



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss several items of importance and approve new business items.

### **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, Aaron Sutherland, and Sylvia Covington.

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

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Atkins Principal at Newport Primary School, was in attendance to review winter MAP scores. There were no advisory council members in attendance due to prior obligations.

NPS showed growth from fall MAP to winter with greater gains in projected math scores. He highlighted grades where growth was over 100. Mr. Atkins discussed concerns with reading and outliers which will entail individual talks with teachers. Moving forward they plan to continue analyzing all data by teacher, by student and by program, focus on reading using Wonders as their core resource, analyze Tier II and Tier III data, and possible scheduling changes. Spring MAP is scheduled mid to late April. Mr. Atkins is hopeful there will be more gains with the current plans for improvement.

Ms. Covington asked if NPS students start their day with reading. Mr. Atkins said the first 20 minutes at NPS is a review of expected behaviors and an overview of the day. 2<sup>nd</sup> graders go to math class after that and Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade go to reading.

Dr. Smith-Morrow asked Mr. Atkins if he felt they have sufficient time between now and April to see gains in the growth scores based on the stated changes for improvement. Mr. Atkins felt this was possible.

Mr. Maines introduced Katie Chalfant and Rose Curtin; two members of his advisory council. He then presented his winter MAP data. He also highlighted grades where growth was over 100 and 150. Scores in reading improved more than math during this testing period. Mr. Maines is also focusing on the Wonders reading program. He has hired a new instructional coach whose main work is centered on improving reading and writing scores. With Ms. Payne's math background and with the help of our KDE partners, Mr. Maines feels he has a solid plan in place for improvement. He will be training his teachers on the Wonders reading program this summer but for now he is utilizing his instructional coach in the area of reading. He also reiterated many of the same improvement strategies mentioned by Mr. Atkins.

Mr. Sutherland would like data to be projected on a screen or shared using handouts for guests so that everyone understands what is being discussed during the data presentations.

Ms. Curtin said she has three children in the district and said COVID has really interfered with her children's educational experience. She was very happy to hear the cafeteria has been re-opened to pre-pandemic times and that the district is returning to a regular schedule of instruction. She feels normalcy is the right step for students to experience success at school.

Ms. Covington asked if reading and math was just presented in electronic form? Both are presented electronically and by using textbooks.

### **IMPACT KENTUCKY WORKING CONDITIONS SURVEY DATA**

Mr. Watts addressed the IMPACT study results. His presentation covered:

- Statewide results – low overall
- Newport's scores may be lower because of we've introduced new expectations
- The results regarding diversity reflect the need for the new diversity position Mr. Watts would like the board to create.
- The results from the emotional and well-being questions reflect the state of our teachers post-COVID.
- Feedback and coaching are a concern with an average of only 38% of teachers feeling they are receiving needed support.
- Managing student behavior is an area of concern. Newport's average was 41% approval compared to the state average of 65%.
- Individualize PD was very low at 23%
- Newport's average for school climate is 34% compared to the state average of 60%.

Ms. Malone asked when the results would be shared with teachers. Mr. Watts said that has already happened. She asked if the district has prioritized what items need to be addressed right away. That has been addressed and will continue to be a topic of conversation with the principals and district administration.

Ms. Sheffel said that answering questions on a survey could differ from one day to the next based on how people feel on any given day.

Mr. Sutherland said while we can make excuses for MAP data or IMPACT study data, be it COVID or a lot of new changes, Newport consistently scores low. While we cannot control everything, we can control leadership. Have we asked why climate is so bad? What can we do to make things better? Perhaps a survey asking that question would be beneficial.

Dr. Smith-Morrow agreed with Mr. Sutherland. Districts throughout the state have faced the same conditions as Newport. We have to make sure we are not making excuses for these scores but look at how or what is causing the teachers to feel the way they do and what can be done to improve the situation.

### **DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY**

Mr. Watts attended a session on this program at the KSBA Annual Conference. He is making plans to increase the number of Newport children enrolled in this program. There are many opportunities:

- Work with NPS to make sure families receive the information for their preschoolers
- Distribute flyers
- Table at open houses this fall
- Create a partnership with hospitals and pediatric offices
- Table at upcoming events

- Summer registration opportunity at NPS and NIS
- Ms. Malone suggested going out to the neighborhood community centers

### **SOUTHGATE STREET SCHOOL**

Ms. Malone wanted to keep this project on everyone's radar. What does a partnership look like between the district and Southgate Street School? What is the city's vision? Mr. Voelker is working with the city attorney on the deed.

Mr. Sutherland thought it would be good to have a future board meeting at the Southgate Street School. Ms. Malone agreed and said the board had plans to conduct meetings at different schools before the pandemic. She suggested we talk about adding this to the calendar again.

### **NEWPORT EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

Ms. Malone asked Mr. Sutherland if he had heard back from the committee member he suggested be appointed to the foundation board. Messages have been left and he has not heard back. He would like another opportunity to try to reach him again. If there is no response, the board should move to appoint someone else. Dr. Smith-Morrow's recommendation has accepted the appointment.

Dr. Smith-Morrow has been reviewing the by-laws and asked if the language about the process to appoint committee members needed to be more specific. Mr. Voelker reviewed the current language and said the language is okay as written. Mr. Voelker suggested that the board set up a special meeting of the foundation prior to a regular board meeting to officially appoint the remaining members.

### **FUNDS FROM MILDRED DEAN**

After discussion, the board asked Ms. Hoover to present a recommendation to the board at the March meeting regarding the threshold she feels is sufficient to move funds from the restricted accounts without board approval when necessary. There is an expectation that the funds be moved back into the account when possible.

Mr. Sutherland suggested the board look at moving the funds being held from the sale of properties to a higher interest-bearing account.

### **SCHOOLCASH PROGRAM AND CONTRACT APPROVAL**

School Cash is an easy to use and safe way to pay for a student's school fees, yearbooks, class trips, technology fees, or athletic fees and much more online. The benefits include:

- Increased efficiency in processing deposits, purchases orders, and checks for school bookkeepers.
- Internal audits completed by district staff can be completed more efficiently through enhanced reporting capabilities.
- Ability to pay online for yearbooks, NHS spirit store, sporting events, dances, etc.
- Online donations to the district and education foundation can be accepted and receipts automatically sent to donors.
- User-friendly interface for parents and the public.
- Compliance with all Kentucky Redbook guidelines.
- Increase efficiency in GASB 84 year-end processes.
- Integration with Infinite Campus and MUNIS.
- Extremely positive reviews from other KY Finance Officers

The annual software fee is \$5,600 and a one-time implementation fee of \$800. Ms. Malone asked about the automatic annual renewal. Ms. Hoover said she is preparing a spreadsheet with all contract information including expiration dates for tracking purposes. This will help prevent a renewal without our knowledge.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Change order for Newport flooring – 2022
2. Revised BG-1 for Newport flooring – 2022
3. Change order for Newport marquees
4. Owner/Contractor Contract – NHS and NIS Flooring
5. MOA with NKU Young Scholars Academy
6. Quote from Candace Hardin for presenting 2 workshops at the Parent University scheduled for April 23, 2022
7. 2021-22 amended school calendar

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

1299 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Ms. Hoover asked if the board wanted to approve the School Cash program this evening or if they wanted to wait until later this month. After discussing the additional fee of 4% + .10 per item, the board agreed to approve the program.

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the board approved the School Cash program.

1300 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

1301 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

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Chairman

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Secretary