



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8th Street, Newport, KY. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct an expulsion hearing.

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.

EXPULSION HEARING

The board attorney recommended the board hold the hearings in executive session to protect the privacy of the student being heard.

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL the board went into executive session. KRS 61.810 (F) – Time 6:05 PM

1775 - MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN the board returned to open session. Time: 7:25 PM

1776 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY DAVIS the board expelled student for one year with services. Student was given a provision for an early return to school in August 2026 upon successful completion of all coursework and completing assigned evidence-based anger management program.

1777 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

GEAR UP PRESENTATION

Vanessa Moore, District Program Manager, was present to update the board on the recent Gear-Up grant that was awarded to the state of Kentucky. The \$35 million grant will serve 8 school districts and over 10,000 students over the next 7 years. Their purpose is to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

Her presentation included:

- Required activities
- Objectives and outcomes
- Vision and Mission
- Four pillars of student success
- Implementation

- FACES of postsecondary readiness
- District services & expectations January-May 2026
- Advising & academic preparation
- Commitments to school partners

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Katie Lucas and Marshelle Watkins-Blackwell have been developing a comprehensive volunteer program for the district. Recently, they shared:

- A vision for a school community where volunