

Board Notes — January 26, 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 26, 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, Ercia 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

Ian Long called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
Ian Long led the Pledge of Allegiance.
— Adopt the agenda as presented.

2. Presentations/Reports

South Breeze Building Presentation

South Breeze staff and students shared about their garden program and family groups.

Board Member Recognition

January is School Board Recognition Month. Superintendent Van Ranken thanked board members for their dedication in serving on the USD 373 Board of Education. A meal was provided for board members this evening.

3. Comments from the Public

Public Comment

No comments.

4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

- Approve the January 12, 2026 minutes as presented.
- Approve the bills as presented.
- Approve the January 26, 2026 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Term
Cotton	Amber	Reg. Ed. Aide	OA	1/14/2026		x
Franz	Gayle	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	6/25/2026		x
Franzen	Nancy	Food Service	Cooper	5/22/2026		x
Merrill	Desiree	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	1/30/2026		x
Camacho	Adriana	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	1/14/2026		x
Siemens	Francis	Sp. Ed. Para	Hesston	5/20/2026		x
Hemken	Alejandra	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	1/22/2026	x	
Buller	Lucy	Substitute Tchr	District-Wide	1/21/2026	x	
Flavin	Michael	Sub Bus Driver	Transportation	1/21/2026	x	
Smith	Misty	Reg. Ed. Aide	OA	1/21/2026	x	
Isham	Lindsey	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	1/20/2026	x	
Jackson	Katerina	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	1/20/2026	x	

Haas	Haven	Substitute Tchr	District-Wide	1/16/2026	x	
Landrum	Hannah	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	1/15/2026	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Watson	Michaela	Admin Assistant	SB	1/16/2026	Admin Assistant @ NHS	
Orndoff	Linda	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	1/12/2026	From 6.75 hrs/day to 4.5 hrs/day	
McMichael	Jesse	Sp. Ed. Tchr/Coach	SF	1/20/2026	Resign from Asst Softball Coach@NHS Only	
Mitts	Michelle	Substitute Tchr	District-Wide	1/1/2026	Add Athletic Event Worker	
Decker	Isabella	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	1/20/2026	From 33.75 hrs/wk to 26 hrs/wk	
Bigham	Tess	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	1/12/2026	From 10 hrs/wk to 8.25 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 SRO invoice.
- Approve revising Resolutions 2026-07-10 and 2026-07-11 to reflect the new board president.
- Approve the Hutchinson Community College Concurrent Enrollment Partnership MOU.
- Approve the purchase of the Storage Area Network replacement as presented.

5. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the use of leftover bond funds for the proposed Santa Fe 5/6 Center project list.
- Approve the 2026-27 Newton High School Course Guide as presented.
- Approve new board member appointments to committees as listed.
 - Special Education Cooperative Board: Ercia Stevens, Melissa Schreiber alternate
 - Education Endowment Committee: Ercia Stevens, Rachel McDaniel alternate
 - Public Building Commission: Ian Long, Bob Diepenbrock alternate
 - Wellness Committee: Rachel McDaniel, Ercia Stevens alternate
 - Technology Committee: Ercia Stevens, Heidi Hoskinson alternate
 - Negotiations: Long and Morton continue, Bob Diepenbrock added

Information: D. Bond Update

Superintendent Van Ranken gave an update on the project revision in regards to HVAC units at various buildings.

6. New Business

Action: A. Approve Gift Requests

The board voted to:

- Approve the gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
NMC Health	Newton High School	HOSA Spring Leadership Conf. student costs	\$600.00
Millennium Machine and Tool	Newton High School Machining/Welding Program	Materials for student use	\$850.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield of KS	Slate Creek Elementary	Purchase adaptive PE equipment	\$2,000.00
DeVore & Sons Equipment	South Breeze Elementary	Assist with lunch accounts & kdgn classroom supplies	\$2,500.00
Bunting Magnetics	Newton High School	Nat'l Honor Society expenses	\$500.00

Gifts Under \$500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Tim Gaynor	Newton High School Machining Program	Supplies for student project	\$250.00
Conrade Insurance	Newton High School	Nat'l Honor Society expenses	\$180.00
Foundations Physical Therapy	Newton High School	Nat'l Honor Society expenses	\$300.00
Graber's Ace Hardware	Newton High School	Nat'l Honor Society expenses	\$100.00
Union State Bank	Newton High School	Nat'l Honor Society expenses	\$100.00

— Approve early graduation requests for Opportunity Academy as presented.

2026-27 DRAFT Attendance Calendar

The proposed calendar for the 2026-2027 school year was presented to the board for review. It is very similar to the current calendar with only a few adjustments based upon recommendations from the committee. Administration will be seeking approval of this calendar at the February 9, 2026 BOE meeting.

Santa Fe Roof Quote

A quote for the Santa Fe 5/6 Center roof project was presented to the board. Leftover bond funds will be used for this project and administration will recommend approval at the February 9, 2026 BOE meeting.

KASB Recommended Policy Revisions

The December 2025 policy recommendations from KASB include 11 policy revisions and 1 new policy. The recommended revisions were presented to the board for review. Administration will be seeking action on this item at the February 9, 2026 Board of Education meeting.

7. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Ian reported that the PBC will be scheduling a meeting within the next month.

Building Reports

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

8. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Comments included:

- Appreciation for the meal this evening to recognize board members.
- Thank you to maintenance/custodial staff for clearing district campuses and to Carly for clear communication on school closing.
- Board member referenced a court case in Maryland regarding diversity and how this will impact public education.
- Bond information sessions/tours are scheduled with the next one for Tuesday, January 27th at Chisholm Middle School, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Encouraged communication with legislators on bills that will have an impact in our district.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

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