



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on August 26, 2020 at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held in the A.D. Owens Professional Development Room located at 30 W. 8th 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, Theresa Miller, and Sylvia Covington.

Also, in attendance: Tony Watts, Superintendent, and central office administrators.

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

TIM RENFRO, EDGENUITY

Mr. Renfro presented a new program to the board for grades K-8 called Pathblazer. This is a supplemental, online program that helps struggling learners achieve grade-level proficiency in math and reading. Pathblazer offers individualized learning progression paths with motivating content that addresses gaps. Using existing data from MAP, the program identifies where students are struggling and provides targeted instruction to close early learning gaps. The data will also help teachers monitor student progress and adapt their instruction.

INTRODUCTION OF JACQUELYN SCRUGGS AND AMBER ONKST, MENTAL HEALTH THERAPISTS

To provide anticipated mental health services to students and staff, the district hired our own mental health therapists this year. Ms. Amber Onkst has been on staff as our FRYSC Coordinator at the intermediate school. She has previous social work experience with the Cabinet and Uspiritus in Louisville.

Ms. Jackie Scruggs has previous experience in other school districts in both OH and KY. The excitement this team brings to the district is evident and they are anxious to bring their support plans to the board soon.

MINUTES OF JULY 22, 2020 REGULAR MEETING AND AUGUST 12, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING

On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW the minutes were approved with the necessary corrections.

1128- MOTION CARRIED 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

1129 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Before approving the bills, Ms. Malone asked about the following warrants:

- Accelerated Learning

- Brainchild
- Dude Solutions

Ms. Covington asked about the following warrants:

- Cincinnati Bell
- Ground Contract Service

All questions were answered satisfactorily. Ms. Hoover noted questions asked prior to the meeting by board members were also answered satisfactorily.

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

1130 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

The treasurer's report also included:

- Credit card bill and receipts
- Administrator expense report
- Monthly Financial Report
- Tuition reimbursement update

Mr. Turner addressed the board regarding the annual financial report. As noted in the report, Fund 1 revenues were up slightly over budget as well as expenses. Fund 2 revenues were down as well as expenses. The beginning balance for 2021 is down approximately \$445,014. This is mainly the result of upgrading our libraries and other construction costs and increasing our salary schedules. Barnes Dennig will present a more detailed report to the board after their audit is completed later this year.

Mr. Turner also reviewed tax rate information. The city would like the board to approve tax rates prior to September 15th to coincide with their tax bill preparation and mailing. All real estate and personal property in the city were reassessed this year; this resulted in an increase of \$109,600,530 in property value. The higher assessments caused a large reduction in SEEK allocations of approximately \$393,686. After a lengthy explanation of compensating rates, 4% increase, and Tier 1, the board will hold a special meeting on September 9th to approve tax rates for 2021. Meanwhile, the board is asked to look over the information provided and call with questions and/or concerns.

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Mr. Watts introduced the board to this year's theme song – Wake Up Everybody. With everything going on in the world right now, this song is very appropriate for these times.

Mr. Watts provided the board with his growth plan for this year. He will address standards 1-4 this year.

Standard 1: The superintendent creates conditions that result in strategically reimagining the district's vision, mission and goals to ensure that each student graduates from high school, is globally competitive in post-secondary education and/or the workforce, and is prepared for life in the 21st century. The superintendent creates a community of inquiry that challenges the community to continually repurpose itself by building on the district's core values and beliefs about the preferred future and then developing a vision.

Standard 2: The superintendent supports and builds a system committed to shared values and beliefs focused on teaching and learning where performance gaps are systematically eliminated over time and each student graduates from high school college-and-career ready.

Standard 3: The superintendent understands and acts on the important role a system's culture has in the exemplary performance of all schools. He/she works to understand the people in the district and community as well as their history and traditions as they move forward to support and achieve district goals. The superintendent must be able to

improve the district culture, if needed, to align the work of adults with the district's goals of improving student learning and infusing the work with passion, meaning and purpose.

Standard 4: The superintendent ensures the district is a professional learning community with processes and systems in place that result in recruitment, induction, support, evaluation, development and retention of a high-performing, diverse staff. The superintendent uses distributed leadership to support learning and teaching, plans professional development, and engages in district leadership succession planning.

Mr. Watts also provided the board with corresponding strategies/actions, evidences/artifacts, and completion date for each standard.

He asked the board to add the growth plan to new business for approval this evening.

The last item to update the board on was the opening of school next week. Device handout is almost complete at each building. Teachers are currently doing virtual home visits with their students.

Mr. Watts assured the board instruction will look different than in the spring. This should resemble being in front of a teacher in the classroom as closely as possible.

Ms. Stewart presented her report. All departments are working daily to continue providing services to our students and families. This includes the FRYSC Coordinators, our Homeless Coordinator, 21st Century Coordinators, and nurses. Attendance reports will be provided next month; however, the reports will look very different while virtual learning. The district will be utilizing participation-based entry during this time.

Mr. Grayson presented his report. Besides his monthly report, he provided the board with a quote on replacing lights at the intermediate school. After the rebate, the total cost would be \$10,332.00.

Ms. Sheffel complimented the outside painting project at NPS.

Ms. Covington asked about hand sanitizers and Dr. Smith-Morrow asked about the completion of the water heater projects. All questions were answered satisfactorily.

Ms. Swanson presented her report to the board. There were no questions.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL item 12, approval of the superintendent's growth plan, will be added to the consent agenda.

1131 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

1. Personnel report
2. Agreement with Jerome Bowles for consulting services
3. Agreement with St. Elizabeth Business Health for services through their Employee Assistance Program
4. Stipend for the supervisor of the new mental health therapists - \$13,000 per year for two years.
5. Surplus 14 various office and conference chairs at the district office and surplus items from Newport Intermediate School (list attached)
6. FY 2021 Federal Funding Assurances
7. Agreement and quote from Frontline Education
8. Annual financial report for FY 2020
9. Emergency certification application for high school science
10. Change the work session scheduled for September 9th to a special meeting for the purpose of approving tax rates for 2021.

11. MOU with KY Campus Compact and Newport Independent Schools
12. Superintendent's professional growth plan for 20/21

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

1132 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS/UPDATES

Ms. Covington gave a shout-out to everyone involved in handing out devices and information to students and parents. She has received a lot of good feedback.

Ms. Malone also complimented the district on the fabulous job everyone is doing during these unusual times.

Mr. Watts thanked the district administrative team, principals, and teachers for being flexible and adaptive. Seems we are constantly changing courses right now.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY MILLER AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW the meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM

1133 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary