



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on May 6, 2020 at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held via video teleconference.

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, Theresa Miller, and Sylvia Covington.

Also, in attendance: Kelly Middleton, Superintendent, and Tete Turner, Finance Director.

IRB – AGREEMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES

The board has been presented with an agreement from the city for a housing project (Newport Clifton Development) that will consist of 52 single family units (costs ranging around \$250,000 each) along West 13th and 14th Streets. The city is asking the board to enter an industrial building revenue bond agreement to finance the acquisition and construction of the project for a term of 30 years. In lieu of taxes, the city will pay the school district \$25,000 per year for the next 30 years at which time property owners will begin paying to the district a portion of property taxes.

Mr. Turner explained to the board that the land is mostly vacant lots with tax revenue of less than \$3,300 per year. Besides additional income, 52 single family units presents an opportunity for new student growth also. The income including additional auto taxes would generate approximately \$36,000+ per year to the general fund.

Mr. Middleton explained that the initial offer from the city was not enough and they asked the city to do more. The current offer is substantially better than the original starting point. The board thanked Mr. Middleton and Mr. Turner for always going the extra mile for the district.

The board felt they were given ample information and will be ready to accept the agreement this evening thru a consent agenda following the rest of the agenda items to be presented.

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENTS

Following the meeting in April, the tuition reimbursement agreements were revised with changes suggested by the board after the meeting. The board was also given a list of area colleges and universities that reflected costs for receiving a Rank I or Rank II certification. After much discussion further revisions were suggested to the agreements:

1. Increase the amount of the reimbursement to \$18,000 during the term of employment with the district.
2. Add - the term fee shall be established by the educational institution as part of tuition.
3. Add – in the event a teacher is non-renewed on a limited contract, the District shall reimburse the tuition of the last semester/quarter of schoolwork prior to non-renewal, provided Teacher met all conditions set forth in the agreement. The non-renewal shall also relieve the Teacher of any repayment obligation set forth herein.
4. Remove board chair's name as this will change over the years.

NEW COPIER LEASE WITH MILLENNIUM

The board was presented with a new copier lease from Millennium. The new lease will not only provide schools and the district office with new copiers, but there will be a savings of \$1,134 per month. Over the term of the lease, the district will save \$67,427. The lease will be financed thru US Bank and a copy of the lease agreement was included for board approval. Brandon Voelker said the only change to the lease will be to update the venue for any dispute from Minnesota to Kentucky. KDE will not approve the lease without this change.

AMENDED CALENDAR FOR THE 19/20 SY

The board approves all amended calendars annually. This year's amended calendar changes the student's last day from May 26 to May 14. The General Assembly permitted the Commissioner of Education to waive the minimum 170 instructional day requirement if districts completed the state minimum of 1,062 instructional hours. This change is for the 19/20 SY only. Accordingly, the last NTI day is May 14, 2020. Teacher's closing day is still reflected as May 27th.

ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY DAYS

Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the local board of education may approve authorizing the superintendent to grant additional emergency days to all employees except him/herself thru 6/30/20. The superintendent will be seeking approval of 4 additional days for all staff and will ask that personal affidavits not be required from employees when observing these days as generally required per board policy.

CONSENT AGENDA

On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW the following items were approved:

- Agreement in lieu of taxes with the City for the Newport Clifton Development.
- Tuition reimbursement agreements with the language changes noted.
- Copier lease with Millennium; financed thru US Bank, with KDE approval.
- Amended 19/20 calendar.
- Authorize the superintendent to grant 4 additional emergency days to all employees except himself and not require personal affidavits from employees for taking these days.

1106 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the meeting adjourned. Time: 7:42 PM

1107 - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary