Board Notes — October 26, 2026

A meeting of the Newton Unified School District 373 Board of Education convened in open and public session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2026, in the Board of Education meeting room located at 308 E 1st, Newton, KS.

Members Present: Bob Diepenbrock, Heidi Hoskinson, Ian Long, Mallory Morton, Melissa Schreiber, Ericia Stevens

Members Absent: Rachel McDaniel

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 7:00 p.m.
Ian Long led the Pledge of Allegiance.
— Adopt the agenda as presented.

2. Presentations/Reports
Food Service Partnership Update
Chartwells employees gave an update on the food service program and upcoming initiatives they have scheduled for this school year.

3. Comments from the Public
There were 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 of non-elected personnel and that the board return to the open meeting in this room at 7:21 p.m.

5. Consent Agenda
The board voted to:
— Approve the October 12, 2026 minutes as presented.
— Approve the bills as presented.
— Approve the August 2026 and September 2026 Report of Funds.
— Approve the October 26, 2026 Personnel Report as presented.

Last Name	First Name	Position	Location	Effective Date	Hire	Resignation/ Termination
Stewart	Rayjon	Maintenance	NHS	11/13/2026		x
Theis	Kami	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	6/30/2026		x
Duncan	Lona	Substitute Teacher	District-Wide	6/30/2026		x
Bohnert	Sarah	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	10/21/2026		x
Clayton	Amber	1st Shift Custodian	NHS	11/4/2026		x

Klassen	Meleah	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	11/6/2026		x
Lawrence	Teresa	Permanent Building Sub	CMS	10/23/2026		x
Coultas	Jennifer	Bus Aide	Transportation	10/23/2026		x
Smith	Cile	2nd Shift Custodian	CMS	10/26/2026		x
Gonzalez	Marcel	Asst. Wrestling Coach	NHS	11/16/2026	x	
Peters	Charles	Director of Technology	ETC	11/2/2026	x	
Gamber	Stephanie	Sp. Ed. Para	SS	10/22/2026	x	
McGee	Jalynna	Reg. Ed. Aide	OA	10/21/2026	x	
Dills	Sierra	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	10/20/2026	x	
Cherney	Patrick	Head 7th Gr Girls Bball Coach	CMS	10/12/2026	x	
Last Name	**First Name**	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**	**Change of Assignment/Transfer**	
Unruh	Emilia	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	10/23/2026	Add Railer Power Hour @ CMS	
Decker	Isabella	Psych Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	9/24/2026	Add Railer Power Hour @ CMS	
Decker	Isabella	Psych Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	9/24/2026	From 26 hrs/wk to 34.5 hrs/wk	
Poe	Ashley	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	9/21/2026	From 10.5 hrs/wk to 8 hrs/wk	
Martindale	Jewel	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	10/19/2026	Sp. Ed. Para @ OA	
Hamilton	Paris	Sp. Ed. Para	NHS	10/21/2026	Sp. Ed. Para @ SB	
Kuhn	Diana	Sp. Ed. Para	HCSEC	9/11/2026	From 6.75 hrs/day to 6.83hrs/day	
Bigham	Malia	Sp. Ed. COTA	Cooper	9/21/2026	From 33.75 hrs/wk to 39 hrs/wk	
Adams	Kaaliyah	Reg. Ed. Aide	SS	10/13/2026	From 6 hrs/day to 6.25 hrs/day	
Ashmore	Darrin	Career & Life Planning Tchr	CMS	9/1/2026	Add Railer Power Hour @ CMS	
Krogsgaard	Ryan	Social Studies Teacher	CMS	9/1/2026	Add Railer Power Hour @ CMS	
Martinez	Jesus	Industrial Arts Teacher	CMS	9/1/2026	Add Railer Power Hour @ CMS	
Moore	Afton	Business Teacher	CMS	9/1/2026	Add Railer Power Hour @ CMS	
Phillips	Aspen	Science Teacher	CMS	9/1/2026	Add Railer Power Hour @ CMS	
Meier	Christi	Sp. Ed. Para	CMS	9/1/2026	Add Railer Power Hour @ CMS	

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

— Approve the annual credit card limits as presented.

6. New Business

Gifts and Grants

— Approve the gift requests as presented.

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
GAF	Newton High School	Donation to SALT program	$1,000.00
Union State Bank	Newton High School	NHS football game sponsor	$500.00
Millennium Machine & Tool	Newton High RaileRobotics	Travel/supply expenses	$1,000.00
NHS Fine Arts Booster Club	Newton High RaileRobotics	Travel/supply expenses	$654.53
Jon & Sue Ann Jantz	Newton High RaileRobotics	Travel/supply expenses	$4,000.00
Northridge Elementary PTO	Northridge Elementary	Funding school wide field trip	$1,200.00
Newton Mexican American Athletic Club	Newton High School	Donation to NHS baseball	$700.00

Gifts Under $500: For Information Only

Donation From	To Building/Dept	Description	Value/Amt
MZ Webb	Newton High RaileRobotics	Travel/supply expenses	$180.00

— Approve early graduation requests for Opportunity Academy as presented.

At-Risk Accountability Plan
Dr. Sample provided an overview of the district's At-Risk Accountability Plan which will be submitted to the Kansas State Department of Education on October 30, 2026.

8. Reports
BOE Committee Reports
Melissa Schreiber advised of the large grant the Railer Foundation received for making improvements to Themian Park.

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

9. Closing of Meeting
Board Comments
Comments included:
- Heidi suggested that the board get their second retreat scheduled soon as calendars are filling up. She was also appreciative of the community support Bethel College received in response to the recent student death.
- Ian reminded everyone to be mindful of the many children out trick or treating this Saturday. He also encourages everyone to exercise their right to vote.
- Mr. Van Ranken will reach out to our legislators and invite them to attend either the November or December board meeting.

Action: B. Adjournment
Move to adjourn at 7:53 p.m.

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