



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at Newport Primary School, 1102 York 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.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

This month's student and teacher of the month are:

NPS – Gabrielle Pawlaczyk, Teacher, and Thea Russell, Student

NIS – Sydney Ossege, Teacher, and Avery Schulte, Student

NHS – Adam Gillespie, Teacher, and Memory Crawford, Student

LacyAnn Howard was recognized for receiving the "Yes I Can" 2023 award from the KY Council for Exceptional Children in the category of art.

Haley Nordwick was recognized for being a Governor's Scholar recipient for 2023-2024.

Ms. Savannah O'Brien addressed the board regarding an opportunity to teach in Zanzibar during the summer of 2024. The opportunity is provided through the CR HOPE Foundation. This is a charity launched in 2017 with the objective of providing quality education to children and youth in Zanzibar, Tanzania. Their vision is to inspire children to strengthen their local communities through quality education and lifelong learning. Ms. O'Brien is asking the board to consider funding this trip in the amount of \$4,340. The return on investment will be centered on her work with the BELT Team, presenting during the Wildcat Summit, PLCs centering on culturally responsive teaching, implementation of CRT in everyday instruction, and strategies to strengthen community relationships.

The board took a 10-minute break to tour the newly renovated cafeteria.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2023

On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the minutes were approved as presented.

1507 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

TREASURER’S REPORT

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

1508 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

Ms. Hoover also provided the following for the board’s review.

- Credit card statement
- November administrator expense detail report and correction to the October report
- Monthly financial report

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Superintendent’s update:

- After receiving the kindergarten readiness report, Mr. Watts said they are considering adding another preschool classroom to increase the number of students that can be accepted into the program at the primary school. Finances will be a considered as well as the ability to hire qualified staff to fill another classroom. Kentucky’s state-funded preschool education programs are available for all four-year-old children whose family income is no more than 160% of poverty; and all three and four-year-old children with identified disabilities, regardless of income. The Governor and Lt. Governor have vowed to renew their push for funding to include universal pre-K in the next budget.
- Mr. Watts had a productive meeting with Tom Fromme, City Manager, regarding Phase 2 of the stadium project.
- Mr. Maines will be asking the board to approve a waiver request letter be sent to KDE regarding restricted money be utilized within one foot of the 100-year floodplain. Approval of this waiver will allow construction of restrooms at the stadium.

Ms. Payne presented the curriculum department update. Ms. Payne shared kindergarten readiness comparisons:

Comparing 22-23 to 21-22

School Year	% Ready w/Interventions	% Ready (1)	% Ready w/Enrichment	% Kindergarten Ready (1+2)
22-23 SY	81%	19%	0%	19%
21-22 SY	67%	30%	0%	33%

Comparing 22-23 to State Avg

School Year	% Ready w/Interventions	% Ready (1)	% Ready w/Enrichment	% Kindergarten Ready (1+2)
22-23 SY	81%	19%	0%	19%
22-23 SY	54%	38%	8%	46%

Her report also covered:

- Portrait of a Newport Graduate
- NASBE Conference
- Kindergarten iReady benchmark data

READING:

Grade	Overall Grade-Level Placement	Green	Light Green	Yellow	Red	Dark Red	
Grade K	Spring (March 2 - End of Year)		51%	33%	16%	0%	0%
	Fall (Beginning of Year - November 15)		1%	6%	93%	0%	0%

MATH:

Grade	Overall Grade-Level Placement	Green	Light Green	Yellow	Red	Dark Red	
Grade K	Spring (March 2 - End of Year)		60%	19%	21%	0%	0%
	Fall (Beginning of Year - November 15)		1%	5%	94%	0%	0%

Mr. Sutherland asked if Head Start was located in any of our schools. Newport does not have a Head Start program within our buildings. However, across Kentucky, state funded preschools, Head Start, and child care programs are partnering to maximize resources and serve young learners and their families in the best way possible. Many blended models combine half-day preschool and quality child care programs in a single location to provide full-day learning opportunities for children.

Ms. Stewart, DPP, presented her report. There were no questions.

Mr. Maines, Director of Facilities, Transportation, & Safe Schools presented his report. He reported Bus 6 has finally arrived. He informed the board he would be putting its replacement on an upcoming agenda to surplus. Mr. Maines also said he added a last-minute agenda item for approval regarding a waiver for KDE to approve building restrooms at the stadium. Since the stadium is in a floodplain, KDE will not permit construction without prior approval.

Ms. Swanson presented her report. There were no questions.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL agenda item 5 will be added to approve Mr. Curl's absence from tonight's meeting.

1509 - MOTION CARRIED 4-0

Ms. Malone asked if the waiver is approved to construct new restrooms at the stadium, does that mean we are ready to start building? Do we have the funding for the restrooms? Does Mr. Hayes have experience with building in a flood plain?

Mr. Maines explained getting the waiver approved is the first step of the next phase. The exact location and design have not been completed. Ms. Hoover assured the board the funding is available for the restrooms.

Hayes and Associates have experience with these projects. They recently completed a project in Ludlow which is also in a floodplain.

1. Personnel report.
2. Set the January organizational meeting date for January 3, 2024, 6:30 PM
3. Fund Ms. Packwood's opportunity to teach in Asia during the summer of 2024 in the amount of \$2,200.
4. Waiver request to 702 KAR, 4:170, Facility Programming and Construction Criteria, regarding restricted money being utilized within one foot of the 100-year floodplain at the football stadium.
5. Excuse Mr. Curl from tonight's meeting.

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

1510 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

BOARD COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Reminder to mark your calendar: NAACP Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Community Outreach Luncheon, January 15, 2024.

Ms. Malone commented on the KSBA Winter Symposium. She said she attended many valuable sessions over the course of the conference. She expressed her gratitude for having the opportunity to attend..

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the meeting adjourned. Time 7:55 PM

1511 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

Chairman

Secretary