	Pantry Kits for Weekend Food Grant	\$125.00
First Presbyterian Church	South Breeze Elementary	Purchase basic school supplies for teachers & students	\$300.00
Harvey County Bar Association	Newton High School	Donation for choir transportation costs	\$150.00
Harvey County Farm Bureau	Newton High School	Donation for Railer Box Car	\$200.00
Union State Bank	Cooper Early Ed Ctr	Infant Toddler Program expenses	\$200.00

2026-27 Newton High School Course Guide Proposal

The 2026-27 Newton High School Course Guide proposal was provided to the board as an item of information. Administration will be seeking approval of this document at the January 26 board meeting.

Newton High School Out-of-State Trip

Information was provided on an upcoming out-of-state trip for Newton High FFA. No funds are requested, this item was for information only.

Professional Development Evaluations – Oct-Dec 2025

Evaluations for Professional Development days from October through December 2025 were shared with the Board of Education.

7. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Mallory Morton attended the Head Start Policy Council meeting and is thankful for the parent representation the year. Family engagement activities were discussed as well as the future of Head Start funding.

Melissa Schreiber attended Interagency Coordinating Council.

Building Reports

Building reports for Cooper Early Education Center, Northridge Elementary, Slate Creek Elementary, South Breeze Elementary, Sunset Elementary, and department reports from Harvey County Special Education, Technology Services and Instructional Services were provided to the board for information.

8. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Comments included:

- Appreciation from new board members for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Education.
- Welcome to new members and looking forward to working together as a full board.

Action: B. Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

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

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