



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on March 10, 2021 at 6:00 PM. The meeting was held in the AD Owens Professional Development room.

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, and invited guest Nancy Grayson, President, Horizon Community Funds.

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

PRESENTATION

Ms. Nancy Grayson was present to discuss the investments of the Newport Education Foundation.

Horizon Community Funds is a 501 (3) (C) grant making public charity. Their primary service area is Boone, Campbell, and Kenton Counties. Their aim is to bring together resources of individuals, families, and businesses to support action, development, and effective non-profits. Their vision is community centered. They have raised over \$32 million since inception, distributed over \$12 million in grants, and currently have \$28 million under management.

Funds are professionally invested under the supervision of local, community-based financial experts with experience in building and preserving funds in perpetuity. Agency funds are pooled with other assets for fuller diversification, with each fund accruing its own share of the earnings.

Endowed agency funds also qualify for the Endow KY Tax Credit, which allows donors to receive up to a 20% income tax credit per taxable year.

Horizon is not able to serve as the fundraising arm of non-profits, but their experienced staff is available to work with the board to discuss fundraising strategies and techniques. Horizon is also available to help create the investment policy for the foundation.

Horizon charges a 1% administrative fee and a low-cost investment management fee that is currently less than 1%.

After her presentation, Ms. Grayson answered several questions from the board regarding services, investment funds, reporting to the board, and the contract. She invited the board members to reach out to her with any further questions/concerns as they process all the information.

MAP DATA

Matt Atkins, NPS Principal, presented his report. The primary chose not to winter MAP test. His administrative team felt like virtual assessment data is not as reliable for K thru 2nd grade students. Students who tested virtually in the fall did not perform as high when assessed in-person. Safety was a big concern as numbers were very high during the winter MAP window.

Matt explained the F&P Benchmark Assessment. This determines a student's independent and instructional reading level. The data is used to provide a placement level for small group reading instruction. He shared tread data from Winter 2019, Winter 2020, and Winter 2021. There has been a drastic decline in these scores since the pandemic.

64.5% of students are now attending school in-person four days a week. There is a plan for a robust summer school program under way. 19 teachers have committed to teach summer school and will service approx.100 students.

Matt's report also covered plans to support students below grade level as well as students above grade level.

Dennis Maines, NIS Principal, presented his report. He compared fall 2019 to fall 2020 MAP scores and winter 2020 to winter 2021 scores at graded levels 3-6. In both ELA and math, NIS was on the road to success when comparing fall scores. After the pandemic caused students to be taught virtually at home, all scores dropped significantly when comparing the winter scores. When calculating KPREP scores based on MAP testing, in 2019 proficiency was 16.224, in the fall of 2020 scores were at 46.9, in the winter of 2021 the scores fell to 38.5.

Mr. Maines presented his plan to address students performing below expectations as well as the plan for students performing above expectations.

All teachers have named and claimed all students who are performing below, at, and above grade level. Interventions have been identified as well as next steps. NIS is also planning a robust summer school for students in hopes to catch them up and stop any additional summer sliding.

Mike Hunter, NHS Interim Principal presented his report. Mike started out his report by saying the MAP scores do not reflect very reliable data when you compare fall to winter scores because nearly 300 students were not MAP tested in the fall. Currently, 40.3% of 7th graders met projected growth in reading and 32% in math. 8th grade, 43.5% in reading and 57.8% in math. 9th grade, 56.10% in reading and 45.3% in math, and 10 grade, 60% in reading and 67.3% in math. One of the biggest areas of concern, is the black population who scored below projected growth in almost every grade level in both reading and math.

Mr. Hunter presented his plan to address students performing below expectations as well as the plan for students performing above expectations. Teachers will continue to work with instructional coaches and principals to ensure tier one success through use of quality programs. Teachers will continue monitoring specific targeting students in RTI.

EDUCATION FOUNDATION BY-LAWS

Ms. Hoover shared a document with the board reflecting proposed changes to the current by-laws. After discussion, the board asked Ms. Hoover to revise the document reflecting the proposed changes to present at the regular meeting on March 24th for approval.

Ms. Hoover also shared a comparison chart of the 4 firms the board has received proposals from: FFR Wealth, MCF Advisors, Fidelity, and Horizon Community Fund. The board discussed the proposals and will consider approval of one of the firms at the March 17th special meeting.

CAPITAL FUNDS REQUEST AMENDMENT

Because of an error on the carryover balance on the capital funds request approved in January, KDE rejected the request. Tonight's request does reflect the corrected balance.

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL, the amended capital funds request was approved.

1190 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the meeting adjourned. Time: 8:11 PM

1191 - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary