



The Newport Board of Education held a work session on Wednesday, September 10, 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.

### **TRANSPORTATION UPDATE**

Dusty Galloway presented his report to the board. His report covered:

- Start of year – issues and resolutions
- Driver shortage
- Training for new driver
- Open positions
- Routes
- KDE district review – all standards met except for the black build-up on the bus roofs
- New busses
- Bus evacuation drills

Mr. Davis addressed the black soot accumulating on bus roofs, noting that many nearby homes are experiencing the same issue, which is being caused by a local business. Ms. Malone recommended that Newport reach out to Kenton County Schools to explore a partnership for bus cleaning, as that district has invested in a bus washing system.

Ms. Stubbeman asked about the cost of new busses. Mr. Galloway reported around \$200,000 each – give or take.

### **EDGENUITY**

Mr. Josh Snapp presented his report to the board. His report covered:

Why we use Edgenuity

- Direct instruction with an actual teacher, content is rigorous, standards-aligned, with multi-modal instruction, and a variety of embedded scaffolded supports to ensure KY standards mastery.
- Secure lockdown browser is coming to ensure academic integrity
- Notifies teachers of plagiarized responses
- Includes materials
- Pretesting to assess student mastery
- Increasing CTE offerings
- Test prep courses
- Concept Recovery, Initial Credit, AP, and Credit Recovery courses

Implementation at NSOI

- Courses set up to cover all standards and once completed, assurance that all standards have been taught and covered.

Important data:

- Current enrollment is 71
- Commended for phenomenal data from Imagine Edgenuity
- From 7/1/25-6/30/25, 92 unique students with 1,104 enrollments
- Students spent approx. 25.8 hours in their courses
- Students mastered content material. The average overall grade was 82%.

Other KY districts using Edgenuity:

- Over 80 districts across the state
- Some of those districts include: Bellevue, Covington, Kenton County, Boone County, Jefferson County, Oldham County, Madison County, NKCES Regional School (high school only)

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT COMPARED TO DUAL CREDIT**

Mr. Heidrich was not present but provided a written report to the board. His report included why NHS has not offered AP classes in recent years but has opted to focus on dual credit. Reasoning includes:

AP:

- Taken on campus.
- Requires teacher certification to teach AP courses (which incurs a financial cost).
- There is a for each test, whether the student passes or fails (\$100).
- Institutions vary in how they articulate a passing score.
- Students must pass a summative exam with a certain score to be eligible for college credit.
- On an honors scale, GPA may receive a small boost for passing the class, even without a passing exam score.
- Students must pass the exam to be college-ready.
- Studies show that urban and high-poverty communities often struggle with standardized tests (KY LRC, 2013).

Dual Credit:

- Typically taken off-campus at a local college. NHS offers Gateway and YSA courses at NKU.
- Students earn both high school and college credits by passing the course. This does not rely on one single measure to receive college benefits.
- A larger variety of class offerings are available.
- Students can follow their specific learning plan while earning college credit.
- Passing the course is considered evidence of being college-ready.
- Students who take dual credit courses are more likely to enter and complete college.
- There is a strong financial benefit for families. NHS students typically graduate with 24 college credit hours—close to a full collegiate year. YSA students have the opportunity to earn an associate's degree.
- Credits are transferable to any state school and most schools in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission (781 schools).

Ms. Stubbeman emphasized the importance of ensuring high school students are truly prepared for the rigor of college. Ms. Kaeff explained that acceptance into the program is two-fold: students must meet specific academic benchmarks in English, writing assessments, and proficiency scores, and Mr. Heidrich meets individually with each student to review expectations. In addition, a representative from Gateway meets with students, and regular check-ins are held throughout the semester to ensure they remain on track and receive support if needed. Mr. Wilson added that writing skills are being reinforced across all subjects.

### **DISTRICT PLANNING**

Mr. Atkins informed the board that a district planning committee will be formed in the near future to develop, review, and revise the Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP). The committee will include teachers, principals, school leaders, paraprofessionals, central office administrators, administrators, board member(s), classified staff, parents, community representative, and high school students. The superintendent will develop and present to the Board for review, procedures for appointment and training of the planning committee.

The committee shall:

- Identify data to be collected and analyzed to determine causes and contributing factors
- Review gap targets
- Conduct a needs assessment
- Use the report structure required by KAR
- Develop goals, objectives, strategies, and activities to enhance student achievement based on the needs assessment
- Schedule a public meeting
- Conduct required implementation and impact checks
- Review the plan annually
- Submit updates to superintendent and board

### **FEDERAL FUND POSITIONS**

Ms. Stewart reviewed the Title plans for the current fiscal year, noting that KDE approval is still required before implementation. In previous years, Title II, Title III, and Title IV funds were consolidated into Title I. While this is permissible, it can impact the overall amount of funding received, as the Department of Education may interpret the consolidation as a reduced need. This year, the funds will remain separate.

- Title I: Used to close achievement gaps.
- Title II: Supports professional development beyond the required hours, gifted/talented programs, and class size reduction.
- Title III: Provides funding for English Learner (EL) training and supplies (positions may not be funded).
- Title IV: Supports a well-rounded education, including arts, music, library resources, and gifted programs.

Ms. Stewart also provided a spreadsheet outlining which positions may be funded with federal dollars, along with proposed new positions that will be submitted to the board for approval once KDE authorizes the expenditures.

### **GEAR UP**

Mr. Atkins informed the board that Beth Lawson, Associate Director District Implementation with Gear Up KY, shared the information provided in the report. At this time, we are waiting on the US Department of Education regarding whether the proposal has been selected for funding. We should know by September 30, 2025. Funds have not yet allocated for future years since congress is still in the process of determining funding allocations for FY 2026. Traditionally, once a Gear Up grant is selected for funding, it is supported for its entire 6-7-year cycle. With cuts and possible elimination of the US Department of Education, we are unsure if the current approach of annual re-allocations will continue or return to full grant cycles.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM

1729 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

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Chairman

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Secretary