



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 27, 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.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

MINUTES OF AUGUST 23, 2023 REGULAR MEETING, AUGUST 30, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING, AND SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING

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

1492 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

1493 – 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
- Working budget summary

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Mr. Watts updated the board on:

1. Vaping issues at Newport High School – he will be meeting with the administrative team to put a plan together to address preventative measures. Teachers currently monitor restrooms during bell changes but there needs to be a plan when a student is dismissed during class to reduce the risk of students abusing the

rules. Ms. Malone stated that board policy states students shall not be permitted to use or possess any vapor product on or in all Board property at all times. She asked if we have signage stating this just like we have no smoking signs. Mr. Watts said he feels no smoking signs covers vaping also. Ms. Malone said we need that clearly communicated to students and parents/guardians if that is the implied understanding from the district.

2. Student attendance is a focus this year. Each school is being creative in challenging students to come to school. The district met attendance goals last month and Ms. Kaeff will share more information on this focus in her report.
3. The Newport Business Association held their monthly meeting in the district today. Mr. Watts was part of the 4-person panel discussing education and the workforce. There were approximately 25 people in attendance. Mr. Watts stated it is his goal to have every senior participate in work-based learning because college is not the answer for every student. Work-based learning provides job shadowing, mentoring, service learning, internships, co-op opportunities, or youth apprenticeship opportunities. Giving students opportunities in the workforce is the key to helping students succeed after graduation.

Aaron Sutherland thanked the district for hosting the meeting. He said Mr. Watts represented Newport well. He solicited local businesses to get involved at the high school.

4. Mr. Watts stated he is seeking board approval on the substitute teacher salary schedule and the attendance incentives as discussed at the last meeting.
5. Mr. Watts introduced Abigail Rubright as this year's student representative on the board. Abigail gave a brief overview of what she hopes to accomplish as a student rep and talked about her extra-curricular activities both in school and out. The board said they are very excited to have her serve in this role.

Mr. Sutherland asked if the attendance incentive was for all employees. There will be two monthly awards: one award is for the school who has the highest teacher attendance and the 2nd award will be a drawing for perfect attendance. This drawing includes all employees who qualify.

The board agreed that attendance is an issue across the board for all employers. They support the efforts of the district to keep inventing ways to improve employee attendance in the district.

Ms. Brown presented the report for the curriculum department. She also shared the teacher/staff feedback from session 1 of the impact of bias and culture on our students and schools. The board thanked her for the information and commented that participants seemed satisfied or very satisfied overall with the information that was shared.

At Mr. Watts request, Ms. Brown reviewed what the BELT team covered on September 20th.

Participants were introduced to the idea of implicit bias, and how aspects of a students' identity can advantage and disadvantage them in schools. One way that students are impacted in the classroom is through their cultural archetypes. Participants learned about the cultural archetype continuum and the opportunity to explore which cultural archetypes align with the culture of our schools, and which cultural archetype is more likely to struggle academically and behaviorally in school. Through videos, discussion, and a fun interactive simulation, participants gained a deeper understanding of what bias is, how school policies and procedures favor certain cultures, and how to take steps to ensure all students are successful.

The next session will be held on October 25th.

In Ms. Stewart's absence, Julie Kaeff was present to answer questions from the DPP department. Ms. Kaeff reported enrollment as of 9/22/23 was 1400. This is comparable to the same day prior year with an enrollment of 1399.

Student attendance goals were met for month 1 with an overall rate of 95.03%.

Each school is implementing a multi-tiered system of support to grow students in their attendance. Schools have identified barriers to attendance specific to their school and students as outlined in the CDIP. Schools have also set goals to improve by one percentage point over the 2023 SY.

All families of students who have met the federal criteria for a student who is chronically absent have received a letter, student attendance profile, school calendar, and family goal setting for attendance. To be chronically absent a student must miss 10% of the days enrolled. The board received information from KDE regarding chronic absenteeism.

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

Bus 6 should be arriving soon. The latest update has the bus in route to Georgetown, KY. Mr. Maines will be seeking board approval to surplus the 2013 Ford E 350 van with the intention to use it as a trade in for a 9-passenger van. Mr. Sutherland asked what the trade-in value is and Mr. Maines said around \$10,000. The van is used to transport the McKinney Vento students and their grant will help offset the purchase of the 9-passenger van.

Mr. Sutherland asked about the homecoming game. The date for homecoming is still scheduled on Friday, October 6th. The game for the following week is scheduled on Thursday, October 12th due to a shortage of referees.

Ms. Swanson shared her monthly report. Ms. Malone asked if the number of students in special education has dropped. Ms. Swanson stated numbers have stayed just about the same over the last 3 years; they fluctuate between 195 and 204.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Before approving new business items, Mr. Sutherland asked where funding is reflected when students transfer to Newport from another district. Ms. Hoover said it shows up in the SEEK portion of the budget.

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the board approved adding item 11 to the consent agenda accepting Abbagail Rubright as the student board rep for this school year.

1492 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

1. Personnel report;
2. 2024 working budget;
3. MOU with Southgate to provide special education services;
4. 2nd reading of KSBA policy 03.1326, Dress and Appearance
5. Owner/Architect Agreement with Blau Mechanical for the boiler and piping replacement
6. Attendance incentive for teacher attendance and perfect attendance incentive for entire staff
7. Amended substitute salary schedule
8. Surplus 2013 15-passenger van with intent to use as a trade-in;
9. Emergency certification for physical education and elementary classroom teacher
10. NIS fundraising request
11. Abbagail Rubright as board student rep for this school year.

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL consent agenda items 1-11 were approved.

1493 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS

Set next Newport Education Foundation meeting date

Reminder: October work session is scheduled on the 4th

Reminder: October regular meeting is scheduled on the 18th

After discussion, the board will set either October 25th or November 1st as the date for the education foundation meeting. The date will be confirmed once we check on the availability from other committee members.

After discussion, the October 4th work session will be cancelled.

Mr. Sutherland said he spoke with Tom Guidugli, Sr. (Executive Director of the Neighborhood Foundations) today at the NBA meeting and Mr. Guidugli is asking the district to appoint someone to the Scholar House board. Ms. Malone felt this was a good idea and said traditionally the superintendent or a designee did serve on the board. Mr. Watts said he would discuss this with cabinet on Monday; perhaps we could rotate who will represent the district on a monthly basis.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the meeting adjourned. Time: 7:33 PM

1494 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary