



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on July 22, 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: Tony Watts, Superintendent, building principals, and central office administrators.

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

MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2020 REGULAR MEETING

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

1120 - 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.

1121 – 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.

Ms. Malone had a couple of additional questions regarding the warrants for BSN and Ft. Thomas Florist. The questions were answered adequately.

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

1122 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

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

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Mr. Watts introduced Laurie Veatch, Director Curriculum, before proceeding with his update. His updated covered:

1. Peachy Taylor's award video highlighting her as an outstanding employee of Newport. She was nominated by Dr. Orman to also be recognized by the NKY Education Council for her work with Newport.
2. Administrator's retreat - This year's theme – Wake Up Everybody
 - Shared vision,
 - Continuous improvement – better today than yesterday,
 - No school will be designated CSI,
 - Work as a school system not a system of schools,
 - Increase number of minority staff members,
 - Change reputation,
 - High expectations,
 - Celebrate the positive things,
 - Develop an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect,
 - Build capacity from within,
 - Clear and narrow focus,
 - Reduce teacher turnover.

Non negotiables:

- Leaders lead and take responsibility'
- Never demean a person in public,
- Treat others they way we want to be treated,
- Monthly recognitions,
- Build capacity,
- Increase student achievement,
- Do not hit "send" unless you are 100% sure you want to say it,
- Have fun and enjoy your job.

3. Opening of Schools

A hybrid model is being proposed with the safety of students and staff the number one priority. Social distancing, continuous cleaning and sanitizing plans, masks being worn when moving around, teachers will rotate to different classrooms; students will stay in one classroom. Bus plans are still under development.

Principals are calling parents to determine what percentage of students will return under the proposed hybrid model and what percentage of students will stay home everyday and learn virtually. Results are the about the same across the three schools so far; 48% of parents will keep their students' home and 60% will return under the hybrid plan. These numbers may change after all parents have responded. Once a decision is made, students cannot change from hybrid to virtual or vice-versa until the grading period is over – this is a 9-week commitment.

The board had many questions:

Will the children from the same family attend school on the same day?

Will all parents have the opportunity to choose hybrid or virtual?

How will we keep everything in the buildings cleaned and sanitized? Do we need additional help?

How will meals be served?

Will the water fountains be utilized?

Can we used CARES Act funding to hire additional staff if necessary?

How will rotating teachers at the high school work?

Do we have enough staff to cover all the virtual students?

Do all students have internet access? (The FRYSCs are helping to identify all households without internet so that services can be provided. Currently United Way and Cincinnati Bell have slots available to help. The district provides devices to help with service also (Kajeet Smart Spots).

Principals informed the board that virtual instruction will be as close to in-person as possible. Expectations will be more demanding than in the spring with all assignments being completed and turned in. Students

will be expected to be present at the same time. While there is still planning to complete, the groundwork is laid and meetings with teachers have begun.

Ms. Covington asked if all technology had been returned from last school year. Rusty reported that we have some technology still in the hands of students, but most are still enrolled in the district. We may end up losing a couple of devices if students do not show up this year.

Mr. Grayson presented his report to the board.

Nice Lewis' son, Ryan, was awarded the Buster Bynam Scholarship award this year. This is a scholarship presented each year for students associated with pupil transportation in KY. The Southeastern States Pupil Personnel Transportation Conference makes a one-time \$2500 scholarship available to one student in each of its 14-member southeastern states each year.

His report also covered transportation, facilities, safe schools, and healthy at work updates.

Rusty Adams, Director of Instructional Technology, acknowledged to the board that the Data Breach and Security Best Practice Guide has been reviewed and we continue to implement security best practices to secure personal information across our network and systems for the 2020-2021 school year.

This acknowledgement is required by 8/31 each year per 702 KAR 1:170.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Before moving to the consent agenda, Dr. Smith-Morrow asked about the language differences in the contracts for the special education consultants. Ms. Swanson explained that we write all information/state training requirements that is detailed within the contract and does not require an addendum: Speech Pathologist (Stephanie Anthrop, Nancy Miller, Pam Kaising, and Martha Kaising) and Part-Time School Psychologist - Terry Miller

For contracts that companies submit to us we add "district addendum". (Pediatric Therapy Specialist (OT & PT), Counseling & Diagnostic Therapy- Mental Health (Dr. Renner), & Moving' OM (Orientation and Mobility).

On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW, item 8 will be added to the consent agenda asking for approval of the school reopening plans.

1123 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

1. Personnel report
2. Authorize the following district personnel serve as the ARC Chairperson during the Admission & Release Committee meetings for the 2020/2021 SY:
 - Superintendent of Newport Independent Schools
 - Director of Special Education
 - Principal & Assistant Principal
 - Guidance Counselor
 - Instructional Coach
 - Educational Diagnostician
3. Special education consulting contracts:
 - Katie Toennis – certified orientation and mobility specialist
 - Counseling and Diagnostic Center
 - Amy Martin – Physical Therapist
 - Martha Kaising – SLP
 - Nancy Miller – SLP
 - Pam Kaising – SLP

- Terry Miller – School Psychologist
- Stephanie Anthrop – SLP

4. MOU with Southgate Board of Education for special education services
5. Change order #1 BG 18-150 Cameras and Security
6. Increase elementary and intermediate guidance counselors' extended days from 10 to 15
7. Fidelity Bond of Treasurer for Jennifer Hoover
8. School reopening plan giving parents the choice of the hybrid method or all virtual method.

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the consent agenda was approved.

1124 – MOTION CARRIED 4-1

- Malone – approve
- Smith-Morrow – approve
- Sheffel – approve
- Miller – approve
- Covington – opposes #8 only

BOARD COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on MOTION BY MILLER AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW the meeting adjourned. Time: 7:59 PM

1125 - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary