



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on July 14, 2021, at 5:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport, KY. PURPOSE: Time Change

### **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.

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

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Austin Anderson, Regional Sales Director at Audio Enhancement, Inc., was present to demonstrate their voice enhancement system used in classrooms. Research has demonstrated that students with normal hearing ability benefit from the use of classroom amplification systems. Amplification systems allow teachers to control, stabilize, and equalize the classroom acoustical environment so their voices are clearly audible over background noise at all locations within the classroom. Studies have found positive effects for students in amplified classrooms, including improved academic achievement and speech perception and increased on-task behavior. Teacher benefits include reduced vocal strain and voice fatigue and the ability to move more freely about the classroom. School staff, students, and parents have responded positively to the use of amplification systems. If the board chooses to contract with Audio Enhancement, there are several additional products that can be added that are compatible with the system, i.e., intercoms, safe classroom systems, paging, and bells.

### **MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2021, SPECIAL MEETING**

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

1235 - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the financial statement was accepted and will be filed for audit.

1236 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Ms. Hoover answered questions prior to the meeting regarding bills and ask if there were further questions. Ms. Malone asked about the “At Your Service” invoice. Ms. Hoover explained that was the taxi service used for our homeless population.

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the bills were approved for payment.

1237 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

The treasurer's report also included:

- Administrator expense report.
- Credit card expenses.
- Tuition reimbursement update.

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

Rusty Adams, Director of Instructional Technology, acknowledged to the board that the Data Breach and Security Best Practice Guide has been reviewed and we continue to implement security best practices to secure personal information across our network and systems for the 2021-2022 school year.

This acknowledgement is required by 8/31 each year per 702 KAR 1:170.

Ms. Covington asked about technology collection over the summer. Rusty reported that there are less than 100 devices district-wide that the department will be trying to retrieve over the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Watts introduced Darla Payne, the district's new Director of Curriculum and Instruction. The board gave her a warm welcome to the district.

Mr. Watts' report included:

- Success of the summer program – Camp Wildcat
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade data shows needed improvement, data for most other grade levels shows improvement.
- Administrator's retreat
- Expectations – get better or move on.
- Strategic Planning Committee – first meeting July 22, 2021

Ms. Steidel-Jones updated the board on the work in the curriculum department:

- Preparing for administrative retreat
- Will be working on a viable curriculum over the summer with every school
- Summer school update:
  - Closed achievement gaps based on pre and post assessment scores
  - There may be some discrepancies in the data regarding the summer program scores. The curriculum team will review the scores, make necessary corrections, and present an updated report to the board.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ehmet Hayes was present to answer any questions regarding the BGs presented on the agenda for approval. There was a long discussion about the culinary program and required renovations.

Before voting on the consent agenda, Ms. Malone asked Ms. Swanson to explain the purpose of the Admission & Release Committee (ARC).

1. Personnel report
2. Authorize the following district personnel serve as the ARC Chairperson during the Admission & Release Committee meetings for the 2021/22 SY:
  - Superintendent of Newport Independent Schools
  - Director of Special Education

- Principal & Assistant Principal
  - Guidance Counselor
  - Instructional Coach
  - Educational Diagnostician
  - Special Education Department Chair
3. Tuition reimbursement agreement for classified employees
  4. BG-1 – NHS Culinary Renovations
  5. BG-1 – NPS Kitchen/Cafeteria Renovations (with fire alarm work included)
  6. Brighton Center lease to rent space for the 21/22 SY for the NSOI.

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW the consent agenda was approved as presented.

1238 – 5-0

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

None

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

None

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW, the board went into executive session. KRS 61.810 (c) possible litigation. No action will be taken. Time: 8:25 PM

1239 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW, the board returned to open session. Time: 8:40 PM.

1240 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

1241 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

---

Chairman

---

Secretary