



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on May 26, 2021, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8th 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, Mr. Watts, district administrators, and invited 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 employees and students were recognized at the meeting:

Newport Primary School

Michele Lynch – Retirement
Paridhi Pandey – VFW art contest
Journey Griffin – VFW contest for singing the National Anthem.
Amanda Barbour – VFW Citizenship Education Award

Newport Intermediate School

Kristen Edwards – Warm 98s Teacher of the Week recipient and Seeds of Hope nominee

Newport Regional School

Dennis Brewer – Retired November 2020

Newport High School

Sebastian Tafolla – Alternate diploma and career work experience certification
Jacob Turner - Alternate diploma and career work experience certification
Brooklyn Rice – NKEC – Against All Odds Award
Matthew Seiler – NKEC – CTE Award
Steven Stafford – 1st Place Carpentry
Jayden Mayse – 1st Place Photography Art Display
Elijah Litton – 1st Place Job Skill Demo – Open
Emonie Cosby- 2nd Place Job Skill Demo – Content Area
Emily Ashcraft – STLP State Competition
Alex Montgomery – STLP State Competition
High School Boys Basketball – 2nd Place District/Advanced to Region Tournament

District Nurses

Pam Pedigo
Rebecca Bova

The board took at 10-minute break to greet tonight's guests.

MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2021, REGULAR MEETING AND MAY 12, 2021, SPECIAL MEETING

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

1213 - 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.

1214 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Ms. Hoover answered questions prior to the meeting regarding bills and ask if there were further questions. There were none.

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

1215 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

The treasurer's report also included:

- Administrator expense report.
- Credit card expenses.
- Tuition reimbursement update.
- Monthly report.
- FY 22 tentative budget
- FY 21 Auditor Recommendation

Ms. Hoover's recommendation to the board is to sign a letter of engagement with Maddox and Associates to complete the audit for period ending 6/30/21. She worked with this firm when the district was closing the year for Southgate Independent last year and feels very comfortable with the recommendation. Dr. Smith-Morrow asked if the smaller firm had the experience and depth of staffing to perform the audit. Ms. Hoover assured the board that Maddox and Associates does handle larger municipalities and that would not present any problems.

Ms. Hoover reminded the board that any major changes they see in the amounts from current year budget/last year actuals is only a difference in how she approached the budget process, streamlining how expenses/revenues have been coded in previous years, and changes in coding based on recommendations from the finance consultant. She reviewed previous year historical data along with expected changes that could arise in the new fiscal year to arrive at amounts budgeted in the budget appropriate column. Special Revenue-Fund 2 was only budgeted for the grants that are non-competitive and are automatically received every year. If we have not received official notification that grants will be renewed for FY22 it was not rolled over into the current tentative budget.

Mr. Sutherland asked if the difference in general property tax and SEEK equal out to be about the same? Ms. Hoover said it is close.

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Mr. Watts updated the board on the following:

- Summer School – enrollment is currently at 96 for NPS, 186 for NIS, and 129 for NHS. Every Friday will be a fun day for students who attend Monday – Thursday of that week. Preassessments are complete; post assessments will be given at the end of summer school.
- Partnership with Five Guys restaurant – a portion of the proceeds from sales on the 1st Monday of the month will be given to the district.
- Employee referral bonus.
- SB128 – Mr. Watts is recommending that the board deny all requests for an additional year of school for K-12 students. He feels with summer school in place, ESS, and interventions provided when school starts, students will have the opportunity to catch up. Students will be keeping devices over the summer. The intent of the SB 128 supplemental year program is for students to re-take or supplement courses as a result of the prolonged remote instruction and barriers created by the COVID-19 pandemic. SB 128 specifically states that the supplemental year is for students to re-take or supplement courses previously taken during the 2020-2021 year, not to simply gain an additional year in the public school system to explore new coursework.

Mr. Sutherland asked how SB 128 impacts graduation rates. Mr. Watts explained that SB 128 will negatively impact the graduation rate of schools where students remain in high school for a supplemental year. The definition of the 4-year graduation rate is defined as the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who entered high school four years earlier. The Office of Assessment and Accountability calculates the graduation rate using data from Infinite Campus for first-time 9th grade enrollment and with graduation codes to identify when students graduate with a diploma and whether they do so within four years.

Ms. Steidel-Jones presented the report for the curriculum department. Her report covered:

- End of year retreat
- Summer school
- Assessment
- Federal funds
- School Improvement Funds

Ms. Malone asked if the pre-assessment test results were in. Ms. Steidel-Jones said the scores are not back yet.

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

- April participation numbers
- April attendance
- Enrollment

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

Ms. Swanson presented her report to the board. She pointed out that the special education department is 100% compliant with federal, state, and local policy regarding evaluation procedures. They are also 100% compliant with all federal, state, and local policies regarding post-secondary transition planning.

Ms. Rizzo presented her report to the board. She thanked her food service employees for their assistance in preparing tonight's food for the board to sample. Her plans include expanding the culinary skills of her workers so there is a better understanding of ways to prepare healthy meals that taste good.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

On MOTION BY SMITH-MOROW AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the board voted to deny all requests for an additional year of school for K-12 students, pursuant to SB 128, Section 2, Supplemental School Year Program, for the 21-22 school year.

1216 -MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Consent agenda:

1. Personnel report
2. 2nd reading of the certified evaluation plan for implementation beginning with the 21/22 SY.
3. Certified and classified staff 21/22 SY
4. Tentative (draft) budget 2022
5. Pay 21/22 KASA dues for members.
6. 21/22 KEDC Cooperative Membership Agreement
7. Special education service contracts:
 - Amy Martin, Pediatric Therapy Specialists
 - Kate Toennis, Orientation & Mobility Training for Blind and Visually Impaired
 - Martha Kaising, SLP
 - Nancy Miller, SLP
 - Pam Kaising, SLP
 - Stephanie Anthrop, SLP
8. By-laws of the Newport Education Foundation
9. Letter of engagement and auditor's contract with Maddox and Associates, CPAs, Inc. for audit period 6/30/2021
10. Referral bonus for employees - \$1,000 for successful 1st year of completion and \$500 if employee signs a 2nd contract and starts the next school year.
11. Fidelity bond of treasurer.
12. 2021 amended calendar.

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON consent agenda items 1-12 were approved as presented.

1217 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS/UPDATES

None

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW the meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

1218 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary