



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, March 8, 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, and Tim Curl

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

DAN ORMAN, KY CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY

Mr. Orman presented the school safety assessment for both the high school and the intermediate school. Team findings were based on data provided and individual observations made during a one-day time frame. Surveys were completed by staff, students, and parents. A total of 846 surveys were completed and 252 interviews took place between the two schools.

The high school report covered:

1. Review of the Newport Independent School District and the Newport High School websites;
2. Review of the Newport Independent School District Student Code of Acceptable Conduct;
3. Review of Newport High School discipline data;
4. Review of the Newport High School Emergency Plan;
5. Observed supervision practices and procedures during morning arrival, lunch supervision, class changes and afternoon dismissal;
6. A physical plant walk-through;
7. Results of a safe schools' survey for students, staff and parents;
8. Interviews with students, staff and parents.

Areas of mutual concern and consideration

1. Perception of inconsistent rule enforcement;
2. Supervision of students;
3. Vaping;
4. Bullying/cyber-bullying;
5. Staff morale;
6. Lack of staff-student connectivity;
7. Fighting;
8. Inconsistent wearing of staff ID badges;
9. Parent notification for emergency response/reunification;
10. Emergency drill procedures.

The intermediate school report covered:

1. Emergency Operations Plan for Newport Intermediate School;
2. The Newport Intermediate School staff handbook;
3. The Newport Intermediate School webpage;
4. Observed supervision practices and procedures during morning bus duty, lunch supervision, and class changes;
5. A physical plant walk-through;
6. Results of a safe schools' survey for students, staff, and parents;
7. Interviews with students, staff, and parents.

Areas of concern and considerations:

1. Building access control/visitor protocol;
2. Communication to parents on reunification/emergency procedures;
3. Inadequate/insufficient supervision of students;
4. Signage.

Active supervision and Gatekeeping training took place in all school during the month of February. The KCSS reports noted active supervision to be deficient in both schools, pointed out areas of concern, and recommended considerations to address this.

Mr. Curl asked what specific supervision issues were expressed by staff and students. Mr. Orman directed Mr. Curl to the report for specifics but some concerns were in the cafeteria, restrooms, stairwells, and playground.

Ms. Malone said as we strive to create a culture of success, active supervision and safety plays into that. These are things teachers are not taught in school; they must be trained on the job. She thanked Mr. Orman for the reports and his continued support and training.

NIS UPDATE

Ms. Jennifer Michael, Principal at NIS, was present to update the board on MAP data for students in grades 3-6. Ms. Michael reviewed math data pointing out scores are not where they need to be. Sixth grade math data shows 59% of students are two or more grades behind in this subject area. Reading scores have improved since it has been a focus area for them.

There is still work to be done to help students reach grade level work but some areas of improvements are:

- Focusing on proficiency compared to growth;
- NIS has implemented individual coaching during PLCs with an emphasis on data and scaffolding instruction;
- Name and claiming individual students;
- Intrinsic motivation groups provided by counselors;
- Awarding good faith effort;
- Exposing 5th and 6th graders to a whole group testing environment;
- Forming Tier III groupings based on iReady, and,
- Tier II groups are being more intentional and focused on grade level deficits.

Ms. Malone asked if teachers are familiar with students' home life. Ms. Michael said they try not to focus as much on home life. When a student enters the school, they want to concentrate on a positive learning environment for each child. While home life cannot be totally ignored we cannot use that as an excuse not push our students to their fullest potential. It is a change in mindset.

The WIN (What I Need) afterschool program is very important for students who are behind. Teachers talk to parents about this and encourage them to send their child for this additional learning opportunity. The 21st Century Program is also working with parents so they can help their students at home. Parent involvement is a vital piece for a student's success.

TRAVEL

The board reviewed the current expense reimbursement policies for certified and classified staff. After discussion, the board decided to update meal reimbursements and added high cost reimbursement rates for those who travel to areas of the country that charge more than what our regular reimbursement rates might cover.

Regular reimbursement rates will be: Breakfast \$15.00, Lunch \$20, Dinner \$30
High cost areas: Breakfast \$20, Lunch \$25, Dinner \$35

We will look at KDE's travel policy to identify the high costs areas they recognize for the higher reimbursement rates.

Ms. Sheffel asked who is in charge of making decisions on who travels for professional development? Mr. Watts says he approves travel. Ms. Sheffel said over the years the district has paid a lot of money for employees to attend conferences or been afforded professional development opportunities only to have them resign and take their knowledge with them. She feels we need to put some limitations in place to control travel.

Ms. Malone would like the board to have more oversight on travel also. If someone is attending a mandatory training, the board does not need to approve it. If a training or conference is optional, she would like it to come before the board. The board has a fiduciary responsibility to make sure money is being spent wisely and that the students are direct beneficiaries of any conference or PD that is being attended.

APPLE LEASE PROPOSAL

Rusty Adams, Director of Technology, presented a proposal to the board for a new lease with Apple to update MacBook's and iPad's districtwide. Our last payment was made under the current lease this year but that also means the AppleCare warranty coverage expired. The devices do have useful life left, but it is no longer cost-effective to repair them. He is recommending the board enter into a new lease to maintain AppleCare coverage on all student devices. Bids for buyback of the retired devices will be obtained and the proceeds will be used to offset or possibly cover the first lease payment on the new agreement.

Mr. Adams is asking approval to move ahead with a 4-year lease that includes 700 MacBook Air laptops, 650 iPads, a protective case for each device and 4 years of AppleCare+. If the board agrees, the technology department can begin the required state approval process and prepare the waiver application needed to purchase the MacBook's to stay in alignment with state contract procurement rules. The paperwork process takes some time so he is asking now so that devices are in-hand by July 1 to prepare them for the upcoming school year.

The board agreed to the proposal. Action is not needed for the proposal but once the lease agreement is prepared, the board will be asked to approve the new lease.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the board went into executive session. KRS 61.810 (f) Personnel and KRS 61.810 (c) Litigation. Time: 8:02 PM

1419 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the board returned to open session. Time: 8:54 PM

1420 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY CURL the meeting adjourned. Time: 8:55 PM

1421 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

Chairman

Secretary