



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

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 – Jayme Powell, Teacher, and Lyra Jackson, Student
NIS – Clarissa Wilson, Staff Member, and Aaliyah Vanderbilt, Student
NHS – Linda Gurren, Teacher, and Kayden Lynn, Student

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

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

MINUTES OF MARCH 27, 2024 REGULAR MEETING & APRIL 17, 2024 WORK SESSION

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

1547 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

Before approving the bills for payment, Mr. Curl asked about the US Bank payment located on page 6 of the paid invoice report. Ms. Hoover said that payment represented the district's bond payment.

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

1548 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

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

- Credit card statement
- Administrator expense report
- Budget report on grants
- Monthly financial report

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Superintendent's update:

- Mr. Watts announced Mike Hunter's retirement as District Athletic Director and is asking the board to allow us to post the full-time position again. Before Mr. Hunter, the AD position was held by a classroom teacher. The position of AD involves a lot of additional work and requires many after-school hours year-round. The In School Suspension teacher has been hired to perform AD duties over the past several years because students in this classroom are taught on-line, allowing time for the teacher to complete some of the paperwork requirements during the day. Asking a teacher who starts their teaching day around 7:30 AM to work all day and then thru the evening games has not worked out well. We've had many ADs resign over the past few years because of the demands of this position vs the time they have to complete the required duties. We no longer have athletic boosters so the concessions now fall to the AD also.
- Graduation will be held on June 1st at 11:30 AM. The Newport School of Innovation will hold a separate ceremony starting at 9:30 AM.
- Update of education bills:
 - ✚ HB2 – Amendment to allow funds to be appropriated to private education will be on the ballot in November.
 - ✚ HB6 – Budget bill increasing SEEK funding – increase 3% for FY 2025 and 6% for FY 2026.
 - ✚ HB727 - Relates to school district buildings, allowing school districts to issue general obligation bonds and obtain bank loans to finance the costs of constructing or acquiring school buildings.
 - ✚ HB265 – New teacher inductions and mentoring programs
 - ✚ HB162 - Specifies the role of Department of Education in assisting local school districts with mathematics instruction, supports, and interventions
 - ✚ SB2 – Relates to school safety
 - ✚ HB446 – Safety bill regarding school bus discipline rules
 - ✚ HB387 – Allowing substitute teachers without college credit, teacher PD on building and construction trades
 - ✚ HB471 - allow the use of military orders as proof of residency for enrollment or course registration in a school and prohibit in-person enrollment or course registration when prevented due to official military duties.

Mr. Watts also shared job descriptions for the previous full time public relations position as well as the current part time position. Ms. Malone asked everyone to review the job descriptions and mentioned we need someone to own our story. Many great things happen in the district and the stories are not told concerning students and staff. For instance, we recently had students and staff receive recognition at the Excellence in Education event that has not been highlighted from the district. Mr. Sutherland supports a full-time person be hired for this position.

Ms. Payne presented the curriculum department update. She highlighted the "Ignite the Classroom" evening with Ron Clark. Three Newport teachers were selected to participate in Professional Learning in Atlanta at the Ron Clark Academy with all expenses paid through a scholarship offered by Huntington Bank.

Ms. Payne also talked about the Preschool PLC. A needs assessment was taken and a root cause analysis was completed. This vision for the preschool is to improve outcomes in the area of kindergarten readiness. The meeting

was just the kickoff in the planning stages setting the vision, establish root cause of low student achievement, and plan for improvement at the preschool level.

Ms. Stewart presented the DPP report. Enrollment stands at 1,463. She mentioned that HB563 has had the biggest impact on the primary school. Non-resident letters for the 24/25 school year have been mailed to all non-resident families indicating approval or denial for enrollment for the 24/25 academic year. With continued growth, class size has to be looked at as these students advance to the intermediate building. This will potentially affect the number of teachers required as well as causes space concerns; a topic Ms. Michael addressed with the board in a previous meeting. Mr. Curl asked about students moving from one class to the next level at the end of year. Ms. Stewart explained that the roll forward method is used in the student information system. This simply means student enrollment records roll forward prior to ending enrollment records for the current year.

Ms. Malone asked that someone from the Newport School of Innovation attend the June meeting to give an update on that program.

Mr. Maines presented the facility, transportation, and safe school's update. He is asking the board to approve the purchase of the Navigate Threat Assessment tool as an add-on to our current product. The contract has been reviewed and approved by the board attorney. This product will serve as our clearinghouse for all threat assessments, and it will thoroughly take every situation through a consistent process that will help us determine the level of a threat and provide us guidance on any necessary next steps. Each time a threat assessment is conducted an alert will notify central office staff so we can always be aware of a situation. This software will allow all assessments to be carried forward from NPS to NIS and then on to NHS. The set-up fee and first year charge is \$5,000 and the renewal fee is \$3,000 annually.

Mr. Curl asked how many employees will be trained to use the threat assessment tool? Mr. Maines said all administrators and maybe the mental health therapists. When a teacher believes there is a threat, they will immediately notify administration. This is very time consuming and is becoming more frequent. Ms. Covington asked about the procedures if a threat happens on a school bus. Mr. Maines said the school assessment team would be notified immediately. Ms. Sutherland asked if the system is connected in any way to the police department. Mr. Maines said it is not. Mr. Curl asked if the information is available district to district and if we have access to the data if we exit the contract. Mr. Maines said the data is not accessible district to district and he believes we would need to purge the information if we ever discontinued the contract.

Ms. Swanson presented her update from the special education department. Her report mentioned the Family Voice and Choice in the Individualized Behavior Support Process communication had been distributed to parents/guardians. Mr. Curl asked how this information was distributed? Ms. Swanson said it was hand-delivered and is accessible on the website.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

After discussion, On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND, new business items #3, surplus library books, #5, tuition reimbursement agreements, and #6, add LETRS to the available rank change options were tabled. The board would like the high school media specialist to attend the next meeting to discuss the surplus books list, and Ms. Hoover would like to look at the financial impact of the tuition reimbursement agreements after considering the cost of raises this year.

1549 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

1. Personnel report
2. Hire emergency certified substitute teachers for the 24/25 SY.
3. ~~Surplus library books at NHS~~
4. IRB for Ann Street Project

5. ~~Tuition Reimbursement Agreements:~~

~~Option 1 – eliminate tuition reimbursement program~~

~~Option 2 – Set an annual budget:~~

~~✚ \$18,150 will fully fund 3 employees or 6 partials~~

~~✚ \$36,300 will fully fund 6 employees or 12 partials~~

~~✚ \$48,400 will fully fund 8 employees or 16 partials~~

6. ~~Add LETRS to the available rank change options for tuition reimbursement~~

7. MOU with NKU – Field and Clinical Education

8. MOU with NKU – Option 9

9. Contract with Navigate for threat assessment program.

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY CURL items 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, and 9 were approved as presented.

1550 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY CURL the board temporarily paused the tuition reimbursement program until funding information is obtained from the finance department.

1551 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

BOARD COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Malone recommended the board fill the vice-chair position left open when Ms. Sheffel resigned. She recommended Aaron Sutherland be appointed to fill the vacancy for the remainder of 2024.

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the board appointed Mr. Sutherland to the position of vice-chair for the remainder of the 2024.

1552 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY DAVIS the board went into executive session. KRS 61.810 (b) – Property. Time: 8:22 PM

1553 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY CURL the board returned to open session. Time: 8:42 PM

1554 – MOTION CARRIED - 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY CURL the meeting adjourned. Time 8:42 PM

1555 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary