



The Newport Board of Education held a work session on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 7:30 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, Sylvia Covington, Aaron Sutherland, Tim Curl, and Ed Davis.

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

TOM FROMME, NEWPORT CITY MANAGER

Mr. Fromme was present to inform the board that the City of Newport intends to issue not to exceed \$7,000,000 of industrial building revenue bonds to provide funds for the proposed acquisition and construction of the Ann Street Project. This is a residential development involving the construction of 11 new homes and the renovation of an existing home in the 1000 block of Ann Street. Urban Community Developers will be undertaking this project. They are a KY charitable non-profit corporation. The property will be exempted from ad valorem taxation during the term of the bonds but subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes to the City, which will be shared with the school district and the county. The homes will be valued at \$450,000 - \$500,000 each. Mr. Fromme said no one is going to get chased out of their homes which was the experience in the historic district. New rules have been put in place to take care of Newportians. The façade grant will help homeowners fix up existing property at no cost to them.

Ms. Covington said she has lived in Newport her whole life and is thrilled the west end of the city is finally getting needed attention. She has been waiting for this area to get a turn.

Mr. Curl asked about the timeline to start construction and Mr. Fromme said immediate.

Mr. Sutherland thanked the city manager for the presentation. He feels this project is a no brainer since most of the lots are vacant and bring in no tax revenue at the moment. The façade grant is very promising for home owners to help fix up property at no cost to them also.

The board thanked Mr. Fromme for attending the work session and giving an update on this project.

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENTS

Mr. Watts said we currently have 4 tuition reimbursement agreements for employees: rank change thru BloomBoard, the Master's of Arts in Teaching (MAT), Administrator, and Option 9 for classified employees who qualify. He proposed a couple of options to the board for consideration: 1. Do away with the tuition reimbursement program altogether or 2. Set an annual budget for the program – 1st come/1st serve – then decide whether to pay full tuition or just ½ for each participant. He suggests eliminating the contract for teaching abroad.

If the board sets an annual budget of \$18,150 per year, we can fully fund 3 people or 6 partially; \$36,300 will fully fund 6 people or 12 partials, \$48,400 will fully fund 8 or 16 partials.

Mr. Watts also asked the board to consider adding LETRS to the rank change option if they decide not move forward with the tuition reimbursement program. LETRS is a program with an emphasis in literacy for elementary teachers.

MOU WITH NKU – FIELD AND CLINICAL EDUCATION

This agreement is between and the district and Northern KY University and allows the assignment of student teachers to the district. The agreement provides teacher candidates with a broad range of relevant and professional experiences.

MOU WITH NKU – OPTION 9

This agreement is between the district and Northern KY University and outlines the guidelines between the district and the university for participant teachers to complete a bachelor's degree and initial certification in a three-year period while working in a non-teaching position in a school district.

Both agreements will be added to the regular meeting agenda for approval on April 24, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the meeting adjourned. Time 8:35 PM

1546 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary