



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, June 25, 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.

RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Track and Field:

- Kayden Lynn
- Dakarai Minor
- Reggie Rolland
- Dallas Harrington
- Demarco Jackson
- Andora Riley
- Colton Bush

Lisa Swanson – Retirement

New administrators:

- Nick Wilson – Principal, Newport High School
- Alexandria Watkins – Principal, Newport Intermediate School
- Kim Cornett – Director of Food Service
- Kim Snapp – Director of Finance

Presentation:

- Ehmet Hayes, Robert Ehmet Hayes and Associates – update on construction projects currently in progress at the stadium and the CTE area at Newport High School. Both projects are currently on track to be complete in September.

5 MINUTE BREAK TO GREET INVITED GUESTS

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Brandi Raleigh addressed the board regarding a lack of action taken on a forensic audit.

MINUTES OF MAY 28, 2025 REGULAR MEETING, MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING, MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING, MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING, MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING AND MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING

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

1703 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Mr. Curl abstained from the 5/28 minutes due to absence

TREASURER'S REPORT

Prior to the meeting, Ms. Stubbeman asked Ms. Snapp about drama fees listed on the paid invoice report. Ms. Snapp clarified that these were stipends paid to the orchestra and sound supervisor for their work on the spring musical.

Ms. Malone inquired about the *supposed* recurring fraudulent charges on the district credit card. Ms. Snapp explained that any suspicious activity on the account is reported to the bank immediately, and the card is promptly deactivated.

Ms. Malone also asked whether the credit card issued in Ms. Hoover's name was still active. Ms. Snapp confirmed that after identifying automatic charges on that card, those charges were transferred to a new card, and Ms. Hoover's card was subsequently terminated.

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED CURL the bank reconciliation for May was approved and will be filed for audit and the invoices were approved for payment.

1704 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICE

The curriculum department submitted their written report. Their report covered the Gear Up Grant. Newport High has received the Gear Up grant. This grant is a 7-year commitment to the partnership. The partnership is for cohorts in grades 7 through 12, including 6th grade in the first year only. Eight schools/districts in the state of Kentucky were awarded this federal grant. The grant will provide a position focused on career and college readiness, as well as resources to support the goals of GEAR UP and the school it serves.

The state is currently updating the grant. Partnerships will begin in October of 2025. More information will be available as the state progresses through the process required by the federal government. The GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a competitive grant and it's designed to support low-income students beginning in middle school and continuing through high school and even into college through scholarships

OLD BUSINESS

Student Accident Insurance – The board reviewed claim data from Assured Partners regarding the student accident insurance provided to students and families. Over the past five years, there have been no claims filed in the last three years, and only two minor claims in FY 2020 and FY 2021. Given the minimal usage of this insurance coverage, the board determined that the premiums paid over this period are not justified. As a result, the board will move to terminate this policy under new business.

Board policies 03.125 and 03.225 and Board Procedure 03/125.AP2 – Expense Reimbursement – after discussion the board would like to revise this policy removing language regarding Use of Personally Owned Telecommunication Devices for District Business (I OWN Plan). This will be brought to the board for a first reading in July.

APPOINT ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL the board appointed Matt Atkins as the Acting Superintendent.

1704 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Mr. Atkins thanked the board for the opportunity. As a Newport graduate and an employee in various roles since 2006, he expressed his understanding and care for the staff, students, and the community.

NEW BUSINESS

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the board voted to add agenda item #11 to terminate the student accident insurance with KidGuard.

1706 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Ms. Malone asked how we track time of the service providers? Ms. Swanson reported that services are tracked thru EZ Ed Med for each student; from the time they start until they end. Services are then billed to Medicaid for students who qualify. Ms. Stubbeman had conversations regarding the service providers prior to the meeting just to get a foundational understanding of what services the district provided students.

Ms. Malone asked about the list of surplus property at the high school. Mr. Adams assured her all the technology equipment was old and has no value except for scrap.

Mr. Wilson expressed the need for the behavior intervention position requested by NHS. Last year 944 students were referred to this room for a total of 246,000 minutes of intervention. Without this position, disruptive behavior must be dealt with in the classroom robbing students of their education. BI keeps students in school and keeps the learning process moving forward.

Mr. Voelker pointed out that HB 181 should be addressed right away. This bill deals with how teachers and volunteers must communicate with students moving forward. The district provides the platform that communication must flow thru giving access to parents/guardians for oversight

1. Personnel report;
2. Special education related services contracts:
 - Stephanie Anthrop – Speech and Language Therapy Services
 - Lauren Dressman – Speech and Language Therapy Services
 - Marsha Gerton – Orientation and Mobility Specialist
 - Martha Kaising – Speech and Language Therapy Services
 - Pamela Kaising – Speech and Language Therapy Services
 - Amy Martin – Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech Language Pathologist
3. Surplus property at Newport High School;
4. Add Behavior Intervention classroom at Newport High School;
5. Property & Casualty Insurance renewal with Bluegrass Risk Management;
6. Capital Funds transfer request
7. Location Agreement with Overtime Sports, Inc.;
8. Add 10 days to the Lead Bus Driver position.
9. NPS Walk-a-thon fundraising request
10. 1st reading of KSBA annual policy updates & review of annual procedure updates
11. Cancel insurance policy with KidGuard for student accident coverage.

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN the consent agenda was approved as presented.

1707 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS/ UPDATES

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM

1708 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary