

Board Notes — August 24, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Education of Newton Unified School District 373 convened in open and public session at 7:01 p.m. on Monday, August 24, 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, Director of Business Matt Morford, Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk Joni Jantz, and Director of Communications Carly Stavola

1. Opening of Meeting

Procedural: A. Call to Order

Ian Long called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Ian Long led the Pledge of Allegiance.

— Adopt the agenda as amended.

2. Presentations/Reports

Budget Presentation

Matt Morford presented an overview of the proposed FY27 budget.

3. Comments from the Public

No comments

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 and that the board return to the open meeting in this room at 8:05 p.m. Fred Van Ranken, Matt Morford, and Brandon Simmelink will be invited to join the executive session.

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 and that the board return to the open meeting in this room at 8:25 p.m. Fred Van Ranken, Matt Morford, and Brandon Simmelink will be invited to join the executive session. Matt Morford and Brandon Simmelink left the executive session at 8:15 p.m.

5. Consent Agenda

The board voted to:

- Approve the August 10, 2026 minutes as presented.
- Approve the bills as presented.
- Approve the August 24, 2026 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effect. Date	Hire	Resignation/ Term
Boese	Tyler	Asst HS Boys Bball Coach	NHS	8/10/2026		x
Miller	DeMya	Reg. Ed. Aide	SC	8/7/2026		x

Alvarez	Armando	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	5/21/2026		x
Edwards	Jhenine	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	5/21/2026		x
Weaver	Crystal	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	5/20/2026		x
Abramowich	Nicholaus	Maintenance	Service Ctr	8/21/2026		x
Schmidt	Melynda	Food Service	SC	7/8/2026		x
Beeson	Norma	Food Service	NHS	7/8/2026		x
Brewer-Wadley	Devin	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	5/21/2026		x
Burke	Jadyn	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	8/21/2026		x
Miller	Lara	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	8/28/2026		x
Haines	Nicholas	Food Service	NHS	7/24/2026		x
Palmer	Debra	Food Service	NHS	7/24/2026		x
Torrez Avila	Lidia	Food Service	NHS	7/24/2026		x
Bencomo-Velazco	Maria	Food Service	NHS	7/8/2026		x
Christianson	Lucila	Food Service	SF	7/8/2026		x
Alvarez	Ashley	Food Service	SF	7/8/2026		x
Martel De Macias	Maria	Food Service	SS	7/8/2026		x
Chavez	Ana	Food Service	NHS	7/8/2026		x
Morrison	Kelsi	Food Service	CMS	7/8/2026		x
Richert	Tammy	Food Service	SF	7/8/2026		x
Brandewiede	Emily	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/17/2026		x
Musselwhite	Kimberly	Sp. Ed. Para	Cooper	8/24/2026		x
Owens	Victoria	Asst. Debate/Forensics	NHS	8/24/2026	x	
Martinez-Mata	Jesus	Industrial Arts Teacher	CMS	8/28/2026	x	
Hernandez	Gloria	Administrative Assistant	Cooper	8/24/2026	x	
Alexander	Kelly	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	8/21/2026	x	
Harvey	Mara	Sp. Ed. IR Teacher	NHS	9/1/2026	x	
Solorio-Negrete	Viridiana	ELL Aide	SC	8/21/2026	x	
Grill	Paul	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/20/2026	x	
Hawes	Allyson	Sp. Ed. Para	SC	8/20/2026	x	
Ritcha Solorio	Mitzi	ELL Aide	SC	8/20/2026	x	
Turner	Jaymie	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	8/20/2026	x	
Burns	Elizabeth	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	8/19/2026	x	
Wells	Jordan	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	8/18/2026	x	
Anderson	Jacob	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	8/18/2026	x	
Bennett	Reese	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	8/14/2026	x	
Thompson	Cole	Asst Cross Country Coach	NHS	8/14/2026	x	
Weinhoffer	Amethyst	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	8/13/2026	x	

Vanalstine	Kari	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	8/11/2026	x	
Cook	Christina	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	8/11/2026	x	
Vogt	Candace	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	8/11/2026	x	
Ledesma	John David	Groundskeeper	Service Ctr	8/11/2026	x	
Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effect. Date	Change of Assignment/Transfer	
Dawson	Kylee	Sp. Ed. Para/Coach	SS	8/12/2026	Add Head 7th VB Coach @ CMS	
Robinson	Greg	Math Teacher	CMS	8/12/2026	Add MS Scholars Bowl @ CMS	
Powell	Kim	FACS Teacher/Coach	NHS	8/12/2026	Add Fall Concessions Mgr @NHS	
Holmes	Carol	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	8/12/2026	Add Reg Ed Aide 11.5 hrs/wk@SC	
Bair	Chelsea	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	8/12/2026	Sp. Ed. Para @ NHS	
Budde	Brylee	Sp. Ed. Para	SF	8/6/2026	From 6.5 hrs/wk to 12 hrs/wk	
Kaul	Timothy	2nd Shift Custodian	NHS	8/20/2026	Sp. Ed. Para @ SF	
Jackson	Katerina	Sp. Ed. Para	SB	8/12/2026	Reg. Ed. Aide @ SB	

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

- Approve the MOU with OVM for 2026-27 as presented.
- Approve membership in the BuyBoard National Purchasing Cooperative.
- Approve the purchase of chromebooks as presented.

6. New Business

The board voted:

- Approve the gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Bridges, Inc.	Newton High School	SALT donation for student events	\$1,000.00
GAF	Newton High School	Staff meals for NHS Open House	\$500.00
Storm Marlar Memorial	Newton High School	Donation to the NHS baseball program	\$1,995.00
Charlsen Insurance Agency	Newton High School	Donation for Sports Halftime	\$1,000.00

Gifts Under \$500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
Park Aerospace Corp.	Cooper Early Education Center	Staff meal for back-to-school trainings	\$250.00

- Approve the 2026-27 Classified Wage Rates as presented.
- Approve the 2026-27 budget and revenue neutral rate for publication as presented.

Review of Revisions to Policy Regulations

KASB recommended revisions to the IDAD Title I Programs Regulation document, the JBCB Foster Care Students Regulation document and the JDDC Bullying Plan were presented to the board. Administration will be recommending approval at the September 14 board meeting.

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 9:05 p.m.

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 9:20 p.m.

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 9:30 p.m. Fred Van Ranken was invited to the meeting.

7. Reports

BOE Committee Reports

Melissa reported that she will be attending the Special Education board meeting in September and gave a PBC update on the Themian Park project and fundraising efforts.

8. Closing of Meeting

Board Comments

Comments included:

- Appreciation for the work of the board tonight and positive decisions.
- Ian attended a meet and greet with the new Commissioner of Education, Dr. Jake Steel and reminded board members of the KASB Convention in November and any board member wanting to attend should let Joni Jantz know.
- Thank you to Matt for the budget presentation and to Fred for his dedicated work in the district.

Adjournment

Move to adjourn at 9:36 p.m.

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