

Board Notes – April 27, 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, April 27, 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

Members Absent: Ercia Stevens

Others Present: Superintendent Fred Van Ranken, Assistant Superintendent Joe Sample, Director of Business Matt Morford, 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.
— Move to adopt the agenda as presented.

2. Presentations/Reports

Student Recognitions

The board recognized the Newton High School Jazz Ensemble I State Champions and All-State Music students.

Heart to Heart Child Advocacy Center

Veronica Mosqueda-Bargdill gave a report on the work that Heart to Heart Child Advocacy does within our schools and community.

3. Comments from the Public

Public Comment

No comments.

4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

- Approve the April 13, 2026 minutes as presented.
- Approve the bills as presented.
- Approve the April 27, 2026 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Boston	Keely	Physical Activities Aide	Cooper	5/21/2026		x
Bennett	Reese	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	4/2/2026		x
Koehn	Katelin	Assistant Cheerleader Coach	NHS	4/14/2026		x
Holle	Ashley	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	4/30/2026		x
Bahruth	Kirstyn	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	5/1/2026		x
Regier	Amy	Music Teacher	SB	5/22/2026		x
Rose	Sara	Sp. Ed. IR Teacher	SF	5/22/2026		x
Harbour	Sarah	2nd Gr. Teacher	SC	5/22/2026		x

Switzer	Tera	6th Gr. ELA Teacher	SF	5/22/2026		x
Raines	Kylea	Infant/Toddler Teacher	Cooper	5/22/2026		x
Ramos-Thaw	Araseli	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	4/30/2026		x
Cubbage	Max	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	5/21/2026		x
Hager	Carlisa	Sp. Ed. IR Teacher	CMS	5/22/2026		x
Conard	York	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	4/24/2026	x	
Standing	Carmen	Bus Aide	Transportation	4/16/2026	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Ives	Amy	Vocal Tchr/Junior Class Sponsor	NHS	5/22/2026	Resign Jr Class Sponsor @ NHS	
Wallace	Sadie	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	4/15/2026	Sp. Ed. Para @ Cooper	
Kernal	DesiRay	Bus Aide	Transportation	1/6/2026	From 4 hrs/day to 7 hrs/day	
Nattier	Sadie	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	3/2/2026	From 16.67 hrs/wk to 33.75 hrs/wk	
King	Allison	4th Gr. Teacher	SC	8/3/2026	2nd Grade Teacher @ SC	
Nicholson	Myriah	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	8/3/2026	Media Specialist @ SB	
Meza	Maria	Science Teacher	SC/SS	8/3/2026	4th Grade Teacher @ SC	

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

- Approve a 5-year renewal (invoiced annually) of the Imagine Learning resource.

5. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve appointing Brad Cook to a second 4-year term on the Newton Recreation Commission Board.
- Approve the open enrollment slots and projection numbers as presented.

6. New Business

- Approve the updated driver's education curriculum plan, associated instructional textbook selection and course fees as presented.
- Approve adjusting the 2025-2026 school calendar reflecting the last day of school for students to be May 20 rather than May 21 and the subsequent workday for staff to be May 21 rather than May 22, provided there are no further inclement weather or natural disaster days needed.

Proposed Program Adjustment for K-4 (three centers)

Information was presented to the board regarding a proposed adjustment in physical education and library time at the elementary buildings. Principals are in support of hiring a PE teacher in place of filling a media specialist vacancy. This allows for more PE time per week and will change library time. Administration is recommending board consensus on this to move forward with hiring and deciding on the final schedule for specials. The board gave their consensus to go ahead with hiring a PE teacher.

2026-27 Student Fees Draft

Student fees for 2026-27 were presented to the board for information. Fees remain the same and the technology fee for Chisholm has been removed. Administration will be seeking approval of fees at the May 11 board meeting.

7. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

No reports.

Building Reports

Building reports for Santa Fe 5/6 Center, Chisholm Middle School, Newton High School, Opportunity Academy and USD 373 Athletics were provided to the board for information.

8. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Comments included:

- Congratulations to our music students and their accomplishments.
- There are many school activities to attend as the year is ending, band/music concerts on May 3 and 9.
- Kudos to increased attendance at Opportunity Academy.
- Inquired about board member expectations for graduation. The high school will be sending out information and the schedule to the board.
- Appreciated the Heart to Heart presentation.
- Congratulations to the CTE students attending the signing event.

Action: B. Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.

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