



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 18, 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, Aaron Sutherland, Tim Curl, Ed Davis & Sylvia Covington.

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

RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Student & staff members of the month:

NPS

- Christine Rodas Perez (November)
- Pamela Pablo Gonzalez (December)

- Savannah O'Brien (November)
- Elizabeth Bravo (December)

NIS

- Charli Newton (November)
- Gaddiel Marcario-Pablo (December)

- Lauren Schwierjohann (November)
- Jamie Jones (December)

NHS

- Makayla Trimble (November)
- Ricky Jackson (December)

- Clay Knight (November)
- Kristy Clark (December)

Ms. Malone read a letter from Mr. Aaron Sutherland, marking the conclusion of his four-year term as a board member. Mr. Sutherland has been elected to the Newport City Commission, where he looks forward to collaborating closely with the school district. Ms. Malone expressed gratitude for his dedicated service to the board, noting the value of his candidness and sincere communication in guiding the district's direction.

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

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2024, SPECIAL MEETING

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY CURL the board approved the minutes as written

1618 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

Before approving the bills, Mr. Sutherland inquired about the pilot payment reflected on the financial statement. Ms. Hoover said that deposit represents several building project agreements between the city and board accepting annual payments in lieu of property taxes; i.e. the music venue, View 180, Monmouth Row, Southshore, Sky Point, & Martins Gate.

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.

1619 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Mr. Watts attended the NASBE Conference (National Alliance of Black School Educators) in November. The NASBE conference is one of the few events specifically designed to support Black educators, providing a valuable opportunity for them to collaborate and connect with peers who share similar experiences and perspectives.

The keynote speaker at the conference was Eric Thomas, a highly acclaimed author, world-renowned speaker, and educator. Popular for his creative and practical approach to achieving success in both personal and professional life, he inspires audiences globally. Thomas is broadening horizons for young people by exposing them to experiences they might not otherwise have, such as trips to places like Dubai. His message emphasizes the vast opportunities the world offers, underscoring the importance of excelling in school and life to seize those opportunities.

Mr. Watts added that as long as he serves as superintendent, he will remain committed to providing similar enriching experiences for Newport students. By exposing young people to new opportunities, he aims to broaden their perspectives and introduce them to a world of possibilities they might otherwise never encounter.

Winter iReady testing is complete and data is being analyzed. Principals will present data up an upcoming meeting.

Under new business, the board is being asked to approve revisions to the vacation and holiday board policies for both certified and classified staff.

Ms. Brown provided an update from the curriculum department. During the discussion, Mr. Sutherland asked about the presenters for the BELT Team professional development sessions. Ms. Brown explained that the district utilizes its own staff members who have undergone the necessary training. Ms. Malone added that staff feedback from the survey had been overwhelmingly positive. Ms. Brown noted that earlier today personnel from Educational Epiphany met with school administrators, teachers and staff who all participated in professional learning opportunities that included instructional practice support and curriculum driven opportunities.

Ms. Stewart presented her report to the board. There were no questions. Ms. Malone commented on the report submitted by the staff overseeing the family resource and youth service centers, the McKinney Vento program, and the 21st Century After-School Program.

Ms. Stewart informed the board of the Kentucky Department of Education's Roadshow. Officials are hosting training on the SEEK funding program, including how local issues impact formula inputs and overall funding. They will be at NKCES on February 19th from 9:30-12:30. Ms. Stewart will confirm when this will be available to the public.

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

Ms. Swanson submitted her report. There were no questions. Ms. Malone commented on the Youth One Year Out survey. Newport continues to exceed the state and local area response rates.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Sutherland asked about the SBDM budget revisions. Ms. Hoover said the overall numbers have not changed but the board has requested they approve any budget revisions moving forward. He also inquired about the Owner/Contractor contract for CTE renovations. Ms. Hoover said the board approved the contractor bid at the November meeting this is just the official document for board approval.

1. Personnel report.
2. Set the January organizational meeting date for January 8, 2025, 6:30 PM
3. Capital Funds Request
4. NPS SBDM Budget
5. NIS SBDM Budget
6. NHS SBDM Budget
7. 1st reading of KSBA Policy 03.122 Holidays and Vacation (certified)
8. 1st reading of KSBA Policy 03.222 Holidays and Vacation (classified)
9. Owner/Contractor contract – Newport CTE Renovations
10. BG-5 – NPS Roof
11. BG-5 – NPS and NIS Marquees/Flagpoles
12. BG-5 – NHS Culinary
13. BG-5 – NHS Roof and Courtyard

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

1620 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS/ UPDATES

Ms. Malone reminded the board that they were invited to tour the new sensory room at the high school this Friday. She asked the members if the organizational meeting could be scheduled at the high school and the tour could be accomplished at that time. Everyone was in agreement.

Mr. Sutherland thanked everyone for putting up with him these past four years. Both Mr. Curl and Mr. Davis commented that it has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Sutherland.

Mr. Davis commented on the success of the drama program and the profound impact these types of experiences have on the lives of our students. Now in its 10th year, the program continues to grow into a highly regarded, program that nurtures creativity, confidence, and collaboration among all those involved in each production.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY SUTHERLAND AND SECONDED BY CURL, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

1621 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary