



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport. Purpose: Date change

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ramona Malone asked for a roll call. The following were present: Ramona Malone, Melissa Sheffel, Sylvia Covington, and Aaron Sutherland. Tim Curl arrived at 7:20 PM.

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.

### **PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

This month's student and teacher of the month are:

NPS – Stacey Reese, Teacher – the student was not in attendance.

NIS – Chelsea Koenig, Teacher, and Willy Messer, Student

NHS – Bonnie Stacey, Teacher, and Autumn Mains, Student

The following students were recognized for participating in the 2024 Winter Special Olympics:

- Chyanne Hunter
- Zachary Howard
- Ricky Thomlison
- Marty Varias
- Kelsey Turner
- Chad Wells
- Jelani Roper

The board took a 10-minute break to greet this evening's guests.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

None

## **MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2024 REGULAR MEETING AND FEBRUARY 13, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING**

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

1524 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

1525 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

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

- Credit card statement
- Tuition Reimbursement Program
- Monthly financial report

Mr. Sutherland asked if efforts were still underway to collect tuition reimbursement funds. Mr. Voelker reported that his office is pursuing this.

### **STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

Superintendent's update:

- February 26-March 1, 2024 is National Public Schools Week. Public education is celebrated across the country by millions of students, parents, educators, schools, and organizations to raise awareness of the need for effective public schools. He thanked the faculty and staff of Newport schools for their continued efforts in this endeavor.
- There are no updates to the house bills covered last month. The session is ½ over so updates will be available at the April meeting.
- Retention update –
  - July-December 2022 – 21 resignations - 2 re-hires
  - July -December 2023 – 9 resignations
- District tournament update:
  - Boys team will play semi-final Wednesday, February 28
  - Girls team will play in final if they advance on Thursday, February 29
  - Boys team will play in final if they advance on Friday, March 1.
- A banquet is scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup> to celebrate winning the All "A" Classic. Donations towards gifts and the celebration are being accepted.

Ms. Malone thanked the administrative team for supporting Mr. Watts at the commissioner's meeting last night as well as the community meetings he has been attending to present information on the district.

Ms. Payne presented the curriculum department update.

- Portrait of a Graduate Training – NKCES and University of KY – The curriculum department along with instructional coaches from NIS and NHS have attended three of four training sessions. The portrait of a learner outlines the skills, characteristics, and outcomes that the education system aims to develop in students. It includes desired attributes of learners, educational goals, and the overall vision for student success within the state's educational framework. The district has completed and published its Portrait of a Graduate along with the strategic plan. This training is to support districts in designing an assessment system for the named competencies within the portrait.

Ms. Stewart presented the DPP and students services report. Enrollment stands at 1,443 which is the highest it has been in 5 years. The NSOI has 70 students at the time.

The DPP's office ran academic performance and enrollment comparison data for two grades, 6th and 11th. The purpose of the data health check was to monitor the academic success of students continuously enrolled through Newport Independent as compared to students who have transitioned to Newport Independent. Grade levels were chosen based on the transition stage. Kentucky Summative Assessment is the measurement tool utilized to measure academic success. Students were separated into three groups: K-6th continuous enrollment, PK-6th continuous enrollment, and transferred students. Student identity was protected by removal of identifying information and assignment on random integers. Group size was set at 10. Raw data was shared with community member Lynn Schaber, representative of an Education Task Force within Newport, Ky. Findings are comparative.

Mr. Sutherland stated that based on the information, students with Newport continue to perform significantly higher than students who transition. Ms. Stewart replied that is what the data shows within these 2 grades.

Mr. Sutherland asked if we know where non-continuous students are coming from. Ms. Stewart said that data was not pulled for this report. Mr. Sutherland asked if we have to accept students from other districts? Ms. Stewart replied by state law we do but capacity and teachers both are factored into the decision.

Mr. Maines presented the facility, transportation, and safe school update. He highlighted the following:

- The KY Center for School Safety will be conducting a safety assessment at the primary school on March 5<sup>th</sup>. This will be an in-depth assessment of the building evaluating all things related to student and staff safety.
- The KY Board of Education approved our waiver to build restrooms at the stadium. The restrooms will be constructed on the raised landing at the bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup> Street steps. The architect is aware and we are waiting on survey information to move forward.
- Renovations are currently underway to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor on the Welcome Center to relocate the Newport School of Innovation from its current location on Park Street. This will save the district \$40,000 on annual lease payments.

Ms. Covington asked about the deadline for the renovations. Mr. Maines said we will be ready to move the NSOI over by June 30<sup>th</sup>. That is when the current lease expires.

Ms. Swanson presented her update from the special education department. There were no questions. Ms. Swanson thanked Mr. Sutherland for participating in the Winter Olympics and for his continued support of the students.

With the date change from Wednesday to Tuesday, Mr. Curl had a conflict with his work schedule and arrived at approximately 7:20 PM.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Malone asked for an explanation of staffing allocations. This is a tool used to determine the district's staffing needs based on enrollment levels at each school. These calculations determine teacher to student allocations based on maximum ratios outlined in statute. Staffing allocations must be approved by March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Request for additional staff will also have to be board approved.

Mr. Sutherland asked about the special education procedures presented for approval. Ms. Swanson explained that the only change had to do with the conference summary that is mailed to the parent.

After discussion, On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY CURL, the board voted to table #3, Annual Financial Audit 2023, until the auditor makes his annual presentation to the board.

1526 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY CURL, the board voted to change the language in the reimbursement agreement for teachers who want to teach abroad from “*employees must also reach one year of employment before they can participate in agreement*” to “*employees must also reach **four** years of employment before they can participate in agreement.*”

1527 - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL, consent agenda items 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 were approved as presented.

1. Personnel report.
2. Staffing allocations 24/25 SY
3. ~~Annual Financial Audit FY23~~
4. Special Education Procedures
5. 24/25 calendar committee
6. 24/25 school calendar
7. ~~Reimbursement agreement for teachers approved to teach abroad~~

1528 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

### **BOARD COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

None

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the board went into executive session.  
KRS 81.810 (f) Personnel 7:50 PM

1529 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the board returned to open session. Time:  
9:05 PM

1530 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the  
meeting adjourned. Time 9:05 PM

1531 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

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Chairman

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Secretary