



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on May 14, 2025, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8th Street, Newport, KY.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ramona Malone asked for a roll call. The following were present: Ramona Malone, Tim Curl, Sylvia Covington, Ed Davis, and Bobbie Stubbeman.

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

POSSIBLE ELIMINATION OF POSITIONS AND PROGRAMS

Ms. Malone explained that the board has been meeting throughout the week to carefully consider all available options. Ongoing discussions have included Mr. Watts, district leadership, and Mr. Turner to thoroughly assess both the financial and operational impacts of the proposed eliminations. She emphasized that these potential cuts are not being taken lightly. Mr. Watts voiced strong opposition to eliminating the entire curriculum department, raising concerns about who would assume its responsibilities. He also expressed disagreement with the proposal to cap administrative salaries at \$120,000 for two years, pointing out that the financial savings would be minimal and would affect only four individuals this year.

Ms. Malone said the board would act on each proposed cut individually and by a roll call vote.

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY DAVIS the board voted to eliminate the position of Director of Districtwide Services.

1661 – MOTION CARRIED 4-1

Ms. Malone – yes
Mr. Curl – yes
Ms. Covington – no
Mr. Davis – yes
Ms. Stubbeman – yes

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN the board to voted to eliminate two technology coordinator positions.

1662 – MOTION CARRIED 4-1 abstained

Ms. Malone – yes
Mr. Curl – yes
Ms. Covington – abstained
Mr. Davis – yes
Ms. Stubbeman – yes

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY DAVIS the board voted in favor of keeping the Chief Academic Officer position.

1663 – MOTION CARRIED 3-2

Ms. Malone – yes
Mr. Curl – yes
Ms. Covington – yes
Mr. Davis – no
Ms. Stubbeman – no

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL the board voted in favor of changing the full-time athletic director position to a teaching position with an additional stipend for athletic director duties.

1664 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL the board voted in favor of cancelling the contract for certified evaluation training and eliminating the public relations position.

1665 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL the school psychologist position was removed from the agenda and will be discussed at a later date.

1666 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY DAVIS the board voted in favor of capping administrative salaries at \$120,000 for the next two school years.

1667 – MOTION CARRIED 3-2

Ms. Malone – no
Mr. Curl – yes
Ms. Covington – no
Mr. Davis – yes
Ms. Stubbeman – yes

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY DAVIS the board voted to table the contract with Christ Hospital. The board has asked for more information before making a decision to close the SBHC.

1668 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL the board voted in favor of eliminating the contracts with Frontline for time and attendance, professional development tracking, & Harris eWalk. They also voted in favor of eliminating all out of state travel unless mandated.

1669 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY DAVIS the board voted in favor of eliminating the cost of 21st Century transportation as a general fund expense, the recruitment budget, reducing the number of Kajeet Smartspots maintained in the technology department, and changing SBDM allocations to schools based on average daily attendance.

1670 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY DAVIS AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN the board voted in favor of keeping the energy manager position.

1671 – MOTION CARRIED 3-2

Ms. Malone – yes
Mr. Curl – yes
Ms. Covington – no
Mr. Davis – yes
Ms. Stubbeman – no

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL the board voted in favor of eliminating the additional \$10,000 stipend paid to the high school principal and eliminating the lead maintenance position.

1672 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL the board voted in favor of eliminating the administrative assistant positions in the special education department and the curriculum department.

1673 – MOTION CARRIED 4-1

Ms. Malone – yes
Mr. Curl – yes
Ms. Covington – no
Mr. Davis – yes
Ms. Stubbeman – yes

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN the board voted in favor of cancelling the contract with TANK (Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky) and providing bus service using our own fleet.

1674 - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN the board voted in favor of eliminating all current curriculum program contracts. Any future curriculum program contracts or renewals should be accompanied by supporting data to inform the decision-making process for the board.

1675 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the board voted in favor of keeping the Newport School of Innovation open and maintaining its current location.

1676 – MOTION CARRIED 4-1

Ms. Malone – yes
Mr. Curl – yes
Ms. Covington – yes
Mr. Davis – yes
Ms. Stubbeman – no

2025-2026 SALARY SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Watts informed the board that he will be bringing the 25-26 salary schedules to the board for approval at the May 28th regular meeting. The schedules will not reflect an overall raise from last year. Everyone will receive a step increase as reflected on the schedules.

NEW BUSINESS

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL the board approved the lease agreement with Donnellon McCarthy Enterprises for new copiers districtwide and the agreement with Zayo Education for the district's main phone service. Both contracts represent a savings to the district.

1677 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL the meeting adjourned.

Time: 7:50 PM

1678 - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary