



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on October 28, 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, and Sylvia Covington.

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

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

Ms. Miller entered the meeting.

RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Jennifer Stewart introduced the district's Family Resource Youth Service Center coordinators; Molly Wesley, Donna Watts, and Marshelle Watkins-Blackwell. She thanked them for their tireless efforts serving our students and families during the COVID pandemic. The dedication to their mission is not overlooked and is very much appreciated by the board.

Mr. Jerome Bowles presented his report to the board. He talked about the diversity leadership program that he sponsors at the high school. He serves students in grades 7-12. His mission is to help students understand the importance of education, the importance of understanding instructional time, preparing students for college and the workforce, and self-esteem. This year's program is scheduled to start on November 11th and will be held via Zoom Meetings. They are scheduled for every Wednesday from 1:00 – 2:45 PM. The long-term goal of the program is to keep kids involved so that success can be monitored and measured. With the support of administrators and counselors more and more students will be identified as potential candidates to join the group.

Nichole Braun presented the board with a packet of information about the Campbell County Skills U program. During the 19/20 school year, 269 adult students have enrolled, there have been 121 level gains, and 64 graduates. The KYSU state ranking came out on October 12, 2020 and Newport's program is first in the state. The board congratulated Nichole on the success of her program.

After 44 years of service to the district, as a board member, and most recently as finance director/treasurer, Mr. Tete Turner will be retiring. Mr. Watts presented Tete with a gift and kind words for his service to the district. Ms. Ramona Malone followed with many thanks and gracious words for Tete's dedication to Newport schools. The board presented a gift that will be enjoyed during his many travels during retirement.

Mr. Turner thanked the board and his department for all the support, hard work, and memories. What started out as a plan to stay for a very short time after his retirement from his primary job, turned into 13 years as finance director and treasurer. Mr. Turner will be missed.

The board took at 15-minute recess to greet guests.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 REGULAR MEETING AND SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING

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

1148 - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

1149 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Ms. Hoover answered questions prior to the meeting regarding bills and ask if there were further questions.

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

1150 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

The treasurer's report also included:

- Credit card bill and receipts
- Administrator expense report
- Tuition reimbursement update
- Monthly report Period 3

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Mr. Watts updated the board on the following:

- Contract with Southgate for finance, payroll, AP, HR, and food service support
- Meeting with Cincinnati Bell and community members regarding hotspots
- Students attending the Boys and Girls Club during virtual instruction days
- Dual enrollment with Gateway Community College
- How the district handles communication when a staff member and/or student tests positive with COVID
- Implementing systems and monitoring programs

Ms. Sheffel asked if the district still has the Future Teachers of America club? This would be a nice pipeline for students interested in entering the education field after graduation She mentioned the popularity of the program when it was offered in previous years.

Ms. Stewart presented her report. She gave an overview on the following:

- End of first quarter and grades
- Parent requests for change of instructional setting
- Parents rationale for requesting a change in instructional setting
- Enrollment
- Participation rate

Ms. Covington asked about the district's response to the Governor's message regarding the rise in COVID cases. She also asked about morning drop-off procedures, kindergarten enrollment numbers, and current number of virtual teachers.

Mr. Watts reported he will be viewing the Governor's message on Thursday afternoon and would have a better understanding of his thoughts on the COVID situation after that.

Drop-off procedures differ at each location. Ms. Stewart informed the board all the COVID related information is on the website. She updates the information frequently.

Kindergarten numbers are down this year; however, projections indicate a significant increase in those numbers next year.

Ms. Stewart will let Ms. Covington know about the number of teachers designated to teacher virtually. She does not know that information currently.

Ms. Sheffel asked if plans were to stay with the hybrid model of instruction for the rest of the year. Mr. Watts said it is his intention. This could change depending on cases rising or falling drastically.

Dr. Smith-Morrow thanked Ms. Stewart for all the details and said she appreciates all the work her department does with families.

Mr. Grayson presented his report. There were no questions.

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

Ms. Swanson did inform the board that MSD students and students attending the alternative school will have the option to attend in-person 4 days a week. The needs of these students will be better met in person. This option will be at the parent's discretion.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel report.
2. Elect Jennifer Hoover as treasurer of the board effective November 1, 2020.
3. Renew METLIFE policy (board approved policy for all full-time employees - \$15,000 basic life/basic AD&D no change in rates)
4. Mutual aid agreement for member public school district with the NKCES
5. Emergency certification – NHS science teacher
6. Surplus sale on November 18, 19, 20 from 9am – 12 noon

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

1151 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS/UPDATES

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY MILLER AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM

1152- MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary