



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8th 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.

PRESENTATIONS

Keith Schneider from Square 1 was present to introduce an advanced learning opportunity for our students. Square 1 offers start up training for students to help uncover, educate, support, and inspire emerging entrepreneurs and leaders. They work with students to teach critical thinking, opportunity recognition, communication (networking and presenting), innovation, and help build confidence through real world experiences. Students have opportunities for internships, experiential learning, and the opportunities to interact with other entrepreneurs through Square 1 and their partners.

Square 1 awarded over \$600,000 in scholarship funds to Thomas More College in 2022. They have worked with over 2,400 local students since 2014 and over 700 students in 2022. They work with both Ohio and KY high school students

Square 1 representatives work with students 1-2 times a month. They focus on skills that motivate students to perform academically and prepare them for today's job market. Speakers and mentors teach real-world skills guiding students to challenge the status quo. The program allows students to meet and network with professionals breaking down socioeconomic barriers.

- Ms. Sheffel asked if Square 1 works strictly with schools. Mr. Schneider said they do work with organizations outside of school settings.
- Dr. Smith-Morrow asked who leads the workshops. Workshops are led by Mr. Schneider and other members his team – a lot of them entrepreneurs themselves.
- Ms. Malone asked how a school can participate. Mr. Schneider said he usually works with the superintendent and business teachers and sometimes the FBLA students to design a program for the school.

- Dr. Smith-Morrow asked about cost and the number of students who can participate. The program is funded thru donations and grants. The minimum number of students they like to start the program with is 6.

The board thanked Mr. Schneider for attending the meeting and presenting this opportunity for our students.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

There were no comments.

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 26, 2022 REGULAR MEETING & NOVEMBER 2, 2022 SPECIAL MEETING

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

1371 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

1372 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

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

1373 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Ms. Hoover also provided the following for the board's review:

- Credit card expenditures
- Administrator expense report
- Monthly financial report

STUDENT SUPPORT AND LEARNING SERVICES

The superintendent updated the board on the following:

- Recognition to NPS upon being named one of 35 schools in the Commonwealth as a "Family Friendly School" – Schools were nominated by members of the Kentucky Collaborative for Families and Schools sponsored by the Prichard Committee. The purpose of the Network is to improve family and school partnerships in KY schools by building the capacity of school leadership to understand and implement more effective family engagement best practices.
- Northern KY Superintendents met with the NKU Board of Regents regarding charter schools. The Board of Regents will be meeting on December 13 to vote on charter school authorization.

The curriculum department presented their written report. Their report covered:

- 22-23 Comprehensive Improvement Planning Timeline for Districts and Schools
- 22-23 New Teacher Induction program
- Federal funding update

- ESSER Funding

Ms. Ball shared a culinary arts career pathway fact sheet with the board. The information covered:

- School information –
 - 7 students were enrolled in the food and beverage industry pathway at NHS for the 21-22 SY. Starting with the 2024 SY – Culinary Arts 1 course will be offered.
 - River City Schools do not offer culinary arts or any option related to this industry sector.
- Northern KY and Statewide Information – funding made available thru Better KY funding from the Office of the Governor (still requires 10% match)
 - The food and beverage industry is booming in Commonwealth
 - KY ranks 6th in the number of farms – working farms used to produce raw materials for food and beverage industry.
 - KY is in an ideal location for distribution and more companies are expanding to KY
 - NKY is already home to Wild Flavors (flavors for beverages), Perfetti (Mentos & Airheads), and a division of Keebler (fudge stripe cookies).
- Chart of potential culinary career paths.

The following concerns/questions were expressed regarding the culinary pathway:

- Will students from other schools have an opportunity to participate in this pathway. Ms. Ball said we would be looking for in-kind services with other districts;
- Concerns were expressed about the cost of the program;
- What other schools currently have a culinary program? Jessamine County in KY and one school in Ohio were mentioned;
- Can industry certifications be obtained thru the culinary pathway?
- How will this pathway affect staffing? The district would probably need to add a position. They hope to work with restaurant partners also.
- If we scrap this program, can the money we received from the Office of Governor be used for a different pathway? Unsure at this time but can find out;
- How many grants were awarded? 6 grants were awarded totally over \$13,000,000.
- A local chef lives in the EastRow that might be a potential partner.
- Local career centers that have culinary programs is Cincinnati State and Scarlet Oaks.

