



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on March 24, 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 guests.

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

### **PRESENTATIONS**

The following students were recognized for advancing to state in the KAACs State Governor's Cup:

Daniela Coronado placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the District and 5<sup>th</sup> in the Region in composition.

Riahana Ragster placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the District and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Region in ELA assessment.

This is the first time Newport has advanced this far in state competition. Congratulations on this accomplishment.

The following students were recognized for winning the fire safety poster contest:

Maelyn Gilliam, Newport Intermediate student and Andres Pable-Macario, Newport Primary student.

Congratulations to these two students for this accomplishment. All students received a Newport medal for a job well done.

### **MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 24, 2021, MARCH 3, 2021, MARCH 10, 2021, AND MARCH 17, 2021**

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

1194 - 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.

1195 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Ms. Hoover answered questions prior to the meeting regarding bills and ask if there were further questions. Dr. Smith Morrow commented that she usually inquires about new vendors and their purpose for better understanding of what she is asked to approve. Ms. Malone followed in agreement.

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

The treasurer's report also included:

- Administrator expense report.
- Credit card expenses.
- Tuition reimbursement update.
- SEEK update.
- Bank RFP.
- Auditor RFP.
- Worker's Comp insurance renewal.
- Monthly report.

### **STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

Mr. Watts said this month he will be addressing Standards 3, 4, and 7 in the

Standard 3 – Cultural Leadership. This standard was met with the invitation and recognition of our students this evening.

Standard 4 – Human Resource Leadership – Mr. Watts shared a brochure he developed with the assistance of Pat Crowley. This will be a recruiting tool when visiting job fairs around the state. He will be attending his first job fair on Friday, March 26 in Bowling Green.

Standard 7 – Influential Leadership. Mr. Watts shared his role in joining other Northern KY Superintendents **in the** fight against HB563. Gov. Andy Beshear vetoed the bill today that would allow public school choice and education opportunity accounts to pay for private school tuition in some Kentucky counties. The bill will return to the legislature to consider overriding the veto.

Graduation is scheduled for May 29, 2021. Students will be divided into three groups and there will be three separate ceremonies; each will be filmed and spliced together to give seniors a copy of their graduation.

Ms. Covington asked if graduation could be moved to a larger venue to accommodate the entire class at one time. Besides the late date to be looking for a place and the potential costs, Mr. Hunter said he really liked having graduation at the high school.

There will not be a prom this year. This event has been replaced with a Senior Dinner. This type of event will allow for more social distancing.

Mr. Watts also share a picture of new lights installed on the outside of the primary school. This is a great improvement for the safety of all.

Carla Davis, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, asked the board if there were any questions regarding the curriculum department report.

Ms. Covington asked about summer school numbers. Ms. Davis reported that final numbers have not been determined yet but there will be a limit to the number of students who can attend. District administrators, in collaboration with the building administration teams, have been meeting to develop expectations to guide the planning process for Summer School. Discussions pertaining to expenditures, scheduling, communication plans, resources, identifying students, instruction and assessment are continually driving the focus of the meetings. The district is concerned and attentive to reducing the achievement gaps by providing intentional learning opportunities for the summer school program. The curriculum department with the assistance of building curriculum coaches and the KDE Education Recovery staff are in the process of developing pre and post assessments.

Ms. Covington asked about using the assistance of classified personnel during summer school. She also asked if upcoming kindergartners could participate in summer school.

Ms. Malone asked about communication plans and Dr. Smith-Morrow asked if the number of students attending was limited to space and/or resources?

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

- Participation numbers
- Enrollment
- 2021-2022 calendar options – the calendar committee is recommending Option A as the official school calendar for 21-22 SY.
- Ms. Stewart is working with local authorities to make Newport Schools a vaccine clinic for Newport. The goal is to open in April and May and vaccinate approx. 500 people 18 and above.

Mr. Grayson presented his report. A brief discussion covered bussing students during summer school. Right now, two drivers are considering driving for summer school. Depending on summer school numbers, each driver may potentially make 2 separate runs to get the students to school.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Watts opened the discussion with his hopes that the board could resolve the two matter under old business this evening. The completion of these items is important to the on-going work on systems and processes.

Regarding an investment firm for the Newport Education Foundation, Ms. Malone asked for Ms. Hoover's recommendation. Ms. Hoover said our auditors would not recommend Horizon Community Funds since they are a non-profit themselves. While the other three firms basically can provide equal services, Fidelity does have the lowest fees. Ms. Hoover recommends only investing the Chester Davis funds in Fidelity. Other scholarship accounts can be set up in MUNIS with individual projects for each scholarship.

There will be further discussion on whether the board will use our own resources to set up the foundation or whether we contract for professional services.

Bank signatory cards were discussed. The board chair and treasurer will be the signers on all checks with the exception to school activity accounts.

The next item for discussion was the choice of a municipal advisor. Ms. Hoover's recommendation was to stay with RSA Advisors. They have been Newport's advisors for the last 25+ years and their services have been invaluable to the district.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the following items will be added to the consent agenda:

1. Add board chair as the second signer to all checks except for school activity accounts.
2. Employ Fidelity Investments as the financial advisor for the Chester Davis funds.
3. Employ RSA as the fiscal agent for the board.

1196 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

1. Personnel report
2. NKCES Intent to Participate
3. Approve bidding documents for re-roof and fire alarms projects.
4. BG2 and BG-3 – re-roof project Newport Intermediate
5. BG2 and BG-3 – fire alarm project Newport Primary
6. BG-5 – District-wide security cameras project close-out

7. BG-5 – Newport Primary restroom renovation project close-out
8. BG-5 – NHS controls replacement project close out.
9. BG-5 – NPS/NIS security doors project close out.
10. BG5 – NHS gym and middle school courtyard re-roofing project close out.
11. Surplus equipment at Newport Primary School:
  - 6 tall metal file cabinets with 4 drawers
  - 1 short 2 drawer file cabinet
  - 1 tall metal cabinet (broken handle)
  - 1 refrigerator
  - scale
  - 3 teacher desks (1 is wooden)
  - 5 stationary bikes (no cords)
  - 1 treadmill
  - 1 elliptical
  - 9 pieces of work out equipment.
12. District Facility Plan
13. Add board chair as the second signer to all checks except for school activity accounts.
14. Employ Fidelity Investments as the financial advisor for the Chester Davis funds.
15. Employ RSA as the fiscal agent for the board.

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND consent agenda items 1-15 were approved as presented.

1197 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

#### **BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS/UPDATES**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

1198 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

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Chairman

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Secretary