



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 22, 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.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Per Board Policy 08.113, Jennifer Stewart presented a posthumous diploma to Ms. Crystal Lewis. Ms. Lewis' daughter would have been in the 2024 graduating class at Newport High School.

The following retirees were recognized and presented with a gift from the board:

- Todd Bertsch, Teacher, NHS
- Carol Daria, Teacher, NHS
- Lisa Shields, Instructional Coach, NIS
- Mike Hunter, Athletic Director

The teacher and student of the month for May are:

- NPS – Myqueen Lewis, Student, and Amanda Barbour, Teacher
- NIS – Chardonay Brummett, Student, and Christina Tiemeier, Instructional Coach
- NHS – Abbagail Rubright, Student, and Adam Heidrich, Teacher

Bonnie Stacey and Stacy Reece were present to introduce the STLP students and Skills USA students:

- NPS – Frankie Dowell, Aubrey Wiseman, Marilyn Macario-Avila, and Demetri Neville.
- NIS – Carleigh Stewart
- NHS Donovan Macario-Avila, Holly Macario-Avila, Colton Bush, and Allison Ramirez

Vickie Chamberlain was in attendance to introduce the Bocce Unified Sports participants. One only student was able to attend; Kobe Vorhees. Ms. Chamberlain gave a brief overview of the season and is looking forward to expanding this program next year.

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

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2024, MAY 1, 2024, AND MAY 8, 2024

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

1560 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

Before approving the financial statement, Ms. Malone asked about the \$91,990.36 AP check voids. Ms. Hoover explained that number could represent one check or several and often happens when the check printing machine fails to operate properly and causes the checks to misprint or crinkle.

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

1561– MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Mr. Sutherland asked about the payment for Martha Kaising for speech. Ms. Hoover explained that Ms. Kaising is a contractor who provides SLP services to our students.

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

1562 – 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
- General fund tentative budget breakdown
- Monthly financial report

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Superintendent's update:

Mr. Watts announced that he would request the board's approval to transition the CCR position into a guidance counselor role for the next academic year. Mr. Heidrich has excelled in his duties this year, and by updating his title which will still include all CCR responsibilities, he will be eligible for increased compensation next year.

Mr. Heidrich presented data to the board that covered:

- College and Career Readiness stats
- Gateway
- Scholarships
- Dual Credit
- YSA

Overall, the introduction of the CCR position at NHS has led to significant improvements in all areas of this position. Mr. Grayson commended Mr. Heidrich for his outstanding work, noting that his connections and relationships with students have not gone unnoticed.

Mr. Sutherland inquired if Mr. Heidrich had reached out to local unions or trade schools for potential partnerships. Mr. Heidrich replied that he has made contact within the carpentry field and has also spoken with the pipefitter's union, though they are currently inundated with applicants. Mr. Sutherland specifically mentioned the ironworker's union and offered to share contact information with Mr. Heidrich. Mr. Sutherland commended Mr. Heidrich for doing a great job this year.

Mr. Heidrich identified transportation for students participating in work-based learning as an area for improvement. He expressed a desire to collaborate with local businesses to expand opportunities for students with limited transportation, ensuring they can still access valuable work-based learning experiences.

Mr. Watts reminded the board that they tabled the request to surplus library books last month and requested the media specialist attend this evening's meeting to explain this process.

Ms. Brittany Parr explained the "weeding process" to the board. Weeding is the removing of materials from a library collection in a systematic and deliberate way. Through weeding, collection development can become smoother and more thoughtful. Weeding allows room for a collection to grow and become richer. This is due to weeding materials that are outdated, not frequently circulated, or worn. There are materials in the high school library that have never been weeded. Ms. Parr has spent a great deal of time tackling the vast amounts of materials to make the library functional. Understanding the students, learning the culture of the school, learning the collection and systems all took time but she feels the library is in a much better place than when she arrived. She has not thrown materials away but instead has given many books away thru a free book fair and will continue to encourage students and staff to take the books home with them. She feels more students are reading now that the space has been organized and materials are being updated.

Mr. Sutherland asked what she is doing with the extra space now? Ms. Parr said she has purchased life-sized games that the students have been enjoying. Mr. Grayson commented that Ms. Parr has created a space that students want to attend. She may be one of the best co-teachers he has ever worked with.

Mr. Watts reminded the board about the Memorial Day Parade and Graduation dates.

He also announced he is asking for board approval on the 24/25 salary schedules. He is proposing a 4% increase for teachers and a \$1.50 per hour for classified employees.

Ms. Payne presented the curriculum department update. She highlighted the importance of teacher professional development in school improvement and the correlation with positive student outcomes. The key points are enhancing instructional practices, promoting collaboration and professional learning communities, addressing student needs, implementing data-driven instruction, and supporting teaching well-being and retention. She also informed the board that initially the district was given 3 Ron Clark Academy scholarships but the opportunity has now been granted for 10 teachers. Huntington Bank is paying all expenses.

Ms. Malone asked about the summer program. Ms. Payne informed the board there is a plan and that Ms. Stewart would cover that in her report. The iReady assessment will be given pre and post summer school on the areas that each student needs growth.

Ms. Stewart presented the DPP report. Summer school will be held in each school. Dates are June 5 thru July 3. Juneteenth will be observed on June 19th. Each school has identified staff who are committed to providing services to students during this time. Schools have also identified and continue to invite students to summer programming. Initial criteria are set for: 21st Century participating students, ESS participating students, students in Tier II or III for reading and/or math, students failing one or more classes, and students who have been identified as chronically absent.

Mr. Curl asked if there are mandatory attendance requirements for students to attend. Mr. Stewart said they do have court ordered students.

Mr. Maines presented the facility, transportation, and safe school's update. Mr. Sutherland asked about the locust tree at the board office that is dead. Over the summer, the tree will be removed and a new tree will be planted. Same with a pine tree at NHS. Ms. Malone asked Mr. Maines to talk to the city about the steps on 8th Street that lead down to the stadium. Even though they are city owned, the perception is that the property belongs to the district and the area is very unkept. Mr. Sutherland mentioned a light being out on the Newport High School entrance sign.

Ms. Swanson presented her update from the special education department. All schools participated in the "Choose to Include Campaign" that was held the last week of April. The purpose of the campaign is to break down barriers, create positive change, and to bring awareness to support and include all individuals 24/7. The campaign is designed to show how our language and actions can end discrimination of people with intellectual and development disabilities.

Ms. Hannah Lunde, Mental Health Clinician at NHS, gave an overview of mental health services provided at NHS. She talked about Mental Health Awareness Month and EMDR training (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing). EMDR training is a type of psychotherapy that teaches mental health professionals how to use eye movements and other stimuli to help patients heal from trauma and other distressing experiences.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Before approving new business items, Mr. Sutherland suggested the board look at the salary schedules. He would like to reduce the disparity between central office and teacher salaries. He suggested moving these items to another meeting for further discussion. He pointed out that he supports the 4% increase for teachers.

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY CURL item 4, 24/25 Salary Schedules, will be tabled.

1563– MOTION CARRIED 5-0

1. Personnel report;
2. Tentative budget 2025;
3. Renew the auditor's contract with Maddox and Associates, CPAs, Inc. for audit period 6/30/2024;
4. ~~24/25 salary schedules:~~
 - a. ~~Certified~~
 - b. ~~Classified~~
 - c. ~~District Wide extra service~~
 - d. ~~Athletic extra service~~
 - e. ~~Administrative supplemental services~~
5. Certified and classified staff 24/25 SY
6. Re-hire three mental health therapists for the 24/25 SY
7. Transition the CCR position to that of a guidance counselor, encompassing all CCR responsibilities within the scope of the role.
8. NTA Agreement – July 1, 2024 thru June 30, 2028
9. BG-4 – NPS Kitchen/Cafeteria Renovations
10. Surplus library books – NHS
11. Surplus technology equipment
12. Surplus broken fitness equipment
13. Contract with TANK for the 24 25 SY

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY DAVIS items 1, 2, 3, & 5-13 were approved as presented.

1564 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

BOARD COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

After discussion, the June 5th work session, will now be a special meeting so that salary schedules can be discussed and approved. The meeting will start at 6:00 PM. The June 26 meeting will be rescheduled after everyone checks their calendars for availability on June 20th at 6:00.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY CURL the meeting adjourned. Time 8:45 PM

1565 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary