



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8th Street, Newport. PURPOSE: date and time change

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ramona Malone asked for a roll call. The following were present: Ramona Malone, 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. Ms. Malone read the district's mission statement.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2024 REGULAR MEETING AND JULY 10, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND, the minutes were approved as presented. Mr. Curl abstained from the minutes of July 10th.

1575 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

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.

1575– MOTION CARRIED 4-0

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

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

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Ms. Covington entered the meeting at 6:50 PM

Mr. Watts updated the board on the following:

- Summer retreat for administrators
- Continued emphasis on teacher retention
- Hiring minority leaders has increased from 1 to 6 since Mr. Watts' employment as superintendent. This was an intentional focus area.
- Tuition reimbursement program:
 - Set an annual amount of \$48,400 for this program – this allows 8 teachers to take advantage of the program each year.

- Acceptable programs will include BloomBoard and LETRS rank change, MAT, and Option 9.
- Important dates:
 - August 6 – Newport Night Out – location change to Festival Park on the River
 - August 8 – New Teacher/Staff Orientation
 - August 12 -13 – Wildcat Academy – Newport High School
 - August 15 – PD for teachers at each school
 - August 15 – Home Visit Day
 - August 19 – Opening Day
 - August 21 – 1st student day
- Plans are underway for the grand opening of the stadium. The AD is reaching out to an alumni and business partners to join the committee. Kim Klosterman will reach out to the city for representation on the committee. Mr. Clark will join the committee to start the social media campaign. The date is scheduled for September 13, 2024.

Ms. Payne shared her report and asked for questions/concerns. Her report highlighted summer learning initiatives aimed at building teacher capacity and enhancing instructional practices. She attended the 2024 NKCES Deeper Learning Summit in June, and the KY Reads to Succeed Summer Reading Conference. Ms. Malone asked if other schools in the area have used these strategies and, if so, is there data to prove success. Ms. Payne said she would look into this request and get back to her.

Ms. Stewart shared her report with the board. Her report covered some of the 2024 KSBA policy updates. Policy 09.2242, Medicinal Cannabis, requires a board decision on whether medicinal cannabis will be prohibited on school property by a pupil or permissible by a pupil who is a registered, qualified patient as deemed necessary by a parent or guardian.

Ms. Stewart feels there is not enough guidance at the moment for the board to agree to dispensing medicinal cannabis. This will be the first-time schools in KY are being asked to put this policy in place and specific procedures have not been developed for schools to follow. The board has until January 2025 to decide whether or not to adopt this policy. Based on the lack of guidance on this policy, the board will not adopt the new language in this policy at this time.

Mr. Maines presented his report to the board. He mentioned that preliminary work has started on Phase II of the stadium project which is construction of restrooms. He has been working with the architects and will present more information as it becomes available.

Dr. Michael is working with the 4-H Extension Office to build an outdoor classroom including raised beds for a vegetable and flower garden. To provide adequate sunlight some of the trees will be pruned. This project aligns with our curriculum and standards.

The dead locust tree close to the parking lot at NIS will be removed and replaced soon. This was mentioned in an earlier board report. Ms. Malone asked about the new trees on the fence line at the stadium that have died or are dying. Mr. Maines met with Bob Petracco from Brentwood Landscaping and Mr. Petracco will reach out to the distributor. He suspects there could be an issue in the soil or in root ball itself. Lack of water does not seem to factor in since other trees are doing fine.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Watts reiterated his earlier recommendation to the board regarding the tuition reimbursement program.

- Cap the annual amount to \$48,400 for budgeting purposes. This will allow 8 teachers to enter either an approved rank change program, seek help with the MAT program, or aide a classified employee in the Option 9 program.
- Change the terms of agreement in the current contracts from “should a teacher be terminated for cause and/or non-renewed on a limited contract, any amounts due herein shall be forgiven, unless Teacher proceeds with a tribunal hearing, for which the district prevails, teacher shall be liable for the amounts owed herein” to tuition reimbursed by the district shall be paid back to the district in full within 12 months of date of termination, non-renewal, or resignation.

Before moving to new business items, Ms. Malone asked if anyone had questions/comments about any of the new business items. Mr. Curl asked where the school nursing document originated because some of the language needs to be updated. He asked if he should meet with the employee who developed the document but Ms. Stewart said she could pass on his concerns. Specifically, the document should state hiring nurses with unencumbered licenses which means the nurse has a full and unrestricted license to practice by the state board of nursing.

Mr. Sutherland pointed out that language pertaining to expectations related to medication and medicinal cannabis should be stricken from the Code of Conduct until a decision is made. Ms. Stewart said this is a rough draft and will not be published until the board makes their decision. He also inquired about dress code policy. What would be considered “extreme form of personal appearance?” Ms. Stewart said it would be any apparel or personal appearance school officials feel disrupts school discipline and routine. The policy allows some latitude for both students and school officials.

Mr. Sutherland also inquired about the BGs on the agenda pertaining to flooring projects at NHS and NIS. Ms. Hoover explained that these are old flooring projects that have been completed. \$1.3 million dollars of this project was paid for using ESSER funds. The remaining \$16,000 will be paid with excess capital outlay funds.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel report
2. Unaudited AFR
3. Additional nursing position (ensuring FT nurse coverage in each building)
4. Authorize the following district personnel serve as the ARC Chairperson during the Admission & Release Committee meetings for the 2024/25 SY:
 - Superintendent of Newport Independent Schools
 - Director of Special Education
 - Principal & Assistant Principal
 - Guidance Counselor
 - Educational Diagnostician
 - NHS Special Education Lead
5. The Data Breach and Security Best Practice Guide has been reviewed and Newport continues to implement security best practices to secure personal information practice across our network and systems for the 24/25 SY.
6. 2nd reading of the 2024 KSBA annual policies and procedures updates (09.2242 requires the board to decide if medicinal cannabis will be prohibited on school property by a pupil or permissible by a pupil who is a registered, qualified patient as deemed necessary by the pupil’s parent or legal guardian.)
7. 2024/2025 Code of Conduct
8. Revised BG-1 – Newport Intermediate and Newport High School flooring
9. BG-4 - Newport Intermediate and Newport High School flooring
10. BG-5 - Newport Intermediate and Newport High School flooring
11. CA-29 application for one-year approval for position of school media librarian
12. CA-TP application for temporary provisional teaching certificate in learning and behavior disorders (P-12)
13. CA-TP application for EL endorsement
14. Application for full emergency teaching certificates for the following:

- Elementary education
- Social Studies
- Behavior Intervention (2 apps)

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY CURL consent agenda item 7, Code of Conduct, will be modified to exclude language concerning medicinal cannabis until the Board of Education takes action on this policy.

1576 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY DAVIS AND SECONDED BY CURL consent agenda items 1-14 were approved.

1577 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY DAVIS the board approved reinstating the tuition reimbursement program with the following provisions recommended by the superintendent:

- Cap the annual amount to \$48,400 for budgeting purposes. This will allow 8 teachers to enter either an approved rank change program, seek help with the MAT program, or aide a classified employee in the Option 9 program.
- Change the terms of agreement in the current contracts from “should a teacher be terminated for cause and/or non-renewed on a limited contract, any amounts due herein shall be forgiven, unless Teacher proceeds with a tribunal hearing, for which the district prevails, teacher shall be liable for the amounts owed herein” to tuition reimbursed by the district shall be paid back to the district in full within 12 months of date of termination, non-renewal, or resignation.

1578 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

BOARD COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY CURL the board went into executive session. KRS 61.810 (K) & KRS 158.577 – discussions relating to the evaluation of the superintendent. 8:00 PM

1579 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY CURL the board returned to open session. 9:43 PM

1580 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, On MOTION BY DAVIS AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the meeting adjourned. Time 9:44 PM

1581 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary