

Board Notes — June 22, 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 22, 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: Ericia 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 7:03 p.m.

Ian Long led the Pledge of Allegiance.

— Move to adopt the agenda as presented.

2. Comments from the Public

Public Comment

Mike Fellows gave an overview of the Harvey County Constitution Contest that will take place this fall.

3. Executive Session

Convene in Executive Session - Negotiations

— Move that the board convene in executive session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations pursuant to the KOMA exception regarding employer-employee negotiations and that the board return to the open meeting in this room at 7:25 p.m. Fred Van Ranken and Matt Morford will be invited into the session.

4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

— Approve the June 8, 2026 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

— Approve the April and May 2026 Report of Funds.

— Approve the June 22, 2026 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	F. Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Salaiz	Zoe	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	5/22/2026		x
Soward	Jordan	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	5/21/2026		x
Fraser	Sheri	IR Sp. Ed. Teacher	CMS	8/3/2026	x	
Schoen	Anna	Speech Language Pathologist	SS	8/3/2026	x	
Stewart	Jacqueline	6th Gr. Math Teacher	SF	8/3/2026	x	
Last Name	F. Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Zimmerman	Kati	7-12 Tchr/Asst. Softball/Head Volleyball Coach	OA/NHS/CMS	8/1/2026	7-12 Teacher Only @ OA	
Miles	Michael	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	8/1/2026	From 33.75 hrs/wk to 20 hrs/wk	

Bansemmer	Alan	2nd Shift Custodian	SS	6/16/2026	2nd Shift Custodian @ Cooper/NR
Yoder	Debra	2nd Shift Custodian	Cooper/NR	6/16/2026	2nd Shift Custodian @ SS

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

- Authorize administration to pay year end bills and complete fund transfers as necessary to close FY26.
- Approve the property casualty insurance renewal as presented.
- Approve the purchase of food service items as presented.
- Approve the purchase of the rooftop unit as presented.
- Approve the renewal of PreK-12 IXL Learning licenses for the 2026-2027 school year.

5. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Approve new policy JCDC-Student Personal Electronic Communications Devices as presented.
- Approve the HCC Excel in CTE and Merged Student MOU's as presented.
- Approve the 2026-27 Elementary Parent Handbook, South Breeze Staff Handbook and the Transportation Handbook with necessary adjustments in personnel at a later date.

2026-27 Handbooks for Review

The draft 2026-27 Newton High School Staff and Student handbooks were provided for review. Administration will be seeking approval of these handbooks at the July 13 board meeting.

6. New Business

The board voted to:

- Approve the recommendation to award Simpson Construction Services, Inc the CMAR contract for the USD 373 Bond Project passed by voters in March of 2026.
- Approve Chartwells as the Food Service Management for the 2026-2027 school year as presented pending KSDE approval.

Proposed 2026-27 BOE Meeting Dates

Proposed meeting dates for the 2026-27 school year were provided. Board members gave consensus to move the 2nd meeting in March 2027 to the 5th Monday, March 29. This will be an item for approval at the July 13 board meeting.

Board Appointments to Committees

Current committee board appointments were provided to the board. This will be an item for discussion and approval at the July 13 board meeting.

7. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Board members that participated in negotiations reported that the IBB process provides for a high level of trust between both teams. Negotiations were finished on June 18.

8. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Comments included:

- Heidi shared about the Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps that has been on the Bethel Campus since end of May preparing for their tour later this summer. The community is invited to their performance at Bethel on July 4th.
- There was a general consensus to move forward with scheduling a board retreat and agreed for the need to decide on topics to be discussed and setting a retreat agenda.

-The Sunflower Summer program starts on July 9 and runs through August 2. This program provides free admission to museums, zoos and historic landmarks to Kansas residents with pre-K through 12th grade students.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

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