



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

None

### **MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2025 REGULAR MEETING AND JULY 9, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING**

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

1716 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

1717 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

### **STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICE**

Mr. Atkins, Acting Superintendent, provided the Board with an overview of his recent activities since assuming his new role. His schedule has been filled with numerous meetings with staff, participation in district events, and engagement with the community.

Personnel Updates:

- Mr. Atkins announced the hiring of Autumn Slankard as the new Director of Curriculum, a key leadership position.
- As of now, both the primary and intermediate schools are fully staffed.
- The high school continues to seek candidates for positions in MSD (Moderate to Severe Disabilities), math, and science.

Facilities & Construction:

- Progress continues on two major projects:
  - The CTE (Career and Technical Education) renovation at the high school.
  - The concession-stand and restroom facility at the stadium.

## Leadership Development:

On July 14–15, Mr. Atkins led a district leadership meeting.

- The team discussed *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* by Patrick Lencioni.
- While not mandated districtwide, Mr. Atkins emphasized the importance of all district leaders reading the book. Decisions about broader staff participation will be made at the building level.

Other topics included:

- Roles and responsibilities were developed within the buildings
- The development of a districtwide calendar
- Academic expectations
- Non-traditional instruction
- Board policies – sick/personal leave
- Title 1
- Certified evaluation plan
- Finance
- New teacher mentorship

Upcoming Events:

- Home Visit Day
- Professional Development for Teachers
- Opening Day
- First Day of School for Students

Kerri Niemann introduced herself as the Acting Special Education Director. She has 24 years of experience in special education, 17 of those years in Newport.

In her report she discussed the following program initiatives.

- The Point Arc – strengthens post-secondary transition initiatives;
- 1:1 Pre-Employment Transition Skills Program – an instructor comes to Newport to work directly with participating students once a week providing individualized instruction focused on essential pre-employment skills.
- Targeted autism initiatives – these efforts reflect our commitment to evidence-based practices and individualized support that remove barriers to students' access to the general curriculum and overall success.
- To strengthen the effectiveness and quality of the special education programs, the district will implement targeted strategies to support and retain special education teachers.

Mr. Davis commented that Newport's special education population seems to be so much higher than surrounding districts. Do we know where all the students are coming from? This answer will be provided once the data is studied.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Julie Kaeff submitted a report that updated the board on the following:

- Safe Schools training
- School-Based Health Center – MOU was submitted to HealthPoint Family Care – HealthPoint in the process of securing site approval from the health administration board to operate as a provider.

- Student Services – new school start-end times shared with families, transportation request form went live 7/14, the signed MOUs with corresponding school-based mental health agencies have been submitted.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Personnel report
2. Unaudited AFR
3. Authorize the following district personnel serve as the ARC Chairperson during the Admission & Release Committee meetings for the 25/26 SY:
  - Superintendent of Newport Independent Schools
  - Director of Special Education
  - Principal & Assistant Principal
  - School Counselor
  - Educational Diagnostician
  - Instructional Coach – Newport Primary School
4. The Data Breach and Security Best Practice Guide has been reviewed and Newport continues to implement security best practices to secure personal information practice across our network and systems for the 25/26 SY.
5. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the 2025 KSBA annual policies
6. 2025/2026 Code of Conduct
7. MOU with Partners for Change
8. Stipend for NHS Assistant Principal - \$7,900
9. Stipend for NPS Principal – \$7,300.00
10. Surplus: 2 bookshelves, 2 cafeteria tables, round kitchen table, framed picture (picture discarded from school-based health center), 2 office chairs
11. Approve the following communication systems currently utilized by KCTCS (Gateway Community & Technical College) regarding traceable communications in accordance with Senate Bill 181: Blackboard, Outlook, Starfish
12. Read Ready Resolution

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

1719 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

### **BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS/ UPDATES**

Mr. Curl thanked Matt Atkins for his commitment to the district and said it sounds like he hit the ground running.

Mr. Davis thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The also thanked everyone who has assumed new roles and more responsibilities. There have been a lot of changes over the last couple of months and everyone is working hard to get the new year started.

Ms. Stubbeman also shared her gratitude to everyone who is has supported the district during this transition.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

1720 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

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Chairman

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Secretary