

Newton Municipal School District



Newton Municipal School District — Regular Board Meeting

 April 13, 2026 |  5:30 PM

Location: District Central Office

Learning, Inspiring, & Thriving...As One

"It is always a Great Day to be a Tiger"

Board Members Present

Mrs. Shannon Moore, President^(phoned in)
Mrs. Machell Frazier Vice-President^(absent)
Ms. Jhaddaka Leverette- Secretary
Mrs. Jo Beth Bounds Asst. Secretary
Mr. Ryan Oakley Member^(absent)

Others Present

Mrs. Cola Shelby, Superintendent
Mr. Brian Mayo, Board Attorney
Mrs. Niceta Hester, Board Clerk

MISSION STATEMENT

***All students will graduate from Newton Municipal School District
college- and career-ready.***

I. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Newton Municipal School District Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Acting Board President Ms. Jhaddaka Leverette.

II. Presentations (No Vote)

- Benchmark III Presentations: Newton High School; N.H. Pilate Middle School; Newton Elementary School presented their Benchmark III data to the Board.

II. Public Input

Antonio Hoyer addressed the Board regarding use of the gym and parental involvement.

IV. Recommendation to Approve

- Agenda
- March 16, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion: On a motion duly made by Bounds, seconded by Moore, the Board approved Item IV. Recommendation to Approve: Agenda and March minutes.

Vote:

Leverette – aye; Bounds – aye; and Moore aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Recommendation to Approve Consent Agenda (Goals I, II, III, & IV)

- Fundraisers: NHS Basketball Program
- 2026–2027 Child Nutrition Prices
- Year 3 Project IMPACT Consultant
- Newton Career Center – 2026 ACTE Achieve 100 Award
- CTE New Hires Credited Teaching Services
- Alcorn State University MOU (Dual Enrollment)
- Advertise for Bids for School Services

Motion: On a motion duly made by Bounds, seconded by Moore, the Board approved Item V. Recommendation to Approve Consent Agenda.

Vote:

Leverette – aye; Bounds – aye and Moore aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Class of 2026 Prom Location

- NH Pilate Gym

Motion: On motion duly made by Moore and seconded by Bounds, the Board approved Item VI. Recommendation to allow the Class of 2026 Jr/Sr Prom to be held at the HN Pilate Gym.

Vote:

Leverette – aye; Bounds – aye; and Moore - aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Recommendation to Approve Financials (Goal II)

- Claims Docket: Summary; Detailed
- Financial Reports: Cash Balance; Budget Status; Revenue & Expenditures; Cash Flow; Fund Balances
- Bank Reconciliation

Prior to voting on this matter, Ms. Leverette disclosed that she would normally have recused herself from the meeting when the Board considered Claim Docket Item # 151898 due to her employment, but to maintain a quorum, she would remain in the meeting.

Motion: On motion duly made by Bounds, seconded by Moore, the Board approved Item VII. Financials.

Vote:

Leverette – aye; Bounds – aye; and Moore - aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Recommendation to Approve Personnel (Goal I)

- Certified & Classified Personnel

On Motion by Bounds, seconded by Moore, the Board entered into closed session to determine the need for an executive session.

Vote:

Leverette – aye; Bounds – aye; and Moore - aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

After discussion, on Motion by Bounds, seconded by Moore, the board came out of closed session.

Vote:

Leverette – aye; Bounds – aye; and Moore - aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Bounds, seconded by Moore, the Board entered into executive session to include Ms. Hicks, Mrs. Shelby, Dr. Porter, Niceta Hester, and Attorney Mayo to discuss **Personnel - Hiring**.

Vote:

Leverette – aye; Bounds – aye; and Moore - aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Bounds, second by Moore, the Board came out of Executive Session.

Vote:

Leverette – aye; Bounds – aye; and Moore - aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

No action was taken in the Executive Session.

On motion by Moore, seconded by Bounds, the Board approved Item VII.
Recommendation to Approve Personnel.

Vote:

Leverette – aye; Bounds – aye; and Moore aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

IX. J-Student Policies (Review, Revise, Rescind)

On motion by Moore, seconded by Bounds, the Board approved Item IX.
Recommendation to Approve Policy J-Student

Vote:

Leverette – aye; Bounds – aye; Moore aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

X. Petition to Transfer

- Student H. McLemore

On motion by Moore, seconded by Bounds, the Board approved Item X.
Recommendation to Approve Petition to Transfer Student: H. Mclemore.

Vote:

Leverette – aye; Bounds – aye; and Moore aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

XI. Superintendents Overview/ Reports / Updates

- Superintendent: Personnel Needs (2026–2027)
- Walk-Through Findings
- Maintenance/Transportation
- MSBA Legislative
- Accountability Standards

On motion by Moore, seconded by Bounds, the Board approved Item XI.
Recommendation to Approve Superintendent's Overview

Vote:

Leverette – aye; Bounds – aye; and Moore aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

XII. Attorney Brian Mayo Updates

Attorney Mayo updated the Board on Legislative Bills.

XIII. Next Board Meeting May 11, 2026

XIV. Adjournment

On motion by Moore, seconded by Bounds, the Board approved Item XIV.
Recommendation to Approve Adjournment.

Vote:

Leverette – aye; Bounds – aye; Moore aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

Shannon Moore

05-11-26

Signature of Board President: Mrs. Shannon Moore

Date

Jhaddaka Leverette

05/11/26

Attested by Board Secretary: Ms. Jhaddaka Leverette

Date

JoBeth Bounds

Newton Municipal School District



BOARD
APPROVED

DATE 5.11.26

SIGNED *Quinta Norton*

Newton Municipal School District



Newton Municipal School District — 2026 Board Retreat

📅 April 25, 2026 | 🕒 8:00 A.M

Location: Zack Garvin's Steak House

Learning, Inspiring, & Thriving...As One

"It is always a Great Day to be a Tiger"

Board Members Present

Mrs. Shannon Moore, President
Mrs. Machell Frazier Vice-President
Ms. Jhaddaka Leverette- Secretary
Mrs. Jo Beth Bounds Asst. Secretary
Mr. Ryan Oakley Member

Others Present

Mrs. Cola Shelby, Superintendent
Mr. Brian Mayo, Board Attorney
Mrs. Niceta Hester, Board Clerk

MISSION STATEMENT

***All students will graduate from Newton Municipal School District
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I. Call to Order

The NMSD School Board Retreat was called to order at 8:00 A.M by Board President Mrs. Shannon Moore.

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion: On a motion duly made by Ms. Bounds and seconded by Mrs. Frazier, the Board approved Item II. Approval of Agenda

Vote:

Moore – aye; Leverette – aye; Frazier – aye; Bounds – aye and Oakley-aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

III. NMSD School Board's Communication

Superintendent Cola Shelby presented on items A-E with the board discussing each item.

A. Board Meeting Dates – Reviewed and discussed.

B. Board Communication – Discussed expectations for clarity, consistency, and professionalism.

C. Southern Region Leadership Conference – Information shared; attendance discussed.

D. Summer Work Hours – Reviewed and discussed.

E. Board Annual Calendar – Presented and reviewed for alignment.

IV. District Data Presentation

District data was presented by Superintendent Cola Shelby and discussed; board members asked clarifying questions.

V. Working Lunch

The board recessed for a working lunch; discussion continued.

VI. District Needs

Current and projected needs were presented by Superintendent Cola Shelby and discussed, including staffing, resources, and student support.

VII. Strategic Plan

The strategic plan was presented by Superintendent Cola Shelby and was reviewed by the Board with discussion on priorities and progress.

VIII. Budget 2026–2027 (Goal IV)

Preliminary budget considerations were presented by Chief Financial Officer Angela Hicks and discussed in alignment with district goals.

IX. Attorney Mayo

Legal updates and guidance were provided; discussion followed.

X. Comments, Remarks, & Concerns

Board members shared comments and concerns regarding district operations and future planning.

XI. Adjournment

Motion: On a motion duly made by Ms. Leverette and seconded by Mrs. Frazier, the Board approved Item XI. Adjournment.

Vote:

Moore – aye; Leverette – aye; Frazier – aye; Bounds – aye and Oakley-aye.

Motion carried unanimously.

Certification:



Signature of Board President: Mrs. Shannon Moore

05-11-2026

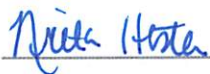
Date



Attested by Board Secretary: Ms. Jhaddaka Leverette

5-11-2026

Date



Board Clerk: Niceta Hester

5-11-2026

Date



**BOARD
APPROVED**

DATE 5-11-2026

Newton Municipal School District

SIGNED Niceta Hester