



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on September 8, 2021, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8th Street, Newport, KY. PURPOSE: TAX RATE HEARING

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, 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.

TAX RATE HEARING

Ms. Malone explained the purpose of the tax rate hearing. Any taxing district proposing to levy a tax rate which exceeds the compensating tax rate, must hold a public hearing to obtain comments from the public regarding the proposed tax rate. The taxing district shall advertise the hearing at least twice in two consecutive weeks in the newspaper of largest circulation. The announcement for this hearing appeared in the Enquirer on August 23rd and August 30th.

Since no one from the public showed for comments, Ms. Malone asked for comments from the board on the superintendent's recommendation of \$1.020 cents on personal property. This rate would generate an additional \$22,910 over the prior year rate of \$1.017 and \$18,894 over the compensating rate of \$1.002.

The board discussed the purpose of accepting Mr. Watts's recommendation vs. the prior year rate. What would the additional funds generated be used for? Will students be missing opportunities without the additional funds? Mr. Sutherland felt with the additional grant money the district has received he was not comfortable with any increase. The \$15.5 million should offset a lot of expenses in his opinion. The discussion continued with how the federal dollars could be spent and the parameters set for those expenditures; increased property values; the perception of increasing taxes; and facility upgrades.

Ms. Malone asked for a motion regarding tax rates for 2022.

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the board voted to approve Mr. Watts recommendation of \$1.020 for real and personal property for 2022.

This motion did not pass:

Malone – no / Smith-Morrow – yes / Sutherland – no / Covington – yes

Ms. Malone asked for a second motion regarding tax rates for 2022.

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY MALONE the board voted to approve the prior year rate of \$1.017 for real and personal property for 2022.

This motion did not pass.

Malone – yes / Smith-Morrow – no / Sutherland – yes / Covington - no

After further discussion, Superintendent Watts said he is okay with accepting the prior year rate of \$1.017.

Ms. Malone asked for another motion to set the tax rates for 2022.

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the board adopted a tax rate of \$1.017 on real and personal property for 2022.

1255 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

Roll call: Ms. Malone, yes – Dr. Julie Smith-Morrow, yes – Sylvia Covington, yes – Aaron Sutherland, yes

SUPERINTENDENT'S PGP

Mr. Watts presented the board with his professional growth plan for this school year. He will focus on the following three standards this year:

Standard 1 - The superintendent creates conditions that result in strategically reimagining the district's vision, mission, and goals to ensure that each student graduates from high school, is globally competitive in post-secondary education and/or the workforce and is prepared for life in the 21st century. The superintendent creates a community of inquiry that challenges the community to continually repurpose itself by building on the district's core values and beliefs about the preferred future and then developing a vision.

Standard 2 - The superintendent supports and builds a system committed to shared values and beliefs focused on teaching and learning where performance gaps are systematically eliminated over time and each student graduates from high school college-and-career ready.

Standard 4 - The superintendent ensures the district is a professional learning community with processes and systems in place that result in recruitment, induction, support, evaluation, development and retention of a high-performing, diverse staff. The superintendent uses distributed leadership to support learning and teaching, plans professional development, and engages in district leadership succession planning.

NEW BUSINESS

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AN SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the following new business items were approved:

1. 1st reading of the 2021 Policy and Procedure updates. Proposed changes reflect the new legal requirements as well as "best" practice recommendations from KSBA.
2. Second reading of KSBA policies:
 - 09.21 – Health Requirements and Services
 - 09.211 – Health Care Examination
3. Change the working session scheduled for October 13, 2021, to October 6, 2021.

1256 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

TRASH BASH

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON, the board agreed to donate up to \$1,000 to the trash bash event for this school year.

1257 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

Ken Rehtin was present to thank the board for their support. They will be discussing Covid regulations at the next meeting. It is possible the event could be postponed.

He also said he appreciates the discussion regarding setting tax rates.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

1258 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

Chairman

Secretary