



Newport Independent Schools

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Meeting Date: December 17, 2025

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I. Executive Summary

Since the last board meeting, I have continued to advance districtwide instructional coherence, deepen alignment to our high-quality instructional resources, and build capacity across schools through professional learning and strategic planning. Much of this month's work centered on strengthening systems that support the district's academic vision, particularly in literacy planning, HQIR implementation, and postsecondary readiness. Key efforts included participating in statewide and regional learning opportunities, collaborating with district and school leaders on the Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP), finalizing the district literacy vision with the Literacy Team, and beginning planning with TNTP for our January 5 professional learning day. These efforts all reinforce our three strategic priorities: consistency, coherence, and belonging. I also worked across departments to ensure we are prepared for upcoming accountability expectations, continue to explore scalable professional learning platforms, and advanced planning for our districtwide professional development sequence.

II. Key Updates & Highlights

A. Instruction & Academic Achievement

- High-Quality Instructional Resources (HQIR)

I attended the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Education Services (NKCES) math and reading HQIR cadre with one teacher from each building per subject to strengthen our district's implementation of our instructional materials and deepen understanding of how to maximize their impact on student learning. This learning will directly inform the professional development for primary and intermediate teachers on January 5.

- Postsecondary Readiness

I attended a Gear Up event in Lexington to learn more about postsecondary readiness supports and ways our district can more effectively leverage the resources provided through the Gear Up grant. This collaboration ensures that our strategies for college and career readiness align with regional best practices.

-District Literacy Vision and Plan

The District Literacy Team met to finalize the district literacy vision, which will guide all future instructional decision-making and serve as an anchor for our literacy systems. I used this vision to begin the development of our district literacy plan, ensuring coherence from vision to practice.

The work of the District Literacy Team deserves special recognition. Each member volunteered to participate, and their engagement throughout this process has been rooted in authenticity rather than compliance. They brought insight, honesty, and a deep commitment to improving outcomes for students. This group, representing multiple schools and a variety of roles, firmly believes in the literacy vision we created together. I am incredibly proud to work alongside them, and their leadership will strengthen the coherence and impact of our districtwide literacy efforts.

Members in addition to myself:

Matt Atkins (superintendent)	Nikki Hayden (NPS Principal)
Ashley Martin (NIS EL teacher)	Elizabeth Kuhnell (NHS English teacher)
Dr. Melissa Hemmerle (EL and GT Coordinator)	Angela Kennedy (NHS English teacher)
Dr. Alex Watkins (NIS principal)	Jason Friedhoff (NHS middle grades social studies teacher)
Jayme Powell (NPS 2 nd grade teacher)	Natalie Dellinger (NIS library media specialist)
Bridget Rice (NPS 1 st grade teacher)	
Hannah Mayle (NPS kindergarten teacher)	Brandi Straub (NHS middle grades English teacher)

B. Strategic Planning & Districtwide Initiatives

- Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP)

I collaborated with district leadership and school teams to contribute to the development of the Comprehensive District Improvement Plan. This work aligns academic systems, instructional expectations, assessment practices, and school-level plans to a unified district strategy.

-TNTP Partnership and January 5 Professional Learning

I met with TNTP to begin planning the district's January 5 cadre-based professional learning day. This work represents the start of a larger, long-term partnership to strengthen instructional practices across all buildings.

- Primary and Intermediate: sessions will focus on how to effectively implement our HQIRs in daily instruction.
- High School: sessions will focus on understanding the purpose of high-quality instruction and the principles of strong lesson planning, as well as assigning adult advocates to students who are near proficiency and need targeted support.

-Global PD Platform (Solution Tree)

I met with Solution Tree to discuss implementation of Global PD, a module-based professional development platform we have credit toward. Our first priority module will support districtwide professional learning communities (PLCs). This platform will afford us the ability to provide consistent, scalable training for all staff.

C. Assessment, Accountability, and Compliance

-Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) Webinar

I participated in an ATSI webinar with representatives from KDE to deepen understanding of state expectations for our district and ensure our improvement efforts are aligned with KDE requirements.

-Certified Evaluation Training

I attended Certified Evaluation Training with representatives from KDE to ensure evaluation practices remain aligned, compliant, and supportive of teacher and leader growth.

III. Strategic Priorities

- Consistency: Strengthen instructional practices and ensure the effective use of high-quality instructional resources across all schools
- Coherence: Build clear, aligned district systems for instruction, intervention, professional learning, and continuous improvement.
- Belonging: Engage and ask for feedback from our families, staff, and community partners in shaping and supporting our academic vision.

All initiatives and planning efforts continue to be intentionally aligned to these three priorities, ensuring that our work remains focused, manageable, and directionally unified.

IV. Upcoming Priorities & Next Steps

- Deliver January 5 cadre-based professional learning with TNTP for all staff.
- Finalize and publish the district literacy plan based on the district's new literacy vision.
- Implement next steps in Global PD to support PLC development.
- Support schools as they align improvement work to the CDIP.
- Continue collaboration with Gear Up to enhance postsecondary readiness pathways.

- Begin planning for the next instructional rounds cycle and ongoing HQIR support.
- Portrait of a Learner planning with representatives from KDE and UK.
- Coaches' HQIR professional learning at NKCES.