



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 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, Ed Davis, Sylvia Covington, and Bobbie Stubbeman.

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

RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

January is Board Appreciation Month. Principals prepared a video of various students and staff members thanking the board or their service and kind words of appreciation for their continuous support to the district.

Student & staff members of the month:

NPS

- Christopher Morales Feliciano, Student
- Hannah Hofstetter- Staff

NIS

- Usbaldo Bernardo Morales, Student
- Bev Smith, Staff

NHS

- Colton Bush, Student
- Monique Wood, Staff

Ms. Swanson recognized the following staff members for their efforts in creating the sensory motor room at Newport High School:

April Walsh, Kelly Grayson, Ryan Strong, Mark Watts, Juan Gonzalez, & Nick Lewis.

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

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

**MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2024 REGULAR MEETING,
JANUARY 8, 2025 ORGANIZATION MEETING, & JANUARY 15, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING**

On MOTION BY DAVIS AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN the board approved the minutes as written

1629 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Hoover inadvertently left the revenues off of the financial statement so she will submit a corrected copy for approval at the next meeting.

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

1630 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

The draft budget was submitted for board review. Once staffing allocations, budgets, and expenses are determined, the tentative budget for FY26 will be submitted for board approval. This budget will be presented at the May meeting.

In her best estimation, Ms. Hoover is expecting \$3.9 million in cuts will be necessary to present a balanced budget. Mr. Davis asked if she had suggestions on additional cuts. Ms. Malone said the superintendent will be presenting that information. Staff must be notified by May 15 if they are being non-renewed; however, it has been our practice over the last several years to let staff know before spring break. This allows the employee to start looking for employment and gives the district more time to replace positions that are included on staffing allocations.

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Mr. Watts report covered:

- Recognizing Ms. Hoover as this is her last board meeting. She has resigned from her position as finance director and has accepted a position with Bellevue Independent Schools.
- Staffing - Mr. Watts has been meeting with principals to discuss staffing needs for the upcoming school year. Principals are required to submit their lists of essential positions, along with rationale for each, by this Friday, February 24. The staffing allocations will be presented to the board for approval later in February. The staffing process will be reviewed in more detail during the February work session.
- Disney World trip – there are 12 students scheduled to travel to Disney over spring break, and Mr. Watts will be accompanying them on the trip. He is passionate about providing students with opportunities to explore different parts of the country—experiences they might not otherwise have or consider without the chance to travel through school.
- New business items include the second reading of the Holiday and Vacation policies. These revisions are being proposed due to budget concerns. Currently, administrators can carry over up to 40 vacation days, which are paid out at 100% of their daily rate upon retirement or resignation. Under the new revisions, incoming administrators will be allotted 10 vacation days per year, with a "use it or lose it" policy. Current administrators will not be impacted by these changes.

Ms. Stubbeman asked if our policies are on par with other districts. Ms. Hoover said not all districts offer vacation days but those that do all vary in how vacation is allotted.

Mr. Davis asked if the revisions will cause issues with the union. Since vacation days mentioned in the policy refer only to administrators, the union is not involved.

Ms. Payne presented her report and opened the floor for questions. Ms. Stubbeman inquired about Educational Epiphany. Ms. Payne explained that Educational Epiphany is a consulting firm specializing in curriculum, instruction,

and organizational development. They provide support and training in areas such as literacy integration across subjects (ELA, science, math, and social studies), school leadership, and overall school improvement. Ms. Malone asked what the impact has been thus far this year. Ms. Payne said the impact has been immediate.

Ms. Malone noted that the teacher preparation program appears to have expanded. Ms. Payne confirmed that we partner with several universities, including NKU, the College of Mount St. Joseph, Thomas More, ECU, UNC, and UC. Through these partnerships, we host both practicum students and student teachers in our schools. Practicum students observe experienced teachers, while student teachers take on teaching responsibilities in a regular classroom under the guidance of the classroom teacher.

Ms. Stewart presented her report and opened the floor for questions. Her report covered enrollment, attendance, and chronically absent students. Ms. Malone commented that attendance goals have dropped some for this attendance month. Ms. Stewart noted that our goals are lofty this year and pointed out during the first semester NPS exceeded their school and district goal, NIS did not meet their school goal but they did exceed the district goal, and NHS exceeded their school goal.

KDE will be hosting SEEK training at NKCES on February 19 from 9:30-12:30. The Commissioner of Education is also at NKCES on February 12 from 5:00-7:00. This event is open to the public.

Mr. Watts thanked Ms. Stewart and the DPP office for their efforts towards attendance with all their home visits.

Mr. Maines submitted his report and invited any questions or concerns. Ms. Malone asked if the increase in utilities is due to consumption or colder weather. Since the completion of the renovations at NPS, their utility costs have increased but the colder weather has also played a part in the increase.

Mr. Maines also took a minute to recognize two bus drivers for going beyond the call of duty during the recent snow and ice weather systems. Ms. Dawn Copenbaker and Jennifer Prejean together cleared ice from a street after hours to provide a safer road for Ms. Copenbaker to drive on while transporting students.

Ms. Swanson submitted her report. Ms. Malone commented on the Phonics for Reading program and thanked Lisa for implementing this program. She asked to schedule another date to tour the sensory room at the high school. Ms. Malone also thanked Dennis and Lisa for recognizing staff for all the work they do for our students.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN the board excused Mr. Curl's absence from tonight's meeting.

1631 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN item 3, Maddox & Associates Budget Contract, will be removed from the agenda for further review.

1632 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

1. Personnel report
2. FY24 Audit Report
3. ~~Maddox & Associates Monthly Budget Contract~~
4. Nexigen Communications IRB request
5. BG5 16-120 NHS Space Reassignment
6. BG5 14-005 ACES and Middle School Renovations
7. BG5 18-168 NHS Cafeteria Renovations
8. BG4 NPS NIS Water Heaters

9. BG5 NPS NIS Water Heaters
10. 2nd reading of KSBA Policy 03.122 Holidays and Vacation (certified)
11. 2nd reading of KSBA Policy 03.222 Holidays and Vacation (classified)

On MOTION BY DAVIS AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON new business items 1, 2, and 4-11 were approved as presented.

1633 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS/ UPDATES

After discussion with the superintendent, Ms. Malone said the February work session will begin at 6:30 as usual but a special meeting will be scheduled at 7:30 to approve the construction bid for Phase II of the stadium project. Mr. Hayes will be in attendance to review the process with the board during the work session.

Ms. Malone thanked Ms. Hoover for her support over the last 4+ years. Newport's loss is Bellevue's gain.

Mr. Davis said he wanted to stress that the work of the board is important but not nearly as important as what is going on in the community and in the schools. He thanked everyone for all their hard work. It does not go unnoticed.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAND AND SECONDED BY DAVIS, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM

1634 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0

Chairman

Secretary