



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 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.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

January is Board Appreciation Month. Principals presented each board member with a gift of gratitude for their service and kind words of appreciation for their continuous support to the students of Newport Independent.

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

NPS – Melissa McFarland, Teacher, and Brenna Reinhardt, Student

NIS – Ashley Martin, Teacher, and JT Nelson, Student

NHS – Amy Hammond, Teacher, and Braxton Stacks, Student

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

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2023 REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 3, 2024 ORGANIZATION MEETING AND JANUARY 10, 2024 WORK SESSION

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

1515 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY CURL the financial report was accepted and will be filed for audit.

1516 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the bills were approved for payment.

1517 -MOTION CARRIED 5-0

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

- Credit card statement
- Monthly administrator expense report
- Monthly financial report

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Superintendent's update:

- Mr. Watts informed the board he would be chaperoning the student trip to Washington DC in June 2024. Donna Watts has organized the trip and we hope to take students on this trip annually.
- The IMPACT Survey was completed in December and results should be available soon.

Legal bills:

- HB 108 - Relating to English language learners. Amends KRS 158.6455 to create a tiered implementation of English language learners into the accountability system.
- HB 119 - Authorize participation in a public school interscholastic extracurricular activity by an at-home private school student.
- HB 150 - Exempt motor vehicles, recreational vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers from state and local ad valorem taxes.
- HB 208 - provide for the educational costs of students outside of the public-school system.
- HB 227 - provide a merger process for neighboring school districts; require the Kentucky Board of Education to determine the terms of a merger for an insolvent district if no agreement between the school districts can be reached.
- SB 8 - would make the voting members of the Kentucky Board of Education elected into office by voters. Currently, voting members are chosen by the sitting governor.
- SB 92 - would allow students to be transported in smaller vehicles, like vans. Drivers would also not need a commercial driver's license.
- SB 93 - This bill will prohibit public school districts and schools from expending any resources or funds to purchase membership in, or goods and services from, any organization that discriminates on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or religion; to prohibit public school districts and schools from expending any resources or funds on diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging or political or social activism.

Ms. Payne presented the curriculum department update. Her report covered:

- Purpose of the iReady Winter Diagnostic
- Portrait of a Graduate Training – NKCES and University of KY

Ms. Ashley Martin reported on the work within the BELT Team. She shared a PPT presentation that covered the meaning of culturally responsive teaching and the ELT framework; serve, verve, and observe.

Culturally responsive teaching is understanding the impact of culture (positive/negative) and bias on education. Teachers must be responsive so students can have success (academically, socially, and emotionally) in our schools.

The educational equity work involves bias and advantages, cultural proficiency, and social justice.

Mr. Sutherland asked how this plays out in the classroom? Ms. Martin explained that teachers must understand how our bias impacts what and how we teach, Teachers must take the time to acquire knowledge about different cultures, their practices and their histories to help each student succeed.

Mr. Maines presented the facility, transportation, and safe school update. He will be asking the board to surplus Bus #2 under new business. This is a 2005 bus and no longer meets KDE requirements to keep it in use. He also will be requesting approval for a new software option to use for our evaluation process and tracking and scheduling of our professional development. The software will also allow us to complete our walkthrough observations. Overall, this transition can save the district close to \$20,000. He also reported that the contract with Brighton Center to rent space on Park Avenue for the Newport School of Innovation will end June 30, 2024. Renovations are taking place in the district office/intermediate school to house the NSOI, saving the district an additional \$40,000.

Ms. Malone asked if there were other school districts using Vector for evaluations and PD? Mr. Maines said he was sure they mentioned other districts and would reach out to find out who they are. Mr. Curl suggested reaching out to those other districts to see how they feel about Vector's product for evaluations and PD.

Ms. Swanson presented her update from the special education department. There were no questions.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Sutherland addressed the information the district received from the PVAs office regarding tax rate assessments on property that was not subject to property taxes. He read the excerpt from the January 10th meeting:

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 \$369,000 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 \$96,000 refund we must return to them. In total, a \$465,000 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.

Mr. Sutherland stated the district approves IRB agreements which means we accept a PILOT payment (payment in lieu of taxes) in order to support growth in the city. In doing so, we lose tax revenue for many years. We base our property tax rates each year on information received from the PVAs office which in turn affects the amount of SEEK funding we receive from the state. These errors are no fault of the district and we are being told that nothing can be done even though we are taking a huge loss in revenue. He said it is unacceptable and we should discuss this further at the next work session.

Mr. Sutherland also suggested reaching out to New Riff to see if they might consider charging us less than the \$96,000 we owe them. Mr. Watts said they have changed leadership and our partnership is not as solid as it had been in the past. Last year New Riff supported the district monthly but there has been no correspondence with them this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Curl asked for an explanation of the SFCC Offer of Assistance. The SFCC offers of assistance are considered general fund-supported debt. These funds can be used towards proposed construction or major renovation of facilities outlined in the most current approved facility plan.

1. Personnel report
2. FY 2025 draft budget
3. SFCC Offer of Assistance - \$59,130.02
4. Emergency certification for elementary classroom teacher & media specialist at NHS
5. Funding for intermediate school intramural basketball league
6. Family Resource & Youth Services Assurance Certification 2024-2026
7. Microsoft Volume Licensing Agreement
8. Surplus Bus 2 (2005 school bus)
9. Agreement with Vector Solutions for Evaluation and PD Tracking Solution (replacing Frontline)

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL consent agenda items 1-9 were approved as presented.

1518 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

BOARD COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the board went into executive session. KRS 81.810 (c) Proposed litigation – 8:09 PM

1519 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY SHEFFEL the board returned to open session. Time: 8:27 PM

1520 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, On MOTION BY SHEFFEL AND SECONDED BY CURL the meeting adjourned. Time 8:28 PM

1521 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary