



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 22, 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.

PRESENTATIONS

Tom Haggard, Vice President, Community Engagement and Advocacy for EducateNKY, presented a check in the amount of \$30,800 to the Family Resource Youth Service Centers of Newport for their innovative ideas and support of student leadership and well-being. The intended purpose of the partnership grant hopefully will lead to more innovation, expanded business engagement, and more meaningful collaborations with public schools and community agencies to expand educational opportunities and services to students and their families.

Each school recognized a student and staff member of the month.

- NPS recognized Maverick Dins as their student of the month and Diane Shay as the staff member of the month.
- NIS recognized Symphony Malone as their student of the month and Shannon Childers as the staff member of the month.
- NHS recognized Ricky Jackson as their student of the month and Tommy Thompson as the staff member of the month.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 REGULAR MEETING AND OCTOBER 15, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING

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

1738 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

1739 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICE

Mr. Atkins, Acting Superintendent, provided the Board with his monthly report.

In addition to his report, he informed the board that the concession stand and restrooms passed final inspection and will be open when Newport hosts a playoff game in the near future. The CTE construction project at the high school ends tomorrow and staff should be able to start moving back into their spaces on Friday. There was an error with the floor installation, however—two different shades of grey were used. A corrective action plan is currently being developed to address the issue, and the flooring may be replaced over the Christmas break.

Under New Business, the language regarding the student board member representative has been added to board policy 1.1, per the recommendations from the board. Approval of Change Order #3 for Phase 2 of the stadium project has been added. The gutter guards will help prevent drain pipes from becoming clogged with leaves, as there are many trees surrounding the concession stand area. Additionally, a fence is being installed to address safety concerns. Even with this change order, a substantial contingency remains in the project budget. There is also a transportation agreement with Head Start for the board's consideration. The agreement states that the district will transport qualifying students from the center to the Newport Primary School Monday-Thursday for afternoon preschool. At this time, only one student would be transported. Ms. Covington asked how many preschool classes we have; Mr. Atkins said there are two.

Ms. Stubbeman questioned the wording in board policy 1.1 under Notice of Nondiscrimination. She specifically questioned why it states "Boy Scouts". Mr. Voelker explained that the language has probably not been updated for several years and that if the board chooses, Boy Scouts can be omitted and changed to just include "designated youth groups".

Instructional rounds are scheduled to start this week. Instructional rounds simply put are classroom observations, and a team approach to solving problems of practice. In collaboration with Dr. Melissa Wainwright from KDE, Dr. Wainwright will assist us this year as she uses her experience as an organizational leadership specialist to provide coaching to individuals and teams in our MTSS work.

Autumn Slankard presented her report to the board. She highlighted her participation in the NKCES HQIR session for Instructional Coaches and Administrators. This supports the development of a districtwide cadre focused on consistency in instructional expectations and coherence in coaching practices across schools. She also mentioned instructional rounds and the planning and communicating of same. The goal is to foster consistency in high-quality instruction and a sense of belonging among educators through shared professional growth.

Ms. Malone inquired about the number of coaches in each school. Ms. Slankard informed her there was one coach in each location.

Ms. Stubbeman asked for an explanation of MTSS. MTSS (Multi-tiered Systems of Support) is a framework designed to improve student outcomes by providing varying levels of support based on individual needs. It integrates academic, behavioral, and social-emotional interventions through a tiered approach. Ms. Slankard used a triangle to visually represent this structure, emphasizing how support intensifies as you move up the tiers.

- Tier 1 (Universal Support): This is the foundation of the triangle and includes high-quality, differentiated instruction and support that all students receive. It typically meets the needs of about 80% of students.
- Tier 2 (Targeted Support): For students who need more help beyond Tier 1, Tier 2 offers moderate interventions such as small group instruction or targeted strategies. This tier supports approximately 15% of students.
- Tier 3 (Intensive Support): The top of the triangle represents intensive, individualized interventions for students with significant needs. This tier serves about 5% of students.

The same triangle visual can be used for behavior MTSS also:

- Tier 1: Universal support (all students) - School-wide, preventative strategies and positive behavior expectations for every student in a school.

- Tier 2: Targeted support (some students) - Extra support for students who may not be succeeding with universal strategies alone. They may need small group interventions, check in/check out programs, etc.
- Tier 3: Intensive support (a few students) - Highly individualized and intensive interventions for a small number of students with significant needs. They may need individualized behavior plans, social skills development, and collaboration with external mental health providers or therapists.

Ms. Covington asked about the gifted/talented position. Ms. Slankard said the position has not been filled. The candidate pool is very small for individuals holding this endorsement. Contributing factors may include a lack of available positions as well as, often times in the past, teachers would pursue gifted education endorsements when a master's degree was a requirement by completing a graduate certificate program. The state no longer requires teachers to complete a master's program thus reducing the pool of available candidates with GT endorsements. Ms. Slankard said she and Dr. Hemmerle continue to follow up on leads and may consider reaching out to other districts to gauge interest in partnering to share a gifted teacher. There was some additional talk about incentives since this is a required position with no avenue to entice teachers to pay out of pocket for the endorsement.

Ms. Stewart presented her report to the board. Mr. Davis congratulated everyone on meeting attendance goals.

Ms. Stewart reported that chronic absenteeism continues to be a big concern. This is defined as missing 10% or more of the school year and is attributed to factors like the COVID pandemic, trauma from disasters like floods and tornadoes, poverty, and student disengagement.

Mr. Davis asked if a student is living with grandparents, are they considered homeless? Ms. Stewart said not necessarily. Circumstances dictate homelessness; economic hardship that calls families to double-up, for instance.

Ms. Niemann presented her report to board. October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. This is when we recognize the accomplishments and contributions of individuals with disabilities, beginning with the students we serve each day. Across the district, students with disabilities are demonstrating growth, perseverance, and leadership in classroom and beyond. Ms. Stubbeman asked if we are doing anything as a district to celebrate. Ms. Niemann said there are no "theme" designated days.

Mr. Adams presented his technology update. There is one more year remaining on the lease for the current MacBook and iPads. The last lease payment is due July 2026 at which time the devices will be owned by the district. These are under warranty until September 2027. Mr. Curl asked what happens after September 2027. Mr. Adams said we have to keep devices under warranty so we would need to lease or purchase new devices at that point. Mr. Curl asked when that process will start? Mr. Adams said we would start that sometime next year; watching enrollment for growth or loss.

Ms. Covington asked if we still have computer labs in the school buildings. The primary has a lab that is being phased out; the other schools do not have labs since we are a 1:1 district. Ms. Stubbeman asked about the purchase of new tape-recording equipment for the board meetings. Mr. Adams said the last bid was \$4,000 and at this point with all the cuts in spending, that money is better spent on students.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no old business items.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ON BOARD

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN the board appointed Donovan Macario-Avila as the student representative to the board for the 2025-2026 SY. Beginning with the 2026-2027 SY, there will be an application process in place for this position.

1740 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL, item 2, first reading of KSBA board policy 1.1, will be removed. Language under Notice of Nondiscrimination will be revised and presented to the board in November for a first reading.

1741 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

1. Personnel report
- ~~2. 1st reading of KSBA policy 1.1 – Legal Status of the Board~~
3. Newport Stadium Phase II - change order #3
4. KETS Offer of Assistance - \$14,200
5. Transportation Services Agreement with the Northern KY Community Action Commission -Head Start Program
6. Surplus items – Newport High School
7. Hire KSBA for superintendent search services

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

1742 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS/ UPDATES

Ms. Stubbeman congratulated Donovan on being appointed to the board as the student representative for this year.

Mr. Davis gave a shout out to Ricky Jackson on being named student of the month for two consecutive years.

Donovan thanked the board for the opportunity to be the student representative on the board. Ms. Malone said she and the superintendent will set up a time to meet with him to review procedures and expectations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL the board went into executive session. Purpose: KRS 61.810 (b) – Property. Time: 7:45 PM

1743 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN the board returned to open session. Time: 8:18 PM

1744 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY DAVIS, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM

1745 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary