



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 5:00 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8th Street, Newport. Purpose: New Business

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, 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.

TAX RATE DISCUSSION

Ms. Malone turned the floor over to Superintendent Watts. Mr. Watt's recommendation to the board is that the 4% tax rate be adopted. Due to the increase in real estate values, the district can actually adopt this rate and lower the current tax rate. The following is a list of future expenditures that support this request:

- Future salaries need to stay competitive in order to retain current employees and to aide in future recruits.
- Estimated \$58,000,000 in facility construction projects with one of the most urgent ones being the football stadium.
- Increasing costs as we promote the Young Scholars Program and the expenses that accompany this program.
- Academic and attendance incentive programs.
- Loss of student enrollment and SEEK funding
- Expanding the CTE program to include culinary. While the district did receive a \$2M grant for construction costs, with the rising costs of materials, this amount most likely will not cover this renovation.
- Expanding the tuition reimbursement program to include teachers who want to receive an additional leadership certification.

Based on the recommendation of the superintendent, the board agreed to set a tax rate hearing for August 31st.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

Mr. Watts shared the following with the board:

- The year's theme song – History by Michael Jackson
- Opening day for staff on Monday, August 8 and district PD for all staff on Wednesday, August 10 with Larry Bell. Both great days with staff; first time since Mr. Watts has been superintendent due to COVID.
- Performance testing on the stadium will take place mid-September. Results should be reported in October.
- The Westside Coalition is sponsoring a cookout for Newport residents at Burnette-Watkins Park on Saturday, August 20th. The district will participate in this event from 10:00 – 2:00.
- *Men Making a Difference* is the title given to the volunteer men's group formed to be a presence at the high school. The focus of this group is to be a good role model for students, especially for young men who may be missing a positive male role model in their life. They may help mentor students, help with homework, or fill a need building administration may find their services useful for. Hopefully, we can expand this program to the intermediate school in the future.
- Presenting at East Row neighborhood meeting on September 6. Dr. Smith-Morrow will work on getting Mr. Watts on the agenda at both the Westside Coalition and Clifton Neighborhood meetings.
- Vision statement
- PPT video to support the strategic plan's expectations.

Ms. Covington asked how home visit day went with the rain? She asked if a survey will be sent to parents for feedback. The day was a success, with follows-up continuing thru September. A survey will be given for feedback from parents.

Ms. Malone congratulated Mr. Sutherland on his recent op-ed article in the River City News regarding charter schools.

DATA REVIEW – DPP

Ms. Stewart shared a PPT presentation with the board on the following data points:

1. Transient data
2. Accountability data
3. Missing children
4. Gender, race/ethnicity, McKinney Vento
5. Student's Voice survey
6. Kentucky Incentives for Prevention Survey
7. Actions

After Ms. Stewart's presentation, the board agreed this information should be shared and discussed further when they meet back with the education task force. The board discussed different forums for the next meeting with the task force that included a town hall meeting with a moderator, just a small group that included the task force, the board, and district-wide administration, or inviting the city's neighborhood groups together. Mr. Watts has a meeting on Thursday with KDE to discuss this and ask for feedback.

Ms. Covington asked if the district still works with the Pritchard Committee. Currently, the district is only working with the Pritchard Committee to secure our Family Friendly Certification.

Ms. Hoover added that she found about a ½ million dollars incorrectly coded to administration instead of student tech. Those numbers will be updated and reported correctly moving forward.

EDUCATION FOUNDATION UPDATE

Ms. Hoover updated the board on the following:

- Balance in the foundation is currently \$289,958
- Chester Davis account is down due to decline in stock market
- 2 new donors – Mark Minton and River City Metals
- Next steps: determine language for dispersing funds from the Chester Davis Scholarship Fund; should criteria be based on GPA, completed hours, cumulative GPA? Right now, the language is vague making it difficult to know the direction the board would like these funds given out.
- Should we include career trades in the Chester Davis Scholarship Fund distribution?

The board asked Ms. Hoover to present her recommendations at the next meeting.

Changing the language in the current tuition reimbursement agreements was discussed. These changes included:

- Repayment options
- Interest on unpaid balances
- Waiting period before entering into an agreement
- Limiting program to BloomBoard option only.

The board asked Ms. Hoover to make a recommendation on language changes to the agreements and present them at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW item 3 will be tabled. Mr. Voelker will make the requested changes and present the amendment again at the August regular meeting.

1338 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

1. Membership dues for superintendent to join the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE).
2. Approve expenses for the board and superintendent to attend the following meetings and conferences:
 - KSBA Fall Regional Meeting – September 6, 2022
 - COSSBA Symposium – September 8-9, 2022
 - KSBA Winter Symposium – December 9-10, 2022
 - NABSE Annual Conference – December 1-4, 2022
3. ~~Amend contract for superintendent to cover counsel if a conflict exists.~~

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON items 1-2 were approved as presented.

1339 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

1340 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

Chairman

Secretary