

## Board Notes — February 9, 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, February 9, 2026, in the Board of Education meeting room located at 308 E 1<sup>st</sup>, Newton, KS.

**Members Present:** Bob Diepenbrock, Heidi Hoskinson, Ian Long, Rachel McDaniel

**Members Absent:** 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 7:00 p.m.  
Ian Long led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
— Adopt the agenda as presented.

### 2. Presentations/Reports

#### Staff Recognition

Mario Nava was recognized by KU Med Center for his involvement with the iAmHealthy Parents First healthy lifestyle program.

#### Presentation of Financial Audit

Cheryl Bishop from Knudsen Monroe presented a recap of the district's financial audit for the 2024-25 school year.

### 373 Employee Service Awards

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

Julia Rojas: School Nurse, Cooper 5 years  
Kristen Kornfeld: Human Resources Assistant 10 years  
Bernard Okpe: Custodian 10 years

### 3. Comments from the Public

#### Public Comment

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

### 4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:  
— Approve the January 26, 2026 minutes as presented.  
— Approve the bills as presented.  
— Approve the December 2025 Report of Funds as presented.  
— Approve the February 9, 2026 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Smith	Jordyn	Reg. Ed. Aide	OA	1/22/2026		x
Conrad-Lindeman	Mercy	Reg. Ed. Aide	CMS	5/21/2026		x
Fierros Martinez	Adrian	1st Shift Custodian	Cooper	1/23/2026		x
Thurston	Caileane	Reg. Ed. Aide	Cooper	2/12/2026		x

Chamberlain	Brian	Maintenance	Service Ctr	2/5/2026		x
Zook	Lu Ann	Career & Life Planning Tchr	CMS	5/22/2026		x
Kirtley	Eli	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	2/5/2026	x	
Alvarez	Armando	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	2/3/2026	x	
Griffis	Lorelei	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	2/3/2026	x	
Casey	Tiffany	2nd Shift Custodian	NHS	2/2/2026	x	
Thiesen	Traci	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	2/2/2026	x	
McClary	Chuck	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	1/29/2026	x	
<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Change of Assignment/Transfer</b>	
Shaw	Elizabeth	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	1/27/2026	Building Substitute @ SB	
Zinn Stahly	Katelyn	IR Sp. Ed. Teacher	CMS	8/1/2026	7th Gr. ELA Teacher @ CMS	
Kater	Maegan	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	1/15/2026	Administrative Assistant @ SB	
Madison	Trevon	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	1/27/2026	From 25.25 hrs/wk to 33.75 hrs/wk	
Budde	Brylee	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	1/23/2026	From 8 hrs/week to 6.5 hrs/week	
Norris	Kai	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	1/27/2026	From 7 hrs/week to 11 hrs/week	
Woodley	Jaric	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	1/27/2026	From 4 hrs/week to 8 hrs/week	
Brewer-Wadley	Devin	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	1/12/2026	From 17.3 hrs/wk to 33.75 hrs/wk	
Foster	Tamika	Food Service	NR	2/2/2026	Food Service @ NHS	
Garcia	Madison	Food Service	NHS	2/2/2026	Food Service @ NR	
Orndoff	Linda	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	2/2/2026	From 4.5 hrs/day to 6.75 hrs/day	

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

- Approve the annual credit card limits as presented.
- Approve the Microsoft annual licensing renewal through Logicalis as presented.

## 5. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the 2026-27 USD 373 Attendance Calendar.
- Approve the Santa Fe Roof quote from Wray Roofing, Inc.
- Approve revisions to board policies BCBK, BG, IHF, IKB, IKCA, IKD, IKDA, JBCC, JQI, KM and to adopt new policy IIBE as presented.

## 6. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Excel Industries	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Assist with travel/supplies	\$500.00
Cosmosphere	Newton High School RaileRobotics	Assist with robotics parts and fees	\$4,000.00

- Approve the audit report of the district's financial records for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.
- Approve early graduation requests for Opportunity Academy as presented.

## **Goal Area Review**

Superintendent Van Ranken provided a general overview of the three goal areas and how aspects of those goal areas tie to accreditation. In the upcoming meetings he will discuss each goal in more detail.

## **7. Reports**

### **BOE Committee Reports**

No reports.

### **Building and Department Reports**

Building reports for Cooper Early Education Center, Northridge Elementary, Slate Creek Elementary, South Breeze Elementary, Sunset Elementary, Instructional Services, Business/HR/Payroll, Technology Services and Facilities/Maintenance were provided to the board for information.

## **8. Closing of Meeting**

### **Board Comments**

Comments included:

- Board member referenced the bond flyer that was recently mailed and encouraged everyone to read through the information.
- Appreciated the information on the districts goals and look forward to further discussion.
- A recent bond information/tour session at the high school was well attended. There is one more scheduled for February 11 at the high school, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- KASB annually hosts *Day at the Statehouse* which provides a great opportunity for board members to visit with legislators. It is set for March 11, 9:00am-4:00pm.

### **Adjournment**

Move to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

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