

## Board Notes – June 8, 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, June 8, 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, Mallory Morton, Melissa Schreiber, 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 7:02 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 students who were track state qualifiers.

### 3. Comments from the Public

#### Public Comment

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

### 4. Executive Session

#### Convene in Executive Session - Personnel

— Move that the board convene in executive session for the purpose of discussing issues concerning an employee pursuant to the KOMA exception regarding personnel matters of non-elected personnel and that the board return to the open meeting in this room at 7:25 p.m.

### 5. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

— Approve the May 26, 2026 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

— Approve the June 8, 2026 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Foster	Tamika	Food Service Helper	NHS	5/19/2026		x
Folsom	Kevin	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	5/21/2026		x
Kirtley	Eli	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	5/21/2026		x
Gaeddert	Elaine	Food Service Director	NHS	6/12/2026		x
Pritchard	Jeffrey	Assist MS Boys BBall Coach	CMS	5/22/2026		x
Barvais	Savannah	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	5/21/2026		x
Kliewer	David	Maintenance	NHS	8/1/2026		x
Miller	Noah	5th Gr. Science/SS Teacher	SF	8/3/2026	x	
Moore	Afton	Business Teacher	CMS	8/3/2026	x	
Murfin	Amanda	Speech Language Pathologist	HCSEC	8/3/2026	x	

Kirk	Bryan	Asst. Principal	NHS	7/20/2026	x	
Brandt	Emily	Social Worker	SS	8/3/2026	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>	
Hornberger	Elizabeth	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	8/1/2026	Permanent Building Substitute@SS	
Piland	Linessa	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	8/1/2026	ISS Supervisor @ CMS	
Hoopes	Braylyn	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	8/1/2026	From 20 hrs/week to 40 hrs/week	
Miller	Jade	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	8/1/2026	From 18.35 hrs/wk to 32.5 hrs/wk	
Preston	Belinda	Asst. Principal	SF	7/20/2026	Principal @ SF	
Graber	Monty	8th Grade Social Studies Tchr	CMS	7/20/2026	Asst. Principal @ SF	
Hefling	Kylie	4th Grade Teacher/Asst. MS Volleyball Coach	NR/CMS	8/1/2026	Resign Assist. MS Volleyball Coach @ CMS Only	
Morford	Matt	Interim Director of Business	McKinley	6/1/2026	Director of Business @ McKinley	
Hernandez	Judy	1st Shift Custodian	SF	8/7/2026	Sp. Ed. Para @ SF	
Decker	Isabella	Psych Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	1/4/2027	School Psychologist @ HCSEC	
Hernandez	Rita	2nd Shift Custodian	NHS	6/8/2026	1st Shift Custodian @ NHS	

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

- Approve the capital outlay purchases as presented.
- Approve the disposal of equipment as presented.
- Approve the Preventive Maintenance bid from Five Star Mechanical, Inc as presented.
- Approve the Head Start purchase as presented.
- Approve adoption of the Member Participation Agreement in the Kansas Association of School Boards Workers Compensation Fund, Inc. as presented.
- Approve the Special Education Title IV-B Assurances and Certification as presented.
- Approve the Capital Outlay purchase for chromebooks, licenses and service agreements for the district at a cost of \$334,620.00.
- Approve the purchase for analytical services as presented.

## 6. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the job description and hiring of the Bond Program Manager as presented.
- Approve the 2026-27 handbooks for Santa 5/6 Center Student and Staff, Chisholm Middle Student and Staff, and Opportunity Academy Student and Staff with adjustments made for personnel at a later date.

## 2026-27 Handbooks for Review

The draft 2026-27 Elementary Parent and South Breeze Elementary Staff handbooks were provided for review. Administration will be seeking approval of these handbooks at the June 22 board meeting.

## HCC Excel in CTE Update

Superintendent Van Ranken gave an update on the funding for our CTE program. Two MOU's were provided to the board for information and approval will be recommended at the next board meeting.

## 7. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Anonymous Donor	Newton High School - FFA	Travel/Meal expenses	\$1,500.00

**Gifts Under \$500: For Information Only**

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Partridge Roofing Services	USD 373 Elementary PE Program	Fruit donation for KS Kids Fitness Day	\$75.51

**Staffing Request Related to Needs Assessment**

Superintendent Van Ranken provided information to the board on the need for hiring an ELL/At-risk teaching position at Newton High School. Funding for this position will be through attrition and will not have an impact on funds available for staff and students for next year. Board members gave consensus to advertise for this position.

**Policy Recommendations – Electronic Device Ban and Social Media Use**

A KASB recommended revision to Policy IIBGC – Staff online Activities was provided for review along with a new policy JCDC – Student Personal Electronic Communications Devices. Both of these are for review and administration will be seeking action at the June 22 board meeting.

**Newton High School Out-of-State Contests**

Newton High School provided information on an out-of-state contest this year for one student and sponsor who traveled to Atlanta, GA for SkillsUSA National Convention June 1-5, 2026.

**8. Reports**

**BOE Committee Reports** - No reports.

**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:

- Mallory, Bob and Ian are the board representatives for negotiations and meetings have started.
- Appreciation was noted for department reports received from Instructional Services, Business Services and Facilities/Maintenance.
- Reminder to parents that summer meals have started this week.
- Congratulations to the high school track team and to those who qualified for state.
- Interest in scheduling a retreat for board members. Will need to define what this looks like.
- Ian is participating in the KASB Leadership For Tomorrow program and will provide a summary to board members.

**Adjournment**

Move to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.

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