



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport.

### **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.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Newport Independent School District will partner with families and the community to nurture, educate, and instill core values in all students to ensure they reach their fullest potential.

### **NHS INTERVENTION OVERVIEW**

Ms. Steidel-Jones presented the following:

Utilizing RIT scores in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade helps to identify students who need intervention in math and reading. The RIT score identifies the student's level or skill set they are currently performing at. The programs being used for intervention are as follows:

1. IXL – Math
2. Reading Plus

Students receive 50 minutes of grade level core instruction each day in reading and math along with an additional 47 minutes of intervention. IXL aligns with MAP and creates an instructional pathway for the teacher to assist each student where they are.

Ms. Malone asked if everyone was familiar with a RIT score. Ms. Steidel-Jones explained that MAP Growth uses the RIT (Rasch Unit) scale to help measure and compare academic achievement and growth. The scale measures levels in academic difficulty. The RIT scale extends equally across all grades, making it possible to compare a student's score at various points throughout their education.

Mr. Sutherland asked how often Ms. Ball and Ms. Steidel-Jones are at the high school. Ms. Ball explained they are there almost daily and she went on to explain that their duty was to support the school leadership team and the school leadership team was responsible for supporting teachers. The school leadership team consists of the principal, the assistant principal, school counselors, and instructional coaches.

Ms. Malone asked if the schedule allows teachers time to spend with students who are proficient and distinguished.

9<sup>th</sup> grade students receive 47 minutes of intervention during 1<sup>st</sup> period daily. Ms. Schultz works with high performers and Ms. Johnson works with the lower performing students.

10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students receive 30 minutes of intervention time daily based on CERT scores. CERT assessments mimic SAT and ACT tests in timing, questions, content, etc. The results allow everyone to know the exact needs of individual students as they pursue College Readiness.

9<sup>th</sup> grade students can take a mock ACT test 3 times a year. The results of the tests will guide intervention groups. 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders have an opportunity to take the ACT 2 times per year.

Tim Grayson, Principal at NHS, said the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program is being utilized for intervention after school. They are working with IXL and Reading Plus also.

Ms. Malone asked about the behavior of students when they are behind. Mr. Grayson said they have less behavior issues this year but they are working on the culture in the building and utilizing immediate awards for good faith effort.

### **CSI INFORMATION**

Superintendent Watts shared the following information regarding CSI:

- A school is selected for CSI if they are in the bottom 5% of the state. A school can get out of CSI status as soon as they are out of the bottom 5%. It is no longer two consecutive years.
- There will be a school audit and a district audit on January 30 – February 2. Interviews will be scheduled with students, parents, teachers, district leaders, and board members individually.
- Surveys will be sent out to parents, teachers, and students for the audit. A 30% participation rate will be needed to make the data reliable. Surveys for teachers and students can be accomplished quite easily. Getting parents to respond to a survey is more difficult.
- We will have to upload evidence in the workspace to show the work what we are doing
- After the audit the board will have 15 days to choose a turnaround team. Mr. Watts will be recommending we use KDE
- We will have 45 days after the audit to submit a turnaround plan. We will get some additional funding to help with the turnaround efforts.

Ms. Malone suggested we come up with some creative and helpful ways to assist parents in completing the survey.

### **BOOK BAN GUIDANCE**

- Mr. Watts confirmed that our library does have the books in question by Ms. Eads at the last meeting.
- Librarians are charged with providing a collection of books that represent the diverse characteristics, such as ethnicity, race, background, and identity of our student population.
- Librarians use selection guides to help them decide what materials to purchase. Some resources include a booklist, book links, library service to children reading lists, to name a few. They also talk to other media specialist before making decisions.
- All books should be labelled by grade and age level
- If a student wants to read a book that is above their grade level they must get a permission slip signed by a parent
- There is a policy at the school for anyone to challenge a book.

- Teachers review all books that are controversial. There are multiple websites they use to get multiple reviews.
- Parent always has the right to restrict their child from reading any material in the library

### **NCERT UPDATE**

- The district will be looking a virtual reality platform (Prisms) to teach math called. Students have a VR headset on and have to solve a real-world math problem. There is a meeting schedule with the company next week to get more information and to see if this is something we think will work for our students.
- Ludlow Independent School District partners with businesses in the city to give all staff members a discount if they show their staff ID. They currently use this as a retention effort . Mr. Watts is going to reach out to all the businesses in Newport to see if they would be interested in extending such an offer to our staff.
- Ludlow also starts school at 7:30 and ends at 3:30. This provides planning time for all meetings the first hour of the day and teachers get to leave every day at 3:30. This would take care of plan time, PLC time, and all meetings in the morning. Mr. Watts has already talked to cabinet about making this schedule change in the future.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the board approved an emergency teaching certificate for high school science.

1369 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the meeting adjourned. Time: 7:29 PM

1370 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

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Chairman

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Secretary