NEWPORT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on June 4, 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, 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.

APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE KY DEPT. OF EDUCATION

Before approving the MOA, Ms. Stubbeman asked if the district is responsible for Ms. Payne's sick days and paid time off. Mr. Voelker answered yes, since Ms. Payne is still considered an employee of the district. Mr. Davis asked if Ms. Payne would be returning to the district or would she stay with KDE. The MOA is a year-to-year contract. Each individual can stay until they decide to return or move on to another district.

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the board approved the MOA with KDE for Darla Payne to work as an Education Recovery Leader for the 2025-2026 SY.

1691 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

REVIEW SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH CHRIST HOSPITAL

Mr. Voelker recommended terminating the current contract with Christ Hospital, noting that the agreement has not been reviewed in over ten years and contains outdated language. He emphasized that this presents an ideal opportunity for the board to reassess and define the desired structure of the district's healthcare program. He noted that meetings are being held with other providers that may offer more cost-effective care.

Ms. Stubbeman inquired whether medications must be administered by a nurse practitioner, as previously stated by Ms. Tanner. In response, Mr. Curl clarified that registered nurses are authorized to administer medications prescribed by a physician. Current policy only *recommends* the use of a nurse practitioner.

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL the board agreed to terminate the contract with Christ Hospital.

1692 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

REVIEW CURRICULUM PROGRAMS PAID THRU THE KY COMPREHENSIVE LITERACY GRANT

Ms. Payne presented a detailed report to the board outlining all Year 1 expenditures of the literacy grant. The grant specifically funds the Wonders 2023, StudySync, and Savvas programs. In addition, software licenses for iReady and AIMSWEB will also be covered by the grant. Ms. Malone confirmed that the district is not funding any other literacy programs outside of those supported by the grant.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY DAVIS the position of Chief Academic Officer and Director of Facilities, Transportation, & Safety will be eliminated along with their corresponding salary schedules.

1693 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL the board agreed that further discussion should take place with the administrative team regarding the Director of Curriculum position. Until that time, a hiring freeze will be implemented.

1694 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

ELIMINATE THE DIRECTOR OF DISTRICTWIDE SERVICES SALARY

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL the salary schedule for the Director of Districtwide Services will be eliminated. The position was eliminated during the May 14, 2025 special board meeting.

1695 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

EXCUSE TIM CURL'S ABSENCE FROM THE MAY 28, 2025 REGULAR MEETING

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY DAVIS Mr. Curl's absence is excused from the May 28, 2025 regular board meeting.

1696 – MOTION CARRIED 4-0
Mr. Curl abstained

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY DAVIS the board went into executive session. 61.810 (c) – Pending litigation, 61.810 (f) – Personnel, and 61.810 (b) – Property. Time: 6:50 PM

Possible action to follow.

1697 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN the board returned to open session. 7:50 PM

1698 -MOTION CARRIED 5-0

AGREEMENT

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL, the board approved the Settlement and Release Agreement and Covenant Not to Sue regarding Tony Watts. As part of the agreement, the board and Mr. Watts mutually agreed that he will resign from his duties as superintendent effective June 30, 2025. He will continue to assist with the transition of the interim superintendent through August 1, 2025.

1699 - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the meeting adjourned. Time: 7:52 PM

1700 - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

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Chairman

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Secretary