



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8th Street, Newport.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ramona Malone asked for a roll call. The following were present: Ramona Malone, Melissa Sheffel, Sylvia Covington, Aaron Sutherland, and Tim Curl.

Ms. Malone asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance and to pause for a Moment of Reflection.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Newport Independent School District will partner with families and the community to nurture, educate, and instill core values in all students to ensure they reach their fullest potential.

RECOGNITIONS

Molly Wesley introduced Nancy Baker, volunteer from the Care Closet. The Care Closet is the first not for profit kids clothing closet in Kentucky that allows kids to "shop." They operate at no cost to the families. The Care Closet's mission is about dignity. For many children this is the first time they have actually been able to shop for their own clothes. The Care Closet collaborates with schools but are independent from the family resource centers. The children "shop" for items they need, including tops, bottoms, underwear, socks, shoes, coats, books and personal hygiene. They support families that are living below poverty, homeless, and transient. Not only are the kids getting clean clothes, they gain hope, self-esteem and feel loved. Thank you to Ms. Baker for supporting the students and families of the Newport community.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

MINUTES OF JULY 25, 2023 REGULAR MEETING AND AUGUST 9, 2023 WORK SESSION

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the minutes were approved as presented.

1479 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY CURL the financial report was accepted and will be filed for audit and the bills were approved for payment.

1480 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Ms. Hoover also provided the following for the board's review.

- Credit card statement
- Administrator expense detail report
- Monthly financial report

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Mr. Watts updated the board on:

- Wildcat Academy - August 14-15
- Home Visit Day – August 17
- Opening Day – August 22
- 1st student day was today – all schools reported a successful day
- Seeking volunteers to read at NPS
- NKEC – One-to-One Reading Program. Looking for volunteers – must undergo 5 hours of training. Register on the NKEC website.

Ms. Malone said the City of Newport used to sponsor a reading program similar to the One-to-One Reading program. The mentor read to a child for an entire year which made a big impact on the child.

Ms. Covington asked what kind of books are being read to students at NPS. The teacher suggests that guest readers share a book about their career or interests. Ms. Bravo is happy to help select a book if someone needs help.

Ms. Malone said she attended the opening day breakfast and presentation by Mr. Watts in the auditorium. The “Mindset” video was very impactful. She also reported that her grandchildren said the 1st day of school was a great.

Mr. Sutherland asked about the annual theme song. Mr. Watts said he didn't find anything that spoke to him this year so all meetings will open with a video about leadership or teamwork. The videos are then discussed among attendees.

Ms. Payne gave an overview of the Wildcat Academy held on August 14-15. She reported it was a huge success. There were 29 presenters and 32 sessions to choose from. Presenters included:

- 5 district employees
- 1 NWEA rep
- 2 iReady reps
- 10 NKCES reps
- 1 KDE rep

Ms. Payne said improving teacher efficacy is paramount to increasing student success quickly. Survey results were shared regarding content, quality, venue, job assignment, and over-all satisfaction. Presenters will return throughout the school year to continue building teacher's toolboxes.

Recommendations included longer sessions, opening the academy to other districts, and add a speaker to open up the event.

Mr. Curl asked if there was any feedback from the survey results marked “somewhat satisfied”. Ms. Payne said more data was collected in the comments section of the survey,

Ms. Payne thanked Mr. Watts and the board for their support of the Wildcat Academy.

In conjunction to the Wildcat Academy, the BELT team met for 2 days. BELT stands for Building Equity Leadership Team. The BELT team leaders bring information and feedback to district administrators. District administrators provide direction, guidance, and goals to the BELT leaders. This is turn is communicated with the SWEET Team (School wide educational equity team).

The school teams discuss various issues that may arise, the needs of staff and students, PD, and other topics related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in their buildings.

The 4 sessions held on August 14 and 15 included:

- Retraining our Brain – Understanding Bias
- Validating student's identities in curriculum
- Engaging communal learners with CRTL
- Addressing cultural behaviors in classrooms

In Ms. Stewart's absence, Julie Kaeff was present to answer questions from the DPP department. Ms. Kaeff reported day two enrollment is 1,333 students. Attendance stands at 98%. NPS only has 5 openings currently based on first day enrollment, excluding preschool.

Mr. Sutherland asked Ms. Kaeff to introduce herself and describe her job duties in the district since this was this first time she has presented to the board. Ms. Kaeff said she is the district court liaison, she works with all the school counselors, oversees district nursing services, FRYSCs, mental health programs, and the truancy diversion programs.

Ms. Kaeff said the DPP department is asking the board to approve a MOA with Ramey Estep-ReGroup. Last year was the first year of our partnership with this firm with great results. Services will be provided to each school for onsite, offsite, and outside services to students and families. There is no cost to the district.

Mr. Maines shared his monthly update including the monthly energy management update. He also handed out information from Robert Hayes & Assoc. regarding the status of the following outstanding projects:

- NHS CTE Renovations
- NHS Stadium Renovation – Phase 1
- NIS and NHS flooring project
- NPS fire alarm and renovations to the kitchen, cafeteria, and gym
- NPS reroof
- Welcome Center/NIS boiler and piping replacement

The water spicket is now available to the neighborhood volunteers who are inquiring about water for the landscaping at NPS. The spicket is located outside of the cafeteria.

Ms. Swanson shared her monthly report. She pointed out that the regional school has changed the names of their programs:

- Phoenix Program is now the Restore Program
- Learning Academy is now the Success Academy
- Challenge Program is now the Pathways Program

Ms. Covington asked if Kate Neikirk is still working with the visually impaired student population. Ms. Swanson said she continues to work part-time with these students.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sutherland asked what the purpose of eliminating art and visible body piercings other than ears from the dress code policy. He feels tattoos on the face could be very distracting if the policy is changed to allow body art. Mr. Voelker said not allowing body art violates a person's freedom of expression. However, acceptable, body art should not be any different than acceptable apparel. Certain types of messages on shirts are prohibited and the same will hold true with body art. Body art and piercings are the reality of employment these days since the popularity of both has become so wide-spread.

1. Personnel report;
2. Emergency certification applications for an earth science teacher, two intervention teachers, a biology teacher, and a Spanish teacher.
3. Superintendent's Professional Growth Plan for the 23/24 SY
4. First reading KSBA Policy 03.1326, Dress and Appearance
5. Award bid for boiler and piping replacement to Blau Mechanical
6. FY 2024 District Funding Assurances
7. MOU with Ramey Estep/Re-group (school-based behavioral health services)
8. Approve expenses for the board and superintendent to attend the following meetings and conferences:
 - o Newport "State of the City" update – August 30, 2023
 - o KSBA Fall Regional Meeting – September 5, 2023
 - o KSBA Winter Conference – December 2023
 - o COSSBA Annual Conference – February 2024
 - o KSBA Annual Conference – March 2024
 - o KSBA Summer Conference – July 2024

On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON new business items 1-8 were approved.

1481 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS

NAACP Annual Freedom Fund Gala, Friday, November 10th at Turfway Park Events Center

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the meeting adjourned. Time: 7:30 PM

1482 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary