



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on August 25, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8th Street, Newport, KY. PURPOSE: SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NEWPORT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCE CORPORATION

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.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NEWPORT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCE CORPORATION

The meeting was called to order and officers were confirmed; all being the same officers of the Newport Board of Education.

Dwight Salsbury explained the purpose of refinancing the Series 2012 bonds. Since interest rates have dropped, refinancing these bonds now will be in the best interest of the board. If the interest rate does increase before the sale of the bonds on September 16, RSA will not go thru with the sale.

If the following resolution is accepted by the finance corporation, the Board would be asked to approve the resolution under new business during the regular meeting:

A resolution of the board of directors of the Newport Independent School District Finance Corporation, providing for the issuance of \$1,365,000 principal amount (which may be increased or decreased by the amount of \$135,000) of school building refunding revenue bonds (the refunding bonds) in accordance with Sections 162.120 through 162.290, 162.385 and 58.180 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, for the purpose of retiring prior to their respective maturities certain of the outstanding Newport Independent School District Finance Corporation school building revenue bonds, Series of 2012, dated January 1, 2012 (the prior issue) through the deposit and investment in escrow of the net proceeds of the refunding bonds, providing for the payment of principal and interest on certain bonds of said prior issue by redemption in advance of maturity, providing for the creation of certain funds to effect the defeasement of the rights of the owners of certain bonds of the prior issue and the transfers of certain amounts into certain funds, providing for the payment of said refunding bonds and the interest thereon, providing for the rights of the registered owners of said refunding bonds and the enforcement thereof, providing for the rights of the registered owners of said refunding bonds and the enforcement thereof, authorizing and approving the execution of continuing disclosure procedures, and providing for an advertised public competitive sale of said refunding bonds.

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the finance corporation approved the resolution as stated above.

1246 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the special meeting of the District Finance Corporation adjourned. Time: 6:37 PM

1247 - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Jennifer Packwood, Special Education teacher at Newport High School, was recognized for being named as a finalist in the KY Special Education Teacher of the Year competition. She is one of three finalist that will be recognized and honored at the Council of Exceptional Children Conference in Louisville on November 22nd. Each finalist will receive a cash prize of \$250 from the KYCEC. The winner will receive \$500 along with a scholarship to attend the Special Education Legislative Summit in Washington DC. Ms. Lisa Swanson nominated Ms. Packwood for this award.

Ms. Nichole Braun and her staff were recognized for being named the Instructional Team of the Year. Earlier in 20/21 they celebrated their program as being listed as the top performing program in the state of KY for the first quarter. Ms. Braun and her staff continue to reach people where they are and help to advance them in their educational endeavors. Their commitment to this program and the adults they serve goes above and beyond.

MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2021, SPECIAL MEETING, AUGUST 22, 2021, SPECIAL MEETING AND AUGUST 18, 2021, SPECIAL MEETING

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

1248 - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

1249 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Ms. Hoover answered questions prior to the meeting regarding bills and ask if there were further questions.

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

1250 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Ms. Hoover shared an additional handout on ESSER 1 expenses and GEER expenses. Dr. Smith-Morrow asked if the ESSER 1 grant was closed out and if so when did this occur. Ms. Hoover verified the grant had been closed out during the summer. Ms. Malone asked about the turnaround time for reimbursement.

ESSER II will cover flooring expenses and the HVAC upgrades.

Mr. Sutherland asked about indirect costs. Ms. Hoover said the rates are set by the state. and the district can take up to the set percentage as administration fees for administering the grants. Those funds get deposited into the general fund.

The treasurer's report also included:

- Administrator expense report.
- Credit card expenses.
- Monthly report

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Mr. Watts's update included:

- Laurie Veatch – retirement
- 1st day of school update
- Virtual Learning – no plan for this year; goal is to encourage students to follow safety protocols. Right now, the district only has 10 NTI days.

Ms. Sheffel asked about quarantining students in regard to attendance. Ms. Stewart explained students will be quarantined until lab results are received. There will be a COVID exposed attendance group who will be assigned to a Google classroom. A positive COVID test will result in a home/hospital option where the students receive 2 hours of instruction per week.

Ms. Sutherland asked about a plan for a shut down for a particular school, grade, or classroom that might be adversely affected by the virus. Right now, any kind of shut down would be handled the same way a snow day would be handled. Days will be added at the end of the year. There is a little room in the calendar right now as the board approved a variable calendar with 1079 instructional hours. A student needs a minimum of 1062 instructional hours.

There was more discussion regarding social distancing, mask breaks, recess, and the mask supply from the district level.

Ms. Carla Davis presented the curriculum department report.

Ms. Sheffel said it looks like summer school went well. Ms. Davis commented that staff worked a tremendous amount of time this summer.

Mr. Sutherland commented that K-8 only had assessments for math and reading. Ms. Davis said that was an intentional focus. There was some discussion on pre and post assessments and the continued use of data to help students with ongoing instruction.

Ms. Stewart updated the board on the first day of school attendance numbers. 1172 compared to 1155 last year. There are a total of 96 students classified as "whereabouts" and 169 "no shows". The DPP department will start looking for these students as early as tomorrow.

Tim Grayson presented his report on Facilities and Transportation. Everything went pretty good for the first day of school as far as busses go. There was one small issue that was resolved with a car blocking the road: making NPS students a little late.

Ms. Sheffel asked about the waiting list for busses. Mr. Grayson reported there are approx. 40 students on the wait list which is about the same as previous years. Some seats may open up after pre-school starts and those numbers are realized.

Ms. Swanson presented her report. There were no questions.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

ON MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND item 3 will be removed from the consent agenda to give the board more time to review the policies and procedures.

1251 – MOTION CARREID 5-0

1. Personnel report
2. Annual financial report for FY 2021
- ~~3. 1st reading of KSBA draft policies and procedures~~
4. Emergency certification application for English Learner instructor
5. Declare repairs on the NIS HVAC Controls as an EMERGENCY
6. Owner/Architect Agreement – NIS HVAC Controls – EMERGENCY repairs
7. BG-1 – NIS HVAC Controls EMERGENCY
8. BG 22.105 – NPS and NIS marquees
9. Owner Architect Agreement for Marquees
10. Capital funds request for NPS and NIS marquees
11. Owner Architect Agreement for flooring projects
12. Pay application #1 and #2 for NIS and NHS flooring projects
13. Owner Architect Agreement – Renovations NHS Culinary Program
14. Owner Architect Agreement – Renovations NPS Kitchen Cafeteria
15. Football field lease agreement with NCC
16. Indirect costs rates for FY2022 – Non-restricted 16.60% and Restricted 2.63%
17. KYDA Branding and Marketing Proposal
18. FY 2022 District Funding Assurances
19. Agreement with “Remind” (communication platform)
20. COVID testing agreement with Ethos Holding Corporation Resolution relating to quarantine leave during the 2021-22 SY pursuant to 702 KAR 1:191E
21. Change the working session schedule for September 8 to a special meeting for the purpose of a public hearing and approving tax rates for 2022.
22. A resolution of the Board of Education of the Newport Independent School District initiating the refinancing process in order to refund and retire all of the outstanding Newport Independent School District Finance Corporation School Building Revenue Bonds, Series 2012 originally issued to finance the projects; authorizing and approving the execution of a lease agreement with the Newport Independent School District Finance Corporation and any further necessary instruments; authorizing and approving the execution of continuing disclosure procedures; and approving the plan of refinancing said projects generally.

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

1252 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS/UPDATES

Ms. Malone reminded the board members of the KSBA Regional Meeting scheduled for September 7th.

Ms. Malone also talked about the upcoming Trash Bash and encouraged the district to get involved in this endeavor. The date is October 23rd. She also asked that someone from the board attend the meetings on Thursday evenings. Ms. Sheffel agreed to do this. Ken Rehtin said a representative from Rumpke will be at the Trash Bash presenting an opportunity to tour their facility and learn about recycling. This is a great opportunity for students to learn the importance of keeping their neighborhood clean and the importance of recycling.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the board went into executive session. KRS 61.810 (c) Litigation. Action may be taken. Time: 7:44 PM

1252 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW, the board returned to open session. Time: 7:56 PM.

1252 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the board agreed to the following:

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Newport Board of Education authorizes Superintendent Tony Watts to take all necessary steps to support the Council for Better Education, Inc. ("CBE"), in its legal challenge to the unconstitutionality of the tax credits in House Bill 563, including the payment of any appropriate dues or assessments related to this school district's membership in CBE or its support of the referenced legal challenge.

1253 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

1254 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary