



The Newport Board of Education held a work session on January 13, 2021 at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport, KY.

### **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, Sylvia Covington, and Aaron Sutherland.

Also, in attendance: Tony Watts, Superintendent. Central office administrators and building principals were in attendance virtually.

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

### **UPDATE FROM BUILDING PRINCIPALS – WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

Matt Atkins, Principal, NPS, presented a PPT highlighting the following:

- Hybrid vs. virtual instruction percentages (teachers and students) and daily participation/attendance which stands at 94.4%.
- Virtual academic plan – core instruction. Tier II and Tier III intervention.
- Monitoring instruction thru PLC meetings, instructional lesson designs, and walkthroughs.
- Winter MAP testing is scheduled to start January 19. The plan is to test in-person.
- Update on Imagination Library

Mr. Atkins addressed several questions regarding intervention teachers, attendance, rewards for perfect attendance, and the Imagination Library.

Dennis Maines, Principal, NIS, presented the following:

- All teachers are teaching two in-person classes and 1 virtual class. All students receive daily direct instruction for math, ELA, and science/social studies. Students are also attending special area classes virtually and in-classroom.
- Overview of academic performance
- Intervention
- Extended school service
- Monitoring instruction

Mr. Maines addressed several questions regarding social distancing protocol, homework, walkthroughs with regards to social distancing, additional support if requested from families, and addressing student behavior timely.

Dr. Heather Orman, Principal, NHS, presented a PPT highlighting the following:

- In-person percentages
- Academics – 1<sup>st</sup> semester
- Attendance – 1<sup>st</sup> semester 93.55%
- Schedule to support students academically.
- Afternoon intervention expectations.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> period interventions
- Additional interventions
- 15-minutes has been built into the schedule for social/emotional support.

All board members expressed their concern over the number of failures in grades 7-12 and requested a comparison to last year by grade level.

The question was raised on how we fix this situation. While modified interventions have been put in place as well as the additional time to address the social/emotional struggles that some may be experiencing, is this going to be enough?

#### **UPDATE ON ST. E's EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** **SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2020**

- Number of new cases – 9  
7 female/2 male – 4 married, 3 single, 1 cohabitation, 1 widow
- Employee cases – 5
- Non-employee cases – 4  
1 adult child, 1 child, 1 couple, 1 family
- 8 self-referred – 1 medical
- Number of contacts – 22
- Hours for these contacts – 22
- Clients represented – 9.
- Attendees represented – 24.
- Number of auxiliary services conducted – 5.

#### **COMMENTS/CONCERNS**

Mr. Watts said looking ahead intervention will be key for our students since many will basically be 2 years behind. We are hoping to have a robust summer learning program in place when school dismisses in June. Newport was fortunate to have 1:1 technology for all grade levels. Many districts are still waiting for devices to arrive due to the over-load of orders since last March.

Ms. Sheffel asked about plans to increase the number of days for in-person instruction. Mr. Watts said the district will probably keep with the current plan until everyone is vaccinated.

Mr. Sutherland asked if the district participated in Special Olympics. He has been supported Special Olympics for several years; there is a very nice event at Perfect North this weekend. Ms. Swanson said our special education population participates in the unified sports program for bowling and basketball.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW the meeting adjourned. Time: 7:55 PM

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Chairman

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Secretary