



The Newport Board of Education held special meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 6:00 PM followed by the regular monthly meeting. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Newport. Purpose of special meeting: Expulsion Hearing

### **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.

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

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY CURL the board went into executive session. Purpose: Expulsion Hearing – Time 6:12 PM

1612 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

The board returned to open session at 6:55 PM and continued with the regular meeting.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

None

### **MINUTES OF OCTOBER 23, 2024 REGULAR MEETING**

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY DAVIS the board approved the minutes with corrections. Under presentations, a correction to the statement by Mr. Davis:

*He noted that to implement this amendment, seven sections of Kentucky's constitution would need to be ~~created~~, disregarded allowing lawmakers to fund vouchers for students to attend private, religious, or home-school programs.*

Correction to typo under board comments per Ms. Malone

1613 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

Mr. Sutherland abstained from the vote due to his absence at the last meeting.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The board consulted with Ms. Hoover before the meeting to address any questions about the paid invoice report, all of which were answered to their satisfaction.

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.

1614 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

## **STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

Mr. Watts recognized Lisa Swanson for being named the KY Council for Exceptional Children Special Education Administrator of the Year. Ms. Swanson will be formally honored at the KY CEC Conference in Louisville on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

Budget update: the district continues to focus on reductions. Three staff members recently attended a grant writing conference in Lexington to focus on how to create strong grant proposals, find funding opportunities, meet grant requirements, communicate project goals effectively, and navigate the application process, while focusing proposals to specific funders and fields. The district will be selective in what grants applying for trying to avoid grants that require extensive training and meetings. We are currently working on a literacy grant, Gear-up, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant.

Mr. Watts will begin staffing allocation meetings next week.

Under new business, the board will need to take action on the medicinal cannabis policy. Mr. Watts recommends prohibiting the use of medicinal cannabis in schools for now, with the option to revisit the policy once more information becomes available to support an informed decision. Currently, the nursing staff has chosen not to administer medicinal cannabis, and no students are prescribed this medication at this time.

The board is also being ask to consider an agreement with Apptegy, a new website provider. Mr. Adams will go into more detail about this agreement under his report.

Ms. Stewart presented her report to the board. Mr. Curl asked about enrollment last year at this time. Ms. Stewart said she will get that information to him. She also highlighted the additional handouts on medicinal cannabis that were distributed for the board's review.

Mr. Sutherland noted that, given the number of synthetic drugs currently administered to students, he hopes a naturally grown alternative, such as medicinal cannabis, might be approved in the future. He highlighted that medicinal cannabis can help manage conditions like certain types of epilepsy and seizures, among other ailments students may experience. Ms. Stewart pointed out the qualifying conditions listed on the handout for administration of medicinal cannabis.

Mr. Maines submitted his report and invited any questions or concerns.

Ms. Swanson submitted her report. Mr. Curl asked about the TouchChat application mentioned in her report. Ms. Swanson said it is part of our Multi-Tiered System of Supports to enhance language and communication skills for students with speech and communication challenges in the pre-K and kindergarten classrooms.

Mr. Adams presented his proposal to transition the district to a new website platform. Currently, the district uses Finalsity with Feeds for the website, SchoolMessenger, and Remind101 for notifications. He recommends switching to Apptegy, which includes Thrillshare (an integrated school notification system) and Rooms, featuring a Behavior Module comparable to ClassDojo.

The proposed transition offers several benefits, including a more user-friendly platform and cost savings after the initial setup. Finalsity has proven to be less effective than anticipated due to its complexity and limited support. These same challenges are also reported by other districts considering similar changes.

While the initial costs for Apptegy are slightly higher due to setup fees, the district will save money in subsequent years by adopting this platform.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Malone reminded members about the upcoming KSBA Winter Symposium

## **NEW BUSINESS**

After discussion, the board agreed to accept the superintendent's recommendation to prohibit the use of medicinal cannabis at school. After more information is known, the board may revisit this policy. Mr. Davis and Mr. Curl both agree this should be revisited when more information is available and staff is comfortable with its use.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of KSBA Policy 09.2242 agreeing to the use of medicinal cannabis on school property; or
- Emergency reading of KSBA Policy 09.2242 prohibiting the use of medicinal cannabis on school property.

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND the board will add the emergency reading of KSBA Policy 09.2242 to the consent agenda.

1615 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

### Consent Agenda

Ms. Hoover clarified that the gaming license would be used to help sports teams raise money including activities such as raffles and/or split the pot opportunities.

1. Personnel report.
2. Award recommended general constructor –CTE renovations
3. Award recommended asbestos testing– CTE renovations
4. Revised BG-1 –CTE renovations
5. Application for exempt charitable gaming license
6. Fundraising request – Newport Intermediate Youth Service Center
7. Agreement to change the district's website and communication provider to Aptegy.
8. Emergency reading of Board Policy 09.2242, Medicinal Cannabis, prohibiting the use on school property

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY CURL the consent agenda was approved.

1616 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

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

Mr. Curl thanked everyone for providing reports for board review prior to the weekend.

Mr. Davis gave a shout out to Coach Wiggins and the football team. He also thanked staff who work hard to support our students.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY SUTHERLAND, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

1617 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

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Chairman

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Secretary