



The Newport Board of Education held a work session on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **TEACHING OPPORTUNITY ABROAD**

The board has recently been asked to fund two opportunities to teach abroad. After discussion the board agreed to help fund teaching opportunities stateside or aboard following the criteria below:

- The board may award up to \$3,000 per staff member approved for travel expenses; documented expenses must accompany the request.
- Only 2 staff members per year may appeal to the Board for funding;
- Staff who are selected are required to commit to 1 year of service with the district after they return from the trip for each \$1,000 the board funds for their trip.

This will be added to the regular board meeting agenda for approval.

### **iREADY DATA**

Ms. Payne shared K-8 fall to winter math and reading results. Overall, both reading and math scores improved between the two testing cycles. Reading did improve at a greater percentage but the district is moving in the right direction for both.

Reading data show students mid or above grade level increased from 9 students to 54, early on grade level increased from 25 students to 82, one grade level below decreased from 236 to 154, two grade levels below decreased from 49 to 29, and students three or more grade levels remained the same at 0. These numbers also reflect grades K-8.

Math data shows students mid or above grade level increased from 10 students to 67, early on grade level increased from 5 students to 109, one grade level below decreased from 411 students to 395, two grade levels below decreased from 162 students to 116, and three or more grade levels decreased from 254 students to 185. These numbers reflect grades K-8.

The primary school is supporting five teachers attending the Kentucky Reading Academies which brings professional learning opportunities to educators thru a program called Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS). Thru this program, teachers gain essential knowledge to master the fundamentals of literacy instruction required to transform student learning and create a better experience for all young readers. Mr. Atkins also discussed the Wonders reading curriculum.

NIS is also seeing gains in reading. Ms. Michael is attributing this to after school WIN (What I Need) time. This is a period of time set aside during 21<sup>st</sup> Century after school programing when teachers personalize instruction to further meet the unique needs of each student. The instructional coach is also working with Tier II and Tier III students in skill groups.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8 grade students are also seeing gains. Mr. Grayson attributes this to changes in PLCs, consistency from NIS to NHS, reading interventionists, TIER II groups, and tracking data.

Ms. Malone asked if the students at the high school see their results and how are they responding? Do they know where they are and what the pathway is for growth? Students know their scores and were embarrassed when they were initially informed of them. Awareness has prompted them to want to improve. They are talking about their scores and many times ask to retake a portion of a test if they have not met the goals set by administrators.

Ms. Covington asked about servicing homebound students. These students still have access to digital learning and the iReady assessment is accessible on their phone or MacBook. They are also assigned in-person instruction weekly.

Ms. Malone asked if our math teachers are “real” math teachers or emergency certified because we are often times unable to hire a fully certified teacher? Ms. Payne explained that elementary teachers are considered “generalist” meaning they do have expertise in just one subject area. High school teachers must have at least a bachelors in their subject area to receive certification. We currently have both fully certified and emergency certified teachers on staff.

In order to prevent high school students from falling 2-3 years behind, we must address K-6 level instruction so students are better prepared by the time they reach high school. If a student reaches high school 2-3 years behind grade level it becomes very difficult to catch them up at this point.

Mr. Sutherland asked how the iReady assessment is administered? Are they multiple choice questions using pencil/paper? Are students just guessing? Ms. Payne said the tests are digital and the system tracks kids who are guessing. Administrators and teachers can stop the student when caught and have them correct their behavior.

Mr. Curl asked if students know what they score and what they need to improve on? Students know their score immediately upon completion. They also know what questions they answered incorrectly. Teachers know the same information and this helps guide instruction.

Ms. Michael said tracking attendance, behavior, and grades helps them have the tough conversation with parents that needs to happen when students are not succeeding. Guidance counselors in all buildings are focusing more on social/emotional issues this year which seems to be making an impact. They are also having conversations with parents about attendance, behavior, and grades and how it all impacts student learning.

## **MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES**

Mr. Watts notified the board that on Monday he was informed that the PVA had assessed property values for the school district \$38.2 million above what it should have been. This error will result in a loss of \$369M in revenue for the district this year. In addition, New Riff reported their barrels incorrectly during the '21 and '22 tax filing years resulting in a \$96M refund we must return to them. In total, a \$465M loss in revenue.

The assessments were incorrectly calculated due to the IRBs we have with the city. These properties are tax exempt but the PVAs office added those properties in by mistake. Ms. Hoover reached out to KDE to see if a correction can be made to our SEEK funding but they do not have a correction mechanism for this issue. They said at least one school district a year has an issue with the tax assessments. The PVAs office simply said we shouldn't have so many IRBs.

Ms. Brown reminded the board that Karyn Parsons will be in the district on Tuesday, January 16. She will meet with students at the intermediate and high school.

Mr. Curl met with Ms. Stewart regarding the availability of naloxone in the buildings. In order to move forward with the program offered thru the health department, the current board policy regarding CRR training would need to be changed to not require CPR training for anyone trained to administer naloxone or follow the policy and require anyone administering naloxone to be CPR certified.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Malone adjourned the meeting at 7:35 PM.

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Chairman

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Secretary