

Board Notes — July 27, 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, July 27, 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, Ericia Stevens

Others Present: Superintendent Fred Van Ranken, Assistant Superintendent Joe Sample, 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.

— Adopt the agenda as presented.

2. Comments from the Public

There were no comments.

3. Executive Session

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 7:12 p.m.

4. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

— Approve the July 13, 2026 minutes as presented.

— Approve the bills as presented.

— Approve the July 27, 2026 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Stegman	Shae'Lynn	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	5/21/2026		x
Landrum	Hannah	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	5/21/2026		x
Dietrich	Regina	Food Service	SC	8/3/2026		x
Miller	Cynthia	Food Service	SC	7/31/2026		x
Nickel	Marilyn	Food Service	SC	8/3/2026		x
Treaster	Logan	Asst Girls Wrestling Coach	NHS	5/22/2026		x
Perdue	Kaydence	Asst Debate/Forensics Coach	NHS	6/1/2026		x
Lucas	Rashaka	Assistant MS Track	CMS	5/22/2026		x
Miller	Jade	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	5/21/2026		x
Neises	Marvin	Bus Driver	Transportation	5/26/2026		x
Swallow	Laura	6th Grade Sci/SS Teacher	SF	7/22/2026		x
Lampman Thompson	Brenda	Technology Director	ETC	9/1/2026		x

Heddin	Matthew	Asst Food Service Director	NHS	7/24/2026		x
Becker	Christopher	Science Teacher	SS, SC	8/3/2026	x	
Vigil	Lynne	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	7/16/2026	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Isham	Lindsey	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	8/3/2026	Early Interventionist SLP@Cooper	
Hamm	Alyssa	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	8/6/2026	Physical Activities Aide@Cooper	
Miller	Sarah	Reg. Ed. Aide	NR	8/6/2026	From 3 hrs/day to 4 hrs/day	
Gomez	Searra	Sub Bus Aide/Sub Van Driver	Transportation	8/6/2026	Van Driver @ Transportation	
Gomez	Ocean	Bus Driver	Transportation	8/6/2026	From 4.25 hrs/day to 6 hrs/day	
Faythe	Kynda	ELA Teacher	NHS	8/1/2026	Add Asst Scholars Bowl Coach@NHS	
Gottschalk	Katherine	PE Teacher	NR	8/1/2026	Add Asst Cross Country Coach@CMS	
Garton	Shannon	Food Service	OA	8/6/2026	Reg Ed Aide @ OA	

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

- Approve the purchase of the rooftop unit as presented.
- Approve the purchase of replacement point of sale terminals, keypads and Customcare warranty as presented.

5. Old Business

The board voted to:

- Appoint Melissa Schreiber to serve as the board's representative and Ercia Stevens as the alternate to the Special Education Cooperative Board for the 2026-27 year.
- Approve board member appointments to committees for 2026-27 as presented.
- Approve the 2026-27 Substitute and Classified Handbooks as presented.
- Approve the athletic trainer contract with NMC Health as presented.
- Approve revisions to board policy IIBGC-Staff Online Activities as presented.
- Approve revisions to board policy JBD, JGEC and GAAC as presented.
- Approve the South Breeze Staff Handbook, Santa Fe Student and Staff handbooks, Elementary Parent Handbook and NHS Student Handbook as presented.

BOE Retreat

The board will hold their retreat on September 21, 2026 from 4:00-8:00 and the facilitator will be shared with the board when confirmed. The agenda will include board governance, strategic and capital planning, and legislative engagement. It is anticipated that there will need to be a second and possibly third session scheduled.

KASB Recommended Policy Revisions

Kansan Association of School Boards provided several policy revision recommendations which were shared with the board for review and can be found in the BoardDocs agenda for July 27. Administration will be recommending approval at the August 10 board meeting.

6. New Business

Gift Requests

The following were gifts received under \$500 and presented to the board for information.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Union State Bank	Cooper Early Education Center	Support summer staff development	\$150.00

Academic Data Review

Assistant Superintendent Joe Sample presented districtwide student performance data from the 2025-26 school year. This included test scores, KSDE indicators related to student achievement and success as well as identifying areas of success, concern and opportunity. The presentation can be found in the July 27 BoardDocs agenda.

7. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

There were no reports.

8. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Comments included:

- Welcome staff and students to the new school year.
- Appreciation for the student performance presentation and information.
- Families should be checking emails for important school information. There are required parent meetings for students participating in athletics and extracurricular activities. One Stop Enrollment for new families is this Wednesday, July 29 from 4:00-7:00 at NHS.
- Thank you to Carly for all the communication that is sent out.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

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