



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 26, 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.

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 – Gaddiel Macario-Pablo

NIS – Logen Sullivan

NHS – NA

Employees of the Month:

NPS – Haley Mavrolas and Haley Goldhahn

NIS – Nick Denham

NHS – Ryan Hahn

The NHS varsity basketball team was recognized for winning the 9th Region Championship for the 22/23 season and advancing to the state playoffs at Rupp Arena. The coaches are players are:

Rodney Snapp, Head Coach

Andrew Merrill, Asst. Coach

Eliot Pipes, Asst. Coach

Ethan Snapp, Asst. Coach

Phillip McDaniel, Jr., Asst. Coach

Cameron Carroll, Asst. Coach

Noah Raleigh, Team Manager

DaShawn Anderson

Jabari Covington

Keegan Farrell

Taylen Kinney

Kyle Lee

Adonaje Lowe

Amontae Lowe

Marquez Miller

Irvan Nichols

Noah Silverton

Rodizion Thompson

James Turner

Mr. Watts recognized Jennifer Steidel-Jones upon retiring from Newport effective April 30, 2023. Jennifer has been in education for 30+ years.

The board took at 10-minute break to welcome this evening's guests.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Ms. Karen Strayer addressed the board regarding SB 5. This bill deems material, events, or programs that are obscene, harmful to minors, or contains obscene imagery representing minors as educationally unsuitable; the bill will require districts to remove student access to materials, programs, or events deemed educationally unsuitable; modify the complaint and appeals timeline; provide that willful violation be basis for employee disciplinary action; require local boards of education to adopt policies to prevent educationally unsuitable material from being introduced into the school library or being on school property; require the Kentucky Department of Education to provide model policies to implement the provisions; and make technical corrections to conform.

Mirna Eads addressed the board on book challenges. Mr. Watts informed her that a complaint to the district would need to come from a Newport resident. She inquired about new policies regarding SB 5 and it was explained that KSBA will be updating all policies and procedures by the end of the May for local boards of education to approve, amend, or adopt as written. She shared explicit excerpts from current library books that she and many others feel is unsuitable for school-aged children. Ms. Malone said the high school has a procedure in place right now for checking out material that is not age appropriate, but will review all policies & procedures when received to make sure the district is in compliance.

MINUTES OF MARCH 22, 2023 AND APRIL 12, 2023

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the minutes were approved as presented.
1430 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the financial report was accepted and will be filed for audit.
1431 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the bills were approved for payment.
1432 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

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

- Credit card statement
- Administrator expense detail report
- Federal grant overview
- Monthly financial report

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Mr. Watts updated the board on the following legislative bills:

1. HB 5 – This bill allows an exemption of the property tax on distilled spirits stored or aging in barrels located in a bonded warehouse or premises; this may have a minor effect on the district since New Riff is located in Newport.
2. HB 32 – This bill allows for the hiring of classified personnel without a high school diploma or equivalent if the district provides the employee the opportunity to obtain a high school equivalency diploma at no cost to the employee.
3. SB 5 - This bill deems material, events, or programs that are obscene, harmful to minors, or contains obscene imagery representing minors as educationally unsuitable; the bill will require districts to remove student access to materials, programs, or events deemed educationally unsuitable; the bill modifies the

complaint and appeals timeline; provide that willful violation be basis for employee disciplinary action; requires local boards of education to adopt policies to prevent educationally unsuitable material from being introduced into the school library or being on school property; and requires the Kentucky Department of Education to provide model policies to implement the provisions; make technical corrections to conform.

4. SB 25 – relates to postsecondary readiness indicators for demonstrating career readiness. This bill provided clean-up language to clarify that earning a minimum of three (3) hours of dual credit or a minimum of three (3) hours of postsecondary articulated credit can be achieved by: 1. Successfully completing a career and technical education or general education dual credit course which is equivalent to a minimum of three (3) hours of college credit; or 2. Passing a CTE End-of-Program Assessment associated with an articulation agreement.
5. SB 150 – Section 1 - Schools and districts should be prepared to provide comprehensive notice of the health services and mental health services available to students upon enrollment. Additionally, schools should develop procedures for notifying families of referrals to health services or mental health services by a teacher.

Section 2 - The selection and usage of curriculum or programs on human sexuality or sexually transmitted diseases.

Section 3 - Requires local boards of education to adopt policies to “not allow students to use restrooms, locker rooms, or shower rooms that are reserved for students of a different biological sex”.

- Mr. Watts reported they are finishing up walk-throughs for this school year,
- Leaders will be presenting a lot of data at the May 10th work session.
- NWEA has requested an amendment to the contract with the district. They were unable to accomplish everything set out for year one so they are requesting an amendment to carry those in to year two.
- The Apple Lease was discussed previously at a meeting. This is the next step in the approval process for KDE so laptops can be ordered in a timely manner.
- The End of Year Celebration luncheon is scheduled for May 30 at 11:30. The event will be held at the high school.

Darla Payne presented the curriculum department report. Ms. Sheffel asked about the dates for state testing. May 8-25 is this year's testing window.

Ms. Malone asked if there would be pre and post assessments for summer school this year. Ms. Payne confirmed everything will be the same as the past couple of years.

Ms. Stewart presented the DPP and Student Services update. There were no questions. She also provided a copy of the 22/23 Phase Four Continuation of Learning Plan for Districts.

Mr. Maines presented the facilities, transportation and safe schools update. He shared a PPT presentation on the current safety measures utilized throughout the district. Mr. Maines also shared additional security measures he is looking in to; i.e. security film on windows to give school personnel more time to seek shelter from an intruder and allowing first responders more time to get to the scene. Mr. Maines showed a short video on how the use of this film on windows does buy time for school officials in these instances. Our current PA system has the capability of creating alarm sounds in the event of an emergency. He is currently investigating how we can use this technology to sound an alarm when a lock-down is necessary.

Ms. Swanson presented her update on special education services. Special education teachers will begin using TouchMath this fall. This is standards-based and aligned to current curriculum standards with a concentration of focus, coherence, application, and modeling within developmentally appropriate learning paths. The multisensory approach makes critical math concepts such as counting, working memory, and recognizing patterns appealing to young students. The program was funded with ESSER money.

Ms. Rizzo, Director of Food Service, presented her report. There were no questions.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel report.
2. Hire emergency certified substitute teachers for the 23/24 SY.
3. Master Lease Purchase Agreement with Apple
4. Surplus items:
 - 10 and 20 pan bun/sheet pan racks
 - Various cookware
 - Point of Sale stations
 - Various playground equipment
 - Junior Hockey Stick set
 - Volleyballs
 - Parachute

On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL consent agenda items 1-4 were approved as presented.

1433 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

BOARD COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Malone updated the board on her recent trip to the COSSBA conference. She shared a book written by Dr. Donna Beegle entitled If Not Me, Then Who? This is a book about poverty awareness.

She also attended a session about WSCC (Whole School, Whole Child and Whole Community) issued by the CDC some time ago. The presenters addressed how we put the WSCC model into action. She will discuss this more at the next work session.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the meeting adjourned. Time: 8:07 PM
1434 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

Chairman

Secretary