



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on June 24, 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 Tony Watts.

Mr. Watts introduced three of his new hires for the upcoming school year: Jennifer Hoover, Finance Officer, Jennifer Steidel-Jones, Curriculum Resource Specialist, and Jennifer Stewart, DPP.

MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2020 REGULAR MEETING AND JUNE 10, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING

On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW the minutes were approved as presented.

1115 - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

TREASURERS REPORT

On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW the financial statement was accepted and will be filed for audit.

1116 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Board members spoke with Mr. Turner prior to the meeting regarding questions they had on the bills. All questions asked prior to the meeting were answered satisfactorily.

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the bills were approved for payment.

1117 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Mr. Turner's monthly report also covered credit card bills and receipts, the monthly administrator expense report, and the YTD revenues and expense report.

Tete took a moment and thanked Mr. Middleton for all the leadership accomplishments made over the last 8 years. He has helped rebuild basic confidence in the district, immensely improved facilities, and restored pride back into the school district.

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Mr. Watts' report covered:

- School planning on re-opening/waiting on final guidance
- Administrator retreat
- Calendar for approval – students first day will be August 31
- New positions being paid with Title and School Improvement Funds
- Contract renewals with STEMscopes and EnVisions

Mr. Middleton's report covered:

- Thoughts for Mr. Watts and staff to consider on re-opening
- Kelly's last superintendent's message and Tony's first superintendent's message went out this week
- Comments on new decorations in the superintendent's office, i.e. deer head
- Final farewell and thank you for the last 8 years. Always did what was best for kids; thus, our motto "We're About Kids". Proud of the customer service training and the results that it has produced in understanding our customers. Proud of the Home Visit Program; the board had initial reservations about approving this venture, but it has turned out to be very positive for teachers and students alike. Overall, very appreciative to be on this team and he will always have a commitment and heart for Newport.

The board also received written reports from curriculum, student services, facilities and transportation, and special education.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel report.
2. 2nd reading of 2020 KSBA policy updates,
3. Bank depository and security pledge with Heritage Bank
4. Property and liability insurance coverage thru Liberty Mutual.
5. Workers comp insurance coverage thru Brickstreet.
6. Student Accident insurance coverage thru Scholastic Insurors, Inc.
7. Cyber Insurance quote with BCS Insurance Company.
8. Fidelity Bond of Treasurers'
9. Increase stipend from \$1,500 to \$3,000 for coordinator of the Adult Education Program
10. Increase school technology coordinators days from 186 to 216 days
11. Brighton Center lease to rent space for the 2020-2021 SY for the School of Innovation
12. Quote from STEMscopes – K-12 Core Science Program (one-year license renewal)
13. Quote from EnVisions – Core Math Program K-8 (one-year license renewal)
14. 20 21 school year calendar – option 4

On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the consent agenda was approved.

1118 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

BOARD COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Covington asked about students who are admitted into the school of innovation. She wanted to be reassured it was not a landing place for behavior issues. Mr. Middleton agreed with Ms. Covington and said it will be monitored to keep that from happening.

Ms. Covington thanked Mr. Middleton for all his help since she was elected to the board. Mr. Middleton is the first superintendent to start and retire from Newport since 1969. Mr. Watts asked that the board makes sure he is the second.

Dr. Smith-Morrow had very gracious remarks and thanks for Mr. Middleton upon his departure from Newport. She was on the board when he was hired, a decision that she never regretted. It is very bittersweet to say goodbye.

Ms. Sheffel said she has questioned many of her decisions; hiring Mr. Middleton was not one of them.

Ms. Malone agreed with what all the members had already said. The district has come a long way over the last 8 years under Kelly's leadership.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW the meeting adjourned. Time: 7:28 PM

1119 - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary