

Board Notes – May 11, 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, May 11, 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, Erica 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 Newton High School Governors Scholars, CTE Scholars, BPA National qualifiers, and Seal of Biliteracy students.

Friends of Education

Gifts were presented to our Friends of Education partners: Susan Evans, nominated by South Breeze teachers; Matt Walker Thrift, Koerner Heights Church, nominated by Michael Kirkpatrick; Patrick Charlsen, Newton Kiwanis Club, nominated by Joey Menninga; and John Flores, Knights of Columbus, nominated by Reagan Seidl.

USD 373 Employee Service Awards

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

- Loren Kurtz: USD 373 Substitute, 5 years
- Angel Macias: NHS Food Service, 10 years

3. Comments from the Public

Public Comment

Carol Sue Stayrook Hobbs gave appreciation for all the opportunities 373 students have in regards to classes and activities which provide for a well-rounded education.

4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

- Approve the April 27, 2026 minutes as presented.
- Approve the bills as presented.
- Approve the March 2026 Report of Funds.
- Approve the May 11, 2026 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Urban	Abigail	Science Teacher	NHS	5/22/2026		x
Dotson	Marc	Intro to Business Teacher	CMS	5/22/2026		x
George	Mark	Social Studies Tchr	NHS	5/22/2026		x
Huebert	Denise	1st Shift Custodian	NHS	6/5/2026		x
Nguyen	Amy	Psychologist	HCSEC	6/1/2026		x
Norris	Kai	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	5/6/2026		x
Walker	Nathan	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	5/21/2026		x
Tucker	Julie	Asst. Principal	NHS	6/11/2026		x
Weber	Carolyn	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	5/22/2026		x
August	Cedric	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	5/6/2026		x
Abrile De Paiva	Maira	Sp. Ed. Para	NR	5/1/2026		x
Patino	Monica	English Teacher	NHS	8/3/2026	x	
Trego	Jordan	Asst. Principal	Cooper	7/20/2026	x	
Rose	Sara	ESY Teacher	SS	6/1/2026	x	
Olson	Brad	Sp. Ed. IDD Teacher	CMS	8/3/2026	x	
Masem	Allyson	2nd Grade Teacher	SC	8/3/2026	x	
Coy Dick	Josue	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	4/27/2026	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Kusmaul	Emma	3rd Gr. Teacher	NR	8/1/2026	RailerRise Teacher @ NR	
Kennedy	Tea	Sp. Ed. Ed Teacher	SS	8/1/2026	Sp. Ed. SL Teacher @ SB	
Carver	Paul	STEM Teacher	SF	7/20/2026	Principal @ Cooper	
Holmes	Carol	Permanent Bldg Sub	SC	5/22/2026	Sub Tchr @ District Wide	

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

- Approve the Skyward annual renewal as presented.
- Approve the payment to Johnson Controls as presented.
- Approve the ESSDACK membership renewal for 2026-27 as presented.
- Approve the ESSDACK Embedded Services Proposal for the 2026-27 school year.
- Approve the ESSDACK Learning Center payment as presented.
- Approve the 5-year renewal of Instructure (invoiced annually) for 2026-2031 as presented.
- Approve the Activity/School Bus Waiver on employee as presented.
- Approve a contract with USD 259 for transportation of students to the Kansas School for the Deaf in Olathe KS for 2026-27 school year.
- Approve the purchase of device carts for student chromebooks at Chisholm Middle School at a cost of \$31,160.00

5. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the 2026-27 Student Fees as presented.

6. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve early graduation requests for Opportunity Academy as presented.

2026-27 Building Needs Assessment

Superintendent Van Ranken gave an overview the required yearly building needs assessment. Details can be found in the agenda in BoardDocs. The document will be explored further at the upcoming board work session.

HB 2485 and District Implications

HB 2485, a 14-page bill that covers aspects of mostly post-secondary education, will have an immediate and direct negative impact on USD 373 and area-wide schools that have benefitted from what were referred to as SB 155 courses. Superintendent Van Ranken provided the BOE with an overview of the issues it is creating, the potential strategies we are engaging in to address the issues, and implications for affected schools. More information will be provided when available.

2026-27 Handbooks for Review

The following draft 2026-27 handbooks were provided for review: Santa Fe 5/6 Center Student and Staff, Opportunity Academy Student and Staff, and Chisholm Middle School Student and Staff. Administration will be seeking approval of these handbooks at the May 26 board meeting.

ELA PreK-12 Adoption for 2026-27

Mr. Sample provided information on the 2026-27 ELA PreK-12 adoption. The ELA adoption team reviewed resources throughout this year which included resource review, classroom pilots, usability, literacy development and district curriculum expectations.

- Approve the quotes for Emerge and Amplify as presented.

Physical Education Curriculum Adoption for 2026-27

Mr. Sample provided information on the Physical Education curriculum adoption. The PE adoption team reviewed the district adoption process, current PE and health resources, existing curriculum documents, available instructional resources, KSDE standards, and High-Quality Instructional Materials rubric feedback.

- Approve the use of Open and KSDE PE resources as presented.

7. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

No reports.

Building Reports

Building reports for Cooper Early Education Center, Northridge Elementary, Slate Creek Elementary, South Breeze Elementary, and Sunset Elementary were provided to the board for information.

Department Reports

Reports from Instructional Services, Business Services and Maintenance/Facilities were provided to the board for information.

8. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Comments included:

- Appreciation for Senator Owens, Representative Anderson and community business leaders attending the meeting tonight.
- Congratulations to our NHS graduating seniors and the OA early graduates.
- Thank you to the many local community organizations that provide scholarships.
- Congratulations to all staff that have worked hard to make this a successful year.

Action: B. Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:54 p.m.

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