The board received the Student Services/DPP report. Her report covered:

- November enrollment
- Student services updates

Ms. Stewart reminded the audience and board about the upcoming Evening of Hope event scheduled for Thursday, November 17 at 6:30 PM at Notre Dame Academy in Park Hills.

Mr. Sutherland asked if we track reasons why students enroll in Newport Schools. Ms. Stewart said we do not track why students enroll but a lot of families are looking for a district to meet their child's needs. Smaller class sizes, dual credit, the YSA program, behavioral health services, and NSOI are all attractions for families. Dr. Smith-Morrow asked if the families from Victoria Square are finding suitable housing in Newport. Ms. Stewart said most are finding housing in Newport.

Mr. Maines presented his facilities, transportation, safe schools, and healthy at work report. Ms. Malone said it was an excellent report.

Ms. Sheffel asked how firm the new completion date of January 15th is for the primary cafeteria. If there are no more delays in receiving materials the date should be reliable. Students are currently having lunch in their classrooms.

Mr. Sutherland asked about the progress at the stadium. Mr. Maines said his crew continues to remove everything possible from the stadium in preparation for demolition. Bleachers have been removed and will be sold. Proceeds will be given to Ms. Hoover for deposit. Archives are being saved and will be given to the alumni association.

Ms. Malone asked that the district consider educating students on street safety. Mr. Maines said he would look into resources schools could use for this. Perhaps we can work with the city.

Ms. Swanson presented her report. Her report covered:

- The December 1 child count.
- Related service enrollments
- Alternate service location enrollment
- 504 programming rates
- District mental health programming report

On October 27, NIS sponsored the Healthy Family Fest from 5-7 PM. The event was hosted by the 21st Century Program and the FRYSC. Other departments who participated were EL, Special Education, and Brandy Mains, Mental Health Therapist at NIS

Mr. Sutherland asked if the district will be participating in the Special Olympics this year. Ms. Swanson said preparations have begun. She has received a grant to pay for two coaches.

Josh Snapp presented an update on the Newport School of Innovation. His report covered:

- Enrollment
- Graduation rate since opening in 2019
- Progress
- Programs being utilized
- Clubs/Events
- Initiatives pending superintendent and board approval
- Accountability
- Celebrations

The board thanked Mr. Snapp for the update and said the program is progressing as they had hoped it would.

Autumn Slankard, Instructional Coach at NPS, was present to update the board on MAP data. When comparing fall 2021 and fall 2022 reading data, there was improvement in all three grade levels. There is concern with the number of second graders still reading at novice level. Ms. Slankard said when students reach 2nd grade they are required to read the test for the first time by themselves. NPS plans to start having students read more of the test in the first grade which in turn will hopefully improve scores when they are required to read the entire test in 2nd grade. This was a challenge from Mr. Watts to the administrative team.

When comparing fall 2021 and fall 2022 math data, most areas saw improvement. The percentage of distinguished students improved significantly.

Gains were attributed to 100% fidelity of the curriculum resources provided. Wonders for reading and writing, Math in Focus, and iReady (personalized pathway and tools for instruction).

Ms. Slankard provided information on PLCs (Professional Learning Communities), data tracking, school to home collaboration, and coaching, feedback, and support.

Mr. Sutherland asked if data was compared for the same students from one grade level to the next. Ms. Payne said they are measuring systems and not students in transition.

Ms. Malone asked if the second-grade scores were low because they were not able to answer all the questions quick enough or was it more comprehension issues. Ms. Payne said it was both but iReady is equipped to identify and address each area.

Ms. Jennifer Michael, Principal at Newport Intermediate, shared working conditions survey results from last year's Impact Survey in November 2021 to September 2022:

- Educating all students – down this fall by 3.4%
- Emotional well-being and belonging – increase of 16% this fall.
- Feedback and coaching – increase of 27.1% this fall
- Managing student behavior – increase of 23.5% this fall
- Professional learning – increase of 18.9% this fall
- Resources – increase of 8.8% this fall
- School climate – increase of 14.9% this fall
- School leadership – increase of 21.6% this fall
- Staff leadership relationships – increase of 26.1% this fall

Mr. Grayson shared Impact scores from last year to this fall. The school showed improvement in nearly every area There was significant increases in:

- School improvement in the future;
- Support from school towards growth of teachers;
- Positive tone that school leaders set the culture of the school;
- For school leaders, how important is teacher satisfaction?
- How confident are you that your school leaders have the best interests of the school in mind?
- Are school leaders supportive?
- Do school leaders motivate you?
- Are you motivated to work with school leadership?
- Do school leaders care about you as an individual?
- How clearly do your school leaders identify their goals for teachers?

The high school has a new administrative team. Not everyone is receptive to change but so far there have been significant improvements in response to culture and climate. Out of school suspensions have been reduced, safe school data has improved, The BIC room is now someplace you no longer want to go. The administrative team is working on consistency to make the needed changes in their building. Ms. Sheffel said she would interested in seeing discipline data in the near future.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Before voting on the consent agenda, Mr. Sutherland asked if we have to name an architect for every big project? When was the last time we didn't choose Hayes and Associates? Ms. Malone said this is normal protocol. The last time the board went thru this process was probably 4 years ago. The district has always hired Hayes and Associates as our architects. They work with just about every school district around and have more school experience than other area firms. They have worked closely with KDE for years on numerous building projects and they know the process which keeps the district out of trouble. Newport's experience has always been a positive one and we've always felt Hayes works for our best interest in every situation.

Dr. Smith-Morrow supports Hayes and Associates for the stadium project. She is not ready to move forward with the culinary project. She would like more information before she would feel comfortable spending so much money on this pathway. She asked if the new business item should be revised?

The new business item included both projects because they were advertised together in the Request for Qualifications. We are not bound to either project by approving the architect.

1. Personnel report.
2. Excuse Ms. Covington from the October 26 regular meeting
3. 2022 Section 504 Procedures update
4. Change order #4 – NPS alarm system, renovation of cafeteria, kitchen, and gymnasium.
5. Award Ehmet Hayes and Associates architect of record for the high school culinary and stadium projects.

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SMITH-MORROW consent agenda items 1-5 were approved as presented.

1374 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

BOARD COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

As the board representative on the calendar committee, Ms. Sheffel asked board members if they would be comfortable with being presented with one calendar option to approve instead of three, as in the past. Since the calendar is chosen based on committee, staff and parent input, Ms. Malone said she is fine being presented with just the option recommended by the committee.

Ms. Malone announced that due to Dr. Smith-Morrow being elected to serve as a Newport City Commissioner, she will be resigning from her seat on the board effective December 21, 2022. Ms. Malone read the letter of resignation submitted by Dr. Smith-Morrow:

JULIE ANN SMITH-MORROW, PHD

306 East 4th Street, Newport, KY 41071 | 513-237-3302 | julie.smithmorrow@gmail.com

16 November 2022

Ramona Malone
Chairperson, Board of Education
Newport Independent Schools
30 West 8th Street
Newport, KY 41071

Dear Ramona Malone:

I submit this letter to you Madam Chair and to my valued colleagues on the Newport Board of Education. Please accept this letter as formal notification that I am resigning from my position as Board Member on the Newport Board of Education. My resignation is necessary now because Newport voters elected me on 8 November 2022 to the position of Commissioner with the City of Newport, and I will assume duties as Commissioner on 1 January 2023. Therefore, my resignation from the Board of Education will be effective at 11:59 pm on 21 December 2022.

I have had the wonderful opportunity to serve as an elected member of this Board of Education for the past fifteen years. It has been my honor to work with my board colleagues, our superintendents, teachers, and staff on behalf of all our students and their families. Together we have provided strong support and excellent opportunities for all Newport children to learn. I am incredibly proud of our shared work and grateful to all of you.

I wish Newport Independent Schools continued progress and much success in educating our children and helping them believe in themselves. Know that I will be a constant advocate and partner for our schools in my role as a Newport Commissioner.

Sincerely,


Julie Ann Smith-Morrow, PhD

On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND Dr. Smith-Morrow's resignation was accepted.

1375 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

There was discussion regarding when the new appointee would have to run for Julie's unexpired term. We will consult with KSBA and our board attorney. Appropriate letters will be mailed out as soon as possible and an advertisement will be placed in the paper announcing the vacancy and how to apply for the open seat per Board Policy 01.3 Board Vacancy.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY SMITH-MORROW AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the meeting adjourned. Time:
9:07 PM

1376 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary