



The Newport Board of Education held regular meeting on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ramona Malone asked for a roll call. The following were present: Ramona Malone, Aaron Sutherland, Tim Curl, & Ed Davis. Ms. Covington was absent this evening.

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

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Ms. Amber Barton was honored for her remarkable 27 years of dedicated service to the district. Ms. Darla Payne delivered a heartfelt tribute, expressing deep gratitude for Amber's contributions and presented her with a gift. Amber's presence and dedication will be greatly missed.

Mr. Cheye Calvo, President and CEO of EducateNKY, was in attendance to present a check to the district dedicated to each of the family resource centers. EducateNKY is a local non-profit dedicated to ensuring that the Northern KY education landscape is one of the best at meeting the needs of families and learners. EducateNKY is a group of local leaders and committed volunteers who envision an education system that ignites every mind. They are dedicated to expanding existing and new opportunities and improving outcomes for all children and their families in the region. Mr. Calvo said they would like a report on how the funds are spent and the impact the donation has made.

September student and teacher of the month:

Newport Primary School:

- Kai Edwards – Student
- Diane Shay – Staff

Newport Intermediate School:

- Bentley Ivey – Student
- Diego Raxleu – Staff

Newport High School:

- Kailey Fisk
- Beth Kuhnell

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

### **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

None

## **MINUTES OF AUGUST 28, 2024, AND SEPTEMBER 11, 2024**

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

1595 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

1596 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

### **STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

Mr. Watts informed the board that the DPP would present first this evening due to a family situation she needed to attend to. Ms. Stewart present her report to the board. The report covered:

- Enrollment
  - Attendance
  - Federal Programs
- ELL Program
  - Out of School Services

Mr. Watts reported that the grand opening for the stadium was a success and gave a shout out to everyone who pulled the celebration together.

Data from the 2023-2024 School Report Card will be released under embargo at 1 p.m. ET on Tuesday, Oct. 1. The embargo will expire at 12:01 a.m. ET on Thursday, Oct. 3. The embargoed data and a media briefing packet will be available for members of the working press who request it.

Mr. Watts reviewed a handout on understanding Amendment 2 Public school district employees cannot advertise their opinions for or against the amendment during the workday. After hours, employees can voice their opinions as they see fit. Board members, since they are elected officials, can share information and opinions as they see fit. Private school are free to advocate for this amendment since they do not currently receive public funding.

Mr. Watts reviewed how the amendment will appear on the ballot for clarification. He reviewed legal exceptions if the amendment passes as well as related legislation and legal decisions over the last 8 years on the amendment. To allow public tax dollars to pay for private education, Amendment 2 proposes to create exceptions for seven different sections of KY's constitution.

1. Prohibits the legislature from passing laws targeting specific area(s) of state
2. Prohibits legislature from indirect enactment of laws targeting area(s) of state
3. Requires that taxes can only be collected for public purposes
4. Legislature is responsible for establishing efficient system of public schools
5. Common school fund prohibits taxation for funding of nonpublic schools
6. Education funding exclusively to be used to maintain state's public schools

## 7. Prohibits public education funds from being used for religious schools

If the amendment passes, lawmakers could allow the use of tax-payer funded vouchers for some families to pay for tuition, fees, etc. at private, religious, and home school programs. Education savings accounts allow taxpayer funds to be deposited directly into accounts designed to help some families pay for private school tuition, and fees. Scholarship tax credits will give donors tax credits for contributions to funds that cover tuition and other costs for some families to attend private and religious schools.

Mr. Davis asked if the amendment passes, can the funds cross state lines? Mr. Watts said the funding would be for KY schools only. Mr. Davis also commented on the phrase “may provide financial support for the education of students outside the system of commons schools” implying the word “may” lessens the impact of the language when in fact they do plan to use public tax money to fund this bill. Private schools are not required to operate under the same standards and/or rules as public schools which makes the bill even less desirable.

Ms. Payne shared her report asked for questions. Her report covered the key components of the district’s literacy plan. She also provided a link for the board that compares fall to fall iReady data. The iReady data is an assessment that serves as a tool for understanding our students’ academic starting points. The data collected gives insight into their current proficiency in reading and math and informs us of potential learning gaps, growth areas, and opportunities for targeted intervention.

Mr. Maines submitted his report and asked for questions/concerns. He also commented on the ribbon cutting ceremony and the grand opening event.

Ms. Swanson submitted her report. There were not questions.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Before moving to new business, Ms. Malone ask for a motion to add Ms. Covington’s absence to the consent agenda for approval.

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY CURL item 11 will be added to the consent agenda excusing Ms. Covington from tonight’s meeting.

1597 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

1. Personnel report;
2. 23/24 summative evaluation of the superintendent;
3. Emergency certification for elementary teacher;
4. 4 fundraising requests for NIS:
  - Chipotle Night
  - Dance and refreshments
  - Fan Ware thru BSN Sports
  - Let’s Get Rolling
5. Pay bocce coach and ski coach \$500 each for their services
6. BG-3 – NHS Stadium Renovations – Phase II
7. Design development for NHS stadium renovation
8. BG-4 – NHS Stadium Renovation – Grandstands

9. BG-4 – NHS Stadium Renovation – Demolition
10. MET Life Renewal
11. Excuse Ms. Covington from tonight's meeting

On MOTION BY DAVIS AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the board approved consent agenda items 1-11 as presented.

1598 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

### **BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS/ UPDATES**

After discussion, the board agreed to move the October work session from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> due to fall break.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY DAVIS the board went into executive session. KRS 61.810 (b) – Land acquisition. Time: 7:41 PM

1599 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY DAVIS the board returned to open session. Time: 8:10 PM

1600 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY CURL, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM

1604 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

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Chairman

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Secretary