



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on August 21, 2019 at 6:30 P.M. The meeting was held in the Board Room located at 30 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Malone called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call. The following were present: Ramona Malone, Dr. Julie Smith-Morrow, & Melissa Sheffel.

Also, in attendance: Superintendent Kelly Middleton.

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

### **KDE RELEASE OF TAX RATE INFORMATION**

Mr. Turner provided the board with tax rate information for the board's consideration. They discussed the pros and cons of accepting the compensating rate, continuing with the existing rate, or taking the 4% increase and how each impacts the district financially. Dates for setting a tax rate hearing were discussed and when publication to the newspapers had to be advertised to stay within the legal guidelines set by KDE. The board will consider the option recommended to them by the superintendent at the regular meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **DIVERSITY INITIATIVE AGREEMENT**

Jerome Bowles submitted a middle and high school diversity initiative agreement for board consideration. After much discussion on how Mr. Bowles' talents might be more beneficial to the district in high need areas, it was decided to ask him to submit a proposal on how he can help the district with minority recruiting and developing a mentoring program for our diverse student population. Mr. Bowles has many influential contacts and the board has expectations that with his help these areas of concern can be addressed.

### **NEW HIRES, FACILITIES, EDUCATION UPDATE**

Mr. Middleton updated the board on new hires, positions yet to be filled, and areas of concern. To date, we've hired 60+ new people since July. Principals feel good about their hires and are already providing help to a very small number of teachers who need additional assistance to make sure their year starts out right.

A project list was given to the board for review. The list includes current needs, as well as, a wish list of items for the board to consider districtwide. Some of the listed projects have already been approved and are on-going while others will be brought before the board individually when the time comes for their approval.

Mr. Middleton updated the board on the Newport School of Innovation. New phone, number of students to date and expected numbers by the end of semester. All tech equipment has been installed, enrollment procedures are established, and advertising is on-going thru social media and their webpage.

Other updates:

- New ERL from the KY Department of Education working with district
- Newport Night Out
- Home Visits
- Newport Police and Pack the Bus Campaign
- Poverty training with new staff
- Open records requests
- Blue Ribbon Task Force – Bobbie Stubbeman and Cody Delk represent the district
- KSBA training in September – Board Member Roles and Responsibilities
- DJJ – center closing in Jefferson County – sending 24 students to Newport

### **NEW BUSINESS**

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL full time emergency certification applications for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math and media specialist were approved for this school year.

996 – MOTION CARRIED 3-0

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

---

Chairman

---

Secretary