



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8th Street, Newport.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ramona Malone asked for a roll call. The following were present: Ramona Malone, Melissa Sheffel, Sylvia Covington, Aaron Sutherland, and Tim Curl

Ms. Malone asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance and to 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.

RECOGNITIONS

Students of the Month:

NPS – Jelani Arnold
NIS – Joseph Guaman
NHS – Sofia Ramirez

Employees of the Month:

NPS – Maggie Whitfield
NIS – Stephanie Abney and Stephanie Braden
NHS – Bri Cook

The following students were recognized for being part of the Newport Snow Cats:

- Jamari Okunuga
- Kalyn McFarland
- Tenashia Taylor
- Zachary Howard
- Chyanne Hunter
- Autumn Ingguls
- Madison Ledbetter
- Ricky Thomlinson
- Kelsey Turner
- Marty Varias

Students who participated in the 2023 Winter Special Olympics:

- Chyanne Hunter – 10 M glide
- Madison Ledbetter – 20 M glide
- Zachary Howard – Silver for Beginner Giant Slalom M03 Division
- Ricky Thomlinson – Silver for Beginner Giant Slalom M01 Division
- Autumn Ingguls - Silver for Beginner Giant Slalom F10 Division
- Marty Varias – Gold for Intermediate/Advance Giant Slalom M04 Division

Mr. Watts then recognized Ms. Ramona Malone on achieving her Level 1 Academy of Studies certificate and Ms. Melissa Sheffel on achieving her Level IV Academy of Studies certificate from KSBA.

The board took a 10-minute break to greet tonight's guests.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Dewey Estep, Secretary of the Westside Coalition, addressed the board regarding any future IRB requests that may come before the board from Sunset Property Solutions. The Westside Coalition is asking the board not to approve any IRB requests from Sunset based on past experiences with this company; i.e. Victoria Square Apartments. He invited everyone to attend the next neighborhood meeting scheduled on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 for more information and further discussion.

MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2023 AND FEBRUARY 8, 2023

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the minutes were approved as presented.

1410– MOTION CARRIED 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

Paul Maddox, CPA, Maddox & Associates, was present to review the annual financial audit with the board.

The district received a clean opinion on the financial statements, internal controls, and compliance. Management comments were made regarding the high school activity fund. Mr. Maddox said this is not unusual. Most districts do have comments with school activity accounts. His report also covered:

- Liabilities
- Revenue
- Expenditures

Mr. Sutherland asked if the funds received from IRBs was reflected in taxes or other revenue. Mr. Maddox said those funds are reflected in taxes.

There were no other questions. The board thanked Mr. Maddox for his work and his audit report.

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the financial statement was accepted and will be filed for audit and the bills were approved for payment.

1411 – 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

Mr. Watts asked Mike Hunter to address the board regarding the request for funding a soccer league at NPS.

Mr. Hunter said he was approached by Ms. Whitfield, the PE teacher at NPS, asking the board to fund a beginning soccer league at the primary level. This league would give coaches an opportunity to teach students the rules of the game as well as how to play the game. Teams would practice on Saturday mornings and then play a short game after practice. Kindergarten thru second grade students will be invited to participate at the small baseball field by Newport High School.

Mr. Hunter reminded the board that their efforts to have a soccer team a few years ago at the high school level failed. The goal is to build a successful program starting with our younger students so that one day we can field a high school team again.

Mr. Watts said he will be asking the board to approve hiring a secretary at the primary school for the remainder of the school year. The office has been running with one secretary most of the year but things are starting to back-up and the busiest time of the year is approaching so another set of hands will help alleviate a lot of stress in the front office.

Ms. Payne addressed the board regarding the MOU with Covington Partners.

In an effort to reverse learning loss during the pandemic, the Horizon Community Funds of Northern KY established the NKY Student Success Fund.

A task force was created to research and recommend the effective use of monies in the fund. The task force conducted a survey from 10 schools in Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties to identify the most important or underfunded educational programming needs for elementary students (K-5). The two highest areas of need were identified as family engagement programs and before and after school programs.

Based on that input, the task force researched effective programs in KY and nationally and initiated discussions with Covington Partners. Horizon and Covington Partners agreed to a pilot program between Newport schools and the NKY Student Success Fund to help increase the academic performance of elementary students.

The goals, objectives, and the timeframe for implementation of the pilot were reviewed with the board by Stacie Strotman, Executive Director. Horizon Community Funds will sponsor all funding for this program.

Ms. Malone asked about the impact of the program with Covington schools. Ms. Strotman said they have seen tremendous results. Students participating in WIN time (What I Need) are growing at a higher rate than students not participating. Students participating in summer programs are seeing less summer slide. Ms. Sheffel wanted to confirm that all costs for the 3-year program is funded by Horizon and there is no cost to the district at all. Ms. Strotman confirmed this.

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

- Title I update
- NHS Senior Roundup
- NEW Teacher Induction Program
- ACCESS assessment for ELL

Ms. Malone asked who monitors the senior roundup from the district level. Ms. Steidel-Jones said Rachel Ball has been overseeing this event. Ms. Ball has arranged for outside individuals to come in and work with students on resumes, job interview skills, and learning the basics of filling out job applications. They have put a lot of planning into these three days to make it a good learning experience for our students.

DPP/Student Services update:

- Enrollment
NPS – 387
NIS – 384
NHS – 563
NSOI – 59
- NTI day – January 31, 2023
- Board action item – 23/24 calendar
- Student services update

Ms. Covington asked where students are coming from that attend the school of innovation besides Newport. Ms. Stewart reported we have a student from Boone County and another one from the northeast part of the country.

Ms. Covington also asked if we have a high population of adopted and foster children and if we still collaborate with the Head Start program. The preschool director is Nichole Hayden and she does work closely with the Head Start program to transition students to school.

NPS has sponsored the Bornlearning Academy for several years now. Ms. Malone asked if we track the students coming out of the program as they progress through school. Ms. Stewart said she would check with Ms. Wesley. There were 128 participants in the January workshop and 114 in the February workshop.

Mr. Maines presented his facilities, transportation, safe schools, and healthy at work report. Mr. Maines reported we now have occupancy of both the cafeteria and kitchen at NPS. Work is continuing but the end is near. Roof top air-conditioning units for the cafeteria and gym will be craned into place over spring break.

Active Supervision and Gatekeeper training took place on February 15 in all schools. Dan Orman, KCSS will attend the March work session to share a snapshot of the reports from the safety assessment.

Phase 1 of the athletic complex is on pace. On February 6 a Zoom meeting was held to discuss moving forward with the culinary project at NHS. The steam boiler at the Welcome Center continues to be an on-going maintenance issue.

Ms. Covington said she rode by NPS the other night and the lighting is beautiful. Mr. Sutherland asked about using Newport's beautification committee to help with some landscaping in the area. Mr. Maines has talked to them and they have offered to help with the areas at the primary school.

Ms. Swanson presented her report. Her report covered:

- Snow Cats Ski Team
- Special Education Services update
- 504 Programming rates
- District Mental Health Programming

Ms. Malone thanked Lisa and Aaron for keeping the ski team alive. Aaron thanked the special education staff for all the hard work and Mr. Watts for supporting the endeavor. Ms. Swanson also gave credit to Ms. Kelly Grayson for handling all the paperwork and ordering all the supplies and uniforms.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Watts introduced Ms. Jacyn Harvill Greene who will be the student board representative for the remainder of the 22/23 SY.

NEW BUSINESS

Before moving to the consent agenda, Mr. Sutherland asked about the fee for the Council for Better Education to represent districts in its legal challenge of House Bill 9. Mr. Watts said districts are assessed \$1 per student – Newport’s assessment is \$1,358.00.

On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND amend #11 to include a \$1,000 limit to support the after- prom committee.

1412 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

1. Personnel report.
2. Staffing allocations 23/24 SY
3. FY22 Annual Financial Audit
4. 2nd reading of KSBA policy 01.4. Meetings
5. BG2 and BG3 NPS Roof
6. Construction documents for NPS roof
7. BG5 – NIS re-roofing project
8. BG5 – Emergency HVAC
9. BG4 – NPS and NIS Marquees
10. NPS Soccer League
11. Donation to the After-Prom Committee (\$1,000)
12. Fundraising request for NIS
13. IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Newport Board of Education authorizes Superintendent Tony Watts to take all necessary steps to support the Council for Better Education, Inc. (“CBE”), in its legal challenge to the unconstitutionality of House Bill 9, and the payment of any appropriate dues or assessments related to this school district’s membership in CBE or its support of the referenced legal challenge.
14. MOU with Covington Partners for the NKY Student Success Initiative Pilot
15. 23/24 school calendar
16. Hire school secretary for the primary school thru the remainder of the 22/23 SY

On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL consent agenda items 1-16 were approved as presented.

1413 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

BOARD COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Malone thanked the members of the Westside Coalition for attending tonight’s meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the meeting adjourned. Time: 7:56 PM

1414 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary