

Board Notes — May 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 Tuesday, May 26, 2026, in the Board of Education meeting room located at 308 E 1st, Newton, KS.

Members Present: Heidi Hoskinson, Ian Long, Rachel McDaniel, Mallory Morton, Melissa Schreiber, and Erica Stevens
Bob Diepenbrock arrived at 8:18 p.m.

Others Present: Superintendent Fred Van Ranken, Assistant Superintendent Joe Sample, and Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk Joni Jantz

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. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

— Approve to approve the May 11 & 14, 2026 minutes as presented.

— Approve the May 26, 2026 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Gutierrez Carruyo	Alejandra	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	5/8/2026		x
Cartlich	Bailey	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	5/8/2026		x
Lambert	Karyn	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	5/13/2026		x
McKiernan	Dena	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	5/21/2026		x
Guerrero	Krystal	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	5/21/2026		x
Atwill	Hailey	3rd Gr. Teacher	SS	8/3/2026		x
Rodenberg	Mark	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	6/1/2026		x
Rempel	Caleb	6th Gr Math Tchr	SF	5/22/2026		x
Martinez	Melissa	6th Gr ELA Tchr	SF	8/3/2026	x	
Burke	John	PE Teacher	SS	8/3/2026	x	
Rose	Sara	Sp. Ed. IR Teacher	SF	8/3/2026	x	
Fahrenthold	Katrina	Music Teacher	SB	8/3/2026	x	
Miller	Jenna	5th Gr. Math Tchr	SF	8/3/2026	x	
Mowrey	Jennifer	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	5/21/2026	x	
Last Name	F. Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Nava	Mario	PE Teacher/Coach	SC/SS	5/22/2026	Resign Head MS Cross Country Coach Only	
Gibson	Toni	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	5/13/2026	SPED Administrative Assistant @ DO	
Roberts-Parker	Payton	Sp. Ed. Para/Coach	NHS	5/21/2026	Resign Sp. Ed. Para only	
Blackwell	Narissa	Sp. Ed. Para/Coach	NHS	5/21/2026	Resign Sp. Ed. Para only	
Kennell	Brian	History Teacher	NHS	5/14/2026	Resign Fall&Spring Concessions Mgr Only	

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

3. Old Business

2026-2027 Building Needs Assessment Work Session

Superintendent Van Ranken and board members reviewed the 2026 Needs Assessment by grade level and had discussion on the needs of students and staff.

4. New Business

HB 2299 - Electronic Device Ban

Superintendent Van Ranken provided information on the proposed KASB policy JCDC Student Personal Electronic Communication Devices in regards to HB2299. Building administrators are currently reviewing cell phone/electronic device language for the student handbooks.

BOE Responsibilities

Board members discussed their role and ways to be more involved at it relates to the district goal areas. Board of Education Guidelines from August 2024 were provided for review. It was determined to schedule time for further discussion on this.

CMAR Update

The district has received CMAR RFQ's from four businesses. All four will submit formal proposals by June 10 and go through an interview process on June 17. Ian Long will participate as the board representative. The final selection should be recommended for board approval at the June 22 board meeting.

5. Reports

Building Reports

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

6. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

- Appreciation for the discussion tonight and board collaboration.
- Congratulations to the NHS Class of 2026 and the state track qualifiers.
- The Technology Committee is working on getting chrome books ready for students and dealing with a significant price increase for each device.
- Negotiations will begin on June 4.
- Fred will provide updated information on the CTE funding situation when available.

Action: B. Adjournment:

Move to adjourn at 9:31 p.m.

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