



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on January 6, 2021 at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held via video conference. PURPOSE: Organizational Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Malone called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She then asked Kim Klosterman Board Secretary, to administer the Constitutional and Statutory Oaths to the elected board members: Julie Smith-Morrow, Melissa Sheffel, and Aaron Sutherland.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Malone then asked for a roll call. The following were present: Ramona Malone, Dr. Julie Smith-Morrow, Melissa Sheffel, Sylvia Covington, and Aaron Sutherland.

Also in attendance was Superintendent Watts and district leaders.

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

NOMINATE BOARD CHAIR

Dr. Julie Smith-Morrow nominated Ramona Malone to serve as board chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sheffel. This is a two-year term.

1168 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

NOMINATE BOARD VICE CHAIR

Ms. Covington nominated Dr. Julie Smith-Morrow to serve as board vice-chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sheffel. This is also a two-year term.

1169 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

REVIEW OF ETHICAL CONDUCT, OPERATING PRINCIPALS, AND LEADERSHIP ROLES

As a courtesy to new board members and a reminder to sitting members, the board chair provides copies of the school board member code of ethical conduct, responsibilities of board members, general operating principals, and leadership roles of the school board.

These are guiding documents that help make a board successful.

2021 CALENDAR

- Work sessions will be held on the 2nd Wednesday each month at 6:30 PM
- Regular board meetings will be held on the 4th Wednesday each month at 6:30 PM
- November's regular meeting date will be on the 17TH at 6:30 PM – no work session this month.
- December's regular meeting date will be on the 15th at 6:30 PM – no work session this month.

FRONTLINE RECRUITING AND HIRING SOLUTION

After addressing several questions from the board regarding costs, comparisons with existing program, and upgrades, on MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON, the agreement to purchase Frontline's recruiting and hiring solution was approved.

1170 – MOTION CARRIED 4-1 – Mr. Sutherland recused himself.

ESPORTS PROPOSAL

After a lengthy discussion about the eSports program and addressing questions regarding IT, grade level involvement, special education student involvement, costs, recurring fees, etc. on MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the board approved adding eSports to the high school's extra-curricular choices for students. Related costs have been capped at \$15,000 for the 2021 school year. These expenses should decrease significantly after this year.

1171 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

It should be noted that Newport is working with NKU to create a partnership with the College of Business. Informatics program for our students. 200+ colleges and universities offer scholarships and are actively recruiting players involved in eSports programs.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW the meeting adjourned. Time: 7:27 PM

1172 - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary