



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport. Purpose: Executive Session to review board vacancy applications

### **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.

### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS**

1. MOU with Erlanger-Elsmere Schools – Homeless Education Collaborative
2. Contract with Modern Classrooms Project

Ms. Stewart reviewed the framework of the grant. The fiscal agent will be Erlanger-Elsmere Schools and Newport Independent Schools will be the organizational management and grant oversight agent. If approved, districts taking part in the collaboration will be Erlanger-Elsmere, Newport, Boone County, Kenton County, Campbell County, Covington Independent, Dayton Independent, and Southgate Independent.

Erlanger will be responsible for receiving funds from the US Department of Education, dispensing funds to pay appropriate project expenses, and submitting financial, annual, and final reports to the funder. Newport will manage all day-to-day activities of the project, including but not limited to employing and housing staff through annual contracts according to its policy.

The strategies and interventions planned are:

- Build infrastructures, including staffing and structured meetings and activities by using the Strategic Prevention Framework for substance abuse and mental health services.
- Provide access to prevention and mental health resources.
- Provide access to emergency resources.
- Provide evidence-based prevention strategies and resources.
- Provide training and education for school staff and community members.

The goal of this funding is to help reduce the onset and progression of substance misuse and its related problems by supporting the development and delivery of community-based substance misuse prevention and mental health promotion services among children who are homeless or at-risk for homelessness in Northern KY.

Ms. Malone asked about using current staff to carry out the work of the grant. How will these duties impact current employees' workload?

Ms. Stewart assured the board this work will not have any negative impacts on current employee day-to-day duties. A data analyst will be hired thru the grant to help carry out a lot of the duties.

Mr. Sutherland asked why Erlanger Elsmere was named the fiscal agent since Newport will be handling the day-to-day operations. Mr. Hoover said it was a timing issue. Erlanger's application was approved for a federal grant account before Newport so they became the fiscal agent to meet the required deadline. Ms. Hoover also informed the board that the district would receive approximately \$5,000 additional to offset indirect costs.

Ms. Covington asked if anyone would be on call on weekends and holidays if a student needed help. Ms. Stewart said there would not be an on-call employee but students do have access to a 24/7 Hotline for emergency calls.

Ms. Malone is concerned about families not taking advantage of current services the district already has in place that do not get used. How can we be assured this program will have the intended impact? Ms. Stewart said this program will be a first for the district. We must have a change in mindset and we must think outside of the box to create interest and awareness. The district has to find ways to get this in front of families thru creative advertising so they we can engage them in the substance abuse conversations that is affecting so many students.

Mr. Sutherland stated no general fund money will be used for funding this program thru 2029. Ms. Stewart confirmed.

Ms. Payne provided the board with information on the contract with the Modern Classrooms Project. The Modern Classrooms Project is a nonprofit organization that leads a movement of educators in implementing a self-pace, mastery-based instructional model that uses technology to foster relationships, authentic learning, and social-emotional growth. The three components of the modern classroom project are blended instruction, self-paced structures, and mastery-based grading. Students access content through teacher-created videos, they control the pace of their own learning, and progress from one lesson to the next until they demonstrate mastery. The plan for Newport is to have 5 teachers at the intermediate school enroll in this program to become model classroom teachers.

After successfully completing the program, teachers can also become mentors and earn very competitive pay in their off hours.

Mr. Curl wanted to know what a model classroom really is? Ms. Payne replied that a model classroom is a proficient classroom. A classroom with differentiated levels of planning for students to help them reach mastery level in each subject. He also asked if we already have teachers in the district with these skills. Since most of our teachers have 5 years or less experience, Ms. Payne does not feel we have enough experienced teachers to lead this type of endeavor without proper training.

The board agreed that if they funded this endeavor, each participant would need to sign an agreement to stay employed with the district for one year after completion or refund the district for the cost of the training if they leave.

On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND, the board approved the MOU with Erlanger-Elsmere Schools for the Homeless Education Collaborative and the contract with Modern Classroom Projects.

1532 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

### **PRESENTATION**

Ms. Malone presented a farewell gift to Ms. Melissa Sheffel. Ms. Sheffel has resigned her seat on the board after 14 years of service. Kind words and memories were shared by various members.

The board took a 15-minute break.

Before executive session, Ms. Sheffel excused herself from the rest of the meeting.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY CURL the board went into executive session. KRS 61.810 (f) – discussion regarding board applicants. 7:50 PM

1533 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY CURL the board returned to open session. Time: 8:19 PM

1534 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the meeting adjourned. Time 8:20 PM

1535 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

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Chairman

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Secretary