



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 17, 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

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

- NPS recognized Emmie Adams as their student of the month and Rose Smith as the staff member of the month.
- NIS recognized Reagan Gibson as their student of the month and Sydney Ossege as the staff member of the month.
- NHS recognized Kaden Davis as their student of the month and Andrea Wyatt as the staff member of the month.

Ms. Hayden recognized Karla Johnson who is retiring effective December 31, 2025. Dedicating 31 years to the education of students is an incredible achievement. Your commitment to the Newport Independent School district has likely shaped the lives of thousands of individuals, and that legacy is something to be deeply proud of.

Steve Schreck, Program Director for Adult Education, presented an update on the program's recent performance, branding changes, and fiscal status.

The program continues to demonstrate exceptional results, far exceeding the benchmarks set by the state of Kentucky:

- Graduation Success: Seventeen students recently completed their academic requirements and graduated.
- State performance goals: The program reported an enrollment rate of 151% and measurable skills gain of 258%. It remains on pace to achieve all GED targets for the current academic year.
- Excellence ranking: For the fifth consecutive year, the program has been ranked as one of the top-performing Adult Education programs in Kentucky.
- Program of Excellence Award: Mr. Schreck formally accepted the Program of Excellence Award in October, noting that the award reflects the hard work and dedication of the entire staff.

To better reflect its integration with the school system, the program has officially transitioned its name from Campbell County Adult Education to Newport Adult Education.

- The rebranding includes the adoption of the Newport Independent School District's official colors, fonts, and logo.
- Mr. Schreck emphasized that this alignment highlights the program's commitment to supporting the district's broader mission.

Mr. Schreck addressed the significant financial challenges currently facing the program:

- Federal Funding Cuts: Federal support for adult education has decreased by 50%.
- Community Support: The program expressed profound gratitude to its community partners, whose financial contributions have helped subsidize and maintain essential program needs.
- Future Advocacy: Mr. Schreck reaffirmed his commitment to advocating for increased adult education support at both the state and federal levels.

Torrie Watkins, 21st Century Program Coordinator at Newport High School, was present to review programming offered at that location. They have served over 130 students since the beginning of the school year.

- Cooking Club – predominantly females but working to increase male participation
- Diversity Wildcats (UpSpring)
- Outdoor Adventure
- Pickleball
- Study Tables – available to all students but especially student athletes and students with chronic absenteeism
- Summer Drama Camp
- Tea Time with Parr – partnership with Roebling Book Club
- Weightlifting
- Youth Leadership Development

The board took a 10-minute break to greet tonight's guests.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2025 REGULAR MEETING

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

1755 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

1756 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICE

Mr. Atkins, Acting Superintendent, provided the Board with his monthly report. He highlighted the work he has aligned to Standard 2: Instructional Leadership. Standard 2 supports and builds a system committed to shared values and beliefs focused on teaching and learning where performance gaps are systematically eliminated over time and every student graduates from high school college- and career-ready.

Throughout November and December, our district and school leadership teams have invested significant time in developing our Comprehensive District and School Improvement Plans (CDIP and CSIP).

Together, we completed detailed needs assessments—taking an honest look at our current performance, our desired state, and what the data reveals about the gap between the two. This process helped us identify our highest-priority needs so we can focus our time, attention, and resources on the areas that will make the greatest impact for students.

We conducted root cause analyses to better understand the factors contributing to our challenges. Those findings directly shaped the goals, objectives, strategies, and activities included in both the CDIP and CSIP.

This year, we were especially intentional about aligning our work from preschool through 12th grade and narrowing our priorities so our efforts remain focused and meaningful.

Under new business, the board is being asked to approve the following:

- Second reading of two KSBA policies, Emergency Medical Treatment and Grading
- Hire a part-time maintenance worker – currently our maintenance crew spends a great amount of their day driving busses. An extra worker will help offset some of their work, help when the department is down due to sickness, and be especially helpful during snow days. It has been confirmed with finance that the extra funds are available in the budget.
- KISTA agreement – the board has already approved the purchase of a new bus and the resolution on the agenda is authorizing the lease and security agreement. One bus will be paid for completely before the new bus payment begins.
- Surplus – the items listed for surplus are no longer needed, inoperable, or repairs are too costly compared to the value

Mr. Atkins congratulated Donovan on being named to the NKU President's Honor List. This honor is given to high school students taking college level classes.

Ms. Slankard provided her monthly report. There were no questions about the report. Autumn shared that she met with TNTP to begin planning the district's January 5th cadre-based professional learning day. This work represents the start of a larger, long-term relationship to strengthen instructional practices across all buildings. She reminded the board that the costs incurred for this partnership is covered thru the literacy grant and will be billed and paid accordingly.

Ms. Malone asked about achievement gaps for sub-groups mentioned in the CDIP. Ms. Slankard said she never wants to provide a different education for students in sub-groups but we can make sure we have a strong pulse on how those students are doing and analyze data quickly to respond to immediate needs.

Ms. Malone also inquired about a homework help link on the website. In the past, there were links for parents to use to help their students at home when they were having trouble with homework.

Ms. Adams said he did not recall the links mentioned, but there is access to "Rooms" which is a two-way communication tool for parents and teachers.

Ms. Malone would like each school to consider adding homework links to assist parents with problem-solving so they can in-turn help their children with homework questions.

Ms. Kaeff was present to give the DPP report as well as the school safety and student service report. There were no questions. Following Ms. Slankard's input on sub-groups in regards to academic gap groups, Ms. Kaeff highlighted sub-groups struggling with social-emotional barriers. She emphasized that the district utilizes counselors, FRYSC staff, the Homeless Coordinator, and external partners to address these issues and close the achievement gap for all students.

Ms. Niemann provided her report but was not present. The board did not have any questions.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no old business items.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel report.
2. Set the January organizational meeting date for January 7, 2026, 6:30 PM
3. Consolidated District Improvement Plan (CDIP)
4. 2nd reading of KSBA Policy 09.224, Emergency Medical Treatment
5. 2nd reading of KSBA Policy 08.221, Grading
6. Fundraising requests – NHS Baseball, FCCLA, and Student Council
7. Hire part-time maintenance worker for the remainder of this school year
8. Resolution with the Board of Education authorizing the execution of an equipment lease and security agreement between KISTA and the Board providing for the acquisition and leasing of school buses and approving generally the plan of financing the acquisition of school buses for and on behalf of the board
9. Surplus:
 - 2002 Blazer – Condition: 162,444 miles, a lot of rust
 - 1996 Bobcat 773 - Condition: Requires drive motor and main hydraulic unit
 - 13 wooden top tables

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY DAVIS consent agenda items 1-9 were approved.

1757 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS/ UPDATES

- Ms. Stubbeman thanked the staff for their ongoing dedication, emphasizing that their commitment to our students does not go unnoticed and is deeply appreciated.
- Mr. Davis thanked the Adult Education Program; many Newport residents have benefitted from this service.
- Mr. Curl commended the staff's dedication to student growth, noting the importance of supporting novice students while simultaneously helping middle-tier students bridge the gap toward higher proficiency levels.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

1758 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary