



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on June 10, 2020 at 5:00 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, Tony Watts, Tim Grayson, and Lisa Swanson

LIBRARY AND OTHER FACILITY IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Grayson provided the board with a list of project recommendations for their consideration.

Newport High School –

- Purchase library furniture per the quote from KDA Office Furniture.
- Paint 17 classrooms install new ceiling tile, new LED lights, and remove carpet and glue from the floors in the same rooms.
- Use custodial staff from other buildings and offer transportation personnel the opportunity to assist for additional pay. This will ensure the project can be completed in a timely manner. BPI will be contracted to paint.

Newport Primary School –

- Paint metal siding, exterior ceiling and brick, handrails, and doors. BPI will complete this painting project.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXTRA SERVICE SALARY SCHEDULES

Mr. Watts presented two salary schedules for consideration. The first schedule represents an index to be used for all new administrative hires beginning 7/1/20. The second scheduled is the existing one used for the last several years; all current administrators will continue to use the existing salary schedule while employed in their current role.

Mr. Watts explained the index system is what most districts use now, and it simplifies how we pay for services and additional days.

CREATE A SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST POSITION

Lisa Swanson was present to give her rationale for asking the board to create this new position. She explained this person(s) would address the mental health needs of students and employees of the district. They will collaborate with school counselors, teachers, administrators, parents, and community agencies for treatment follow-up and wrap around service for students. They will provide an opportunity to work with staff also.

With the growing number of caseloads (currently at 314), this position will prove valuable to the district.

Ms. Malone asked for a job description and salary schedule for this position. Ms. Swanson will prepare both and give to Mr. Watts for approval.

APPROVE SECOND READING OF THE CERTIFIED EVALUATION PLAN

The Board approved the first reading of the CEP at their regular meeting in May. A second reading is required before the plan can be submitted to KDE for approval. Approval is critical to ensure that all staff are trained within 30 days of employment.

UPDATE ON RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS

Plans continue to change almost daily. With so many organizations providing input it is very difficult to consider what direction to go in. The district continues to watch briefings and attend virtual meetings with KDE staff, but there are still many unknowns and many unanswered questions. We will keep the board updated as decisions are made, or directions are given.

WELCOME CENTER NEW HIRES

Mr. Watts informed the board of the new hires made at the Welcome Center. There were many qualified candidates and the following represents the hires made for each position.

Laurie Veatch, Director of Curriculum
Jennifer Steidel-Jones, Curriculum Resource Specialist
Jennifer Hoover, Finance Director
Jennifer Stewart, Director of Pupil Personnel/Student Services

The board took a 5-minute break before meeting with our KSBA policy consultant.

AMANDA HALE, KSBA POLICY CONSULTANT

Amanda is Newport's KSBA Policy Consultant. She is part of a team that works with boards to assist in adopting legal and best practice board policies. Ms. Malone requested that KSBA perform a policy audit for the district. This is a relatively new service being offered by KSBA. They reviewed existing board policies, compared them to KSBA model policies, and identified the variances. In reviewing Newport's policies, there are not many variances between existing policies and model policies currently being utilized by the district.

The audit is used to inform decisions to change policies if we no longer want to use district-initiated language that may be outdated or onerous. KSBA recommends the board look at a chapter each month to review and decide what changes, if any, they want to make.

The board thanked Ms. Hale for explaining the purpose of this type of audit. The board will examine a chapter each month, working with respective district administrators and report any suggested language changes to Amanda.

NEW BUSINESS

On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the board approved the facility recommendations outlined above, the administrative salary schedules as presented, the creation of a school based mental health therapist position, and the 2nd reading of the certified evaluation plan.

1113 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SHEFEL the meeting adjourned. Time 6:17 PM

1114 - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary