



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8th Street, Newport, KY.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ramona Malone asked for a roll call. The following were present: Ramona Malone, Tim Curl, Ed Davis, Sylvia Covington, and Bobbie Stubbeman.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Each school recognized a student and staff member of the month.

- NPS recognized Melanie Villatoro Coronado as their student of the month and Bridget Rice as the staff member of the month.
- NIS recognized Keenan Vorhees as their student of the month and Eliot Pipes as the staff member of the month.
- NHS recognized Belinda Agustin Gomez as their student of the month and Kia Gearding and Adam Heidrich as the staff members of the month.

Aubrey New, 21st Century Site Coordinate at Newport Intermediate was present to talk to the board about the after-school program. At NIS, students spend an hour receiving focused academic support that is tailored to their specific needs – this is referred to WIN time which stands for *What I Need*. iReady data is used to place students in groups appropriate for both reading and math. Once students demonstrate mastery in their current level, they move to the next level. After WIN time, students participate in a variety of enrichment activities. Students are placed in 3 different groups and rotate daily. Over the course of 3 weeks, each student will have the opportunity to participate in 12 enrichment activities that includes STEM, cooking, coding, Youth Leadership Development, korfbal, outdoor adventures, strategy club and art.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Max Long, a Newport resident, addressed the board regarding two concerns:

1. The addendum for professional services for Tete Turner in regards to a new contract for additional work from November 1, 2025 thru July 31, 2026. The original contract was for 12 months starting in March 2025 not to exceed \$25,000 and now an additional 5 months for \$20,000.
2. What can parents do to help improve test scores?

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 REGULAR MEETING AND OCTOBER 15, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL the board approved the minutes as written.

1751 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

On MOTION BY DAVIS AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN the bank reconciliation for October was approved and will be filed for audit and the invoices were approved for payment.

1752 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICE

Mr. Atkins, Acting Superintendent, provided the Board with his monthly report.

In addition to his report, he highlighted the work he has aligned to Standard 2: Cultural Leadership. Standard 2 emphasizes fostering a unified school system, building trust, and promoting well-being among stakeholders, and engaging in the positive traditions of the community.

The Veterans Day Ceremony organized by Newport Primary and Newport Intermediate was a strong example of this standard. The schools' collaboration with each can be credited to the program being such a huge success.

Mr. Atkins also highlighted the many events he has been attending and participating in throughout the community and schools.

Under new business, the board will be asked to approve changes to three KSBA board policies, the TNTP Service Agreement, a consulting contract for the food service department (100% funded thru food service), & an MOU with Better Health and Wellness.

At this time, Mr. Atkins welcomed Donovan Macario-Avila to his first meeting as the student board representative. He noted that Donovan was recently named the 2025 Hal Smith Governor's Scholar Award recipient. Mr. Atkins also shared background information on Harold "Hal" Smith, a Newport High School graduate whose career was dedicated to education. After graduating from Centre College, Mr. Smith began his career in Centre's admissions office, eventually becoming the Dean of Admissions. He later served as Vice President of Development at Muskingum College, followed by his appointment as President of the University of Pikeville. He concluded his career as President of the Governor's Scholar Program. He noted, that it just seems fitting that Donovan would receive this award.

Mr. Davis asked about the attendance data that was released. Mr. Atkins said he did not want to steal Ms. Stewart's celebration opportunity but Newport did have the highest attendance data among the River City schools and the lowest chronic absenteeism rates in the same category for the 2024-2025 SY.

Ms. Slankard provided her monthly report. There were no questions about the report. Ms. Slankard then shared a very informative presentation on KSA testing data as well as Newport's scores that were released today. Kentucky's accountability system is defined by statute. The system includes an exclusive list of six state indicators that measure school performance:

- State assessment results in reading and mathematics
- State assessment results in science, social studies and writing
- English Learner progress
- Quality of school climate and safety
- Postsecondary readiness (high school only)
- Graduation rate (high school only)

Her presentation included:

- An explanation of acronyms used throughout the report
- A pie-graph showing how accountability is broken down at each level of testing and grade level
- How scoring is calculated in each tested area
- KSA scores for each school and district for the 2024-2025 SY

KSA uses multiple academic and school quality measures, not a single test or indicator. Measures and weights contribute to a school's/district's overall score and overall performance rating or color. The overall performance rating for elementary, middle and high schools is reported using a color rating system to communicate performance of schools. Color ratings include five performance levels (red, orange, yellow, green, blue), with red being the lowest rating and blue being the highest rating. Newport scored at the orange level across all three schools.

Ms. Stewart presented her report to the board. She reiterated the great news regarding Newport having the highest attendance rates for the 2024-2025 school year among the River City schools as well as the lowest chronic absenteeism rates. She congratulated the schools, staff, students, and parents for this achievement. This kind of achievement takes everyone working together.

Mr. Curl said there is a direct correlation between attendance and test scores. We cannot educate children if they do not come to school. Ms. Stewart said she will continue to work to lessen the chronic absenteeism rates even more. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing at least 10 percent of school days, for any reason, excused or unexcused and can significantly impact a student's academic performance and social development.

Ms. Covington asked Ms. Stewart if there were other schools in the area with a grade 3 through grade 6 structure. Ms. Stewart said he did not know but could find out if needed.

Ms. Niemann presented her report to board. There were no questions. The Unified Bocce Tournament was held on November 6. Students had a day filled with camaraderie, teamwork, and fun. The next big event on the calendar is the Winter Olympics in January.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no old business items.

NEW BUSINESS

On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN the board added item 13 to the consent agenda; appoint a board representative to the district calendar committee for the 2026-2027 SY.

1753 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Mr. Davis stated that regarding the contract with Mr. Turner, there will be clear communication made that no work may be performed under this contract until it has been approved by the Board. Furthermore, the Board will closely monitor all work performed and all funds expended under this agreement.

Mr. Curl asked about the Emergency Medical Treatment policy in regards to training the bus drivers to use the AED devices installed on busses. Ms. Kaeff said all drivers have been trained to use the AED's and all drivers are CPR certified.

Ms. Malone asked Ms. Kaeff if she had vetted the MOU with Better Health & Wellness. Ms. Kaeff reassured her that the organization is legitimate and trustworthy. She explained that one of the primary reasons for entering into this agreement is that the counselors who previously served our students moved to Better Health & Wellness. Maintaining the same counselors provides valuable continuity for our students, rather than starting over with an entirely new counseling team. Better Health & Wellness is set up for Medicaid billing and are working towards billing private insurance also.

1. Personnel report
2. 1st reading of KSBA Policy 09.224, Emergency Medical Treatment
3. 1st reading of KSBA Policy 08.221, Grading
4. 2nd reading of KSBA Policy 01.1, Legal Status of the Board
5. Service agreement with TNTP
6. Emergency certification for 2 math positions, 1 science, & 1 ELA position at Newport High School.
7. Fundraising requests
8. Calendar committee for the 2026-2027 SY

9. Hire a consultant to assist the Food Service Department in completing two upcoming audits. The consultant's services will be funded entirely by the Food Service Department budget.
10. Family Resource & Youth Services Assurance Certification 2026-2028
11. MOU with Better Health & Wellness
12. Addendum to current consulting contract with Tete Turner
13. Appoint Bobbie Stubbeman as the board rep on the district calendar committee for the 2026-2027 SY.

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL consent agenda items 1-13 were approved.

1753 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS/ UPDATES

Donovan introduced himself and gave a brief background on his history in Newport schools as well as all the extracurricular activities he is involved in. Ms. Malone said he will weigh in as the student voice for the board.

Mr. Davis congratulated Donovan on being appointed to the board as the student representative for this year. Donovan has a great family who has supported their children and the schools in their educational journey and the results show. Ms. Stubbeman echoed Mr. Davis'. She has four children who have either attended Newport schools or are attending. Strong parental support of her children and the schools have paid off well for her family. Parental involvement and support of the schools plays a major factor in a child's education.

Mr. Curl shared some good news he heard earlier today while watching television. A news reporter was standing in front of the Newport high school saying that the NKY school districts were seeing a mild to steep decline in kindergarten readiness except for Newport and Southgate Independent Schools.

Sylvia Covington said she was looking forward to sharing Thanksgiving lunch with the students on Thursday.

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY DAVIS, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM

1754 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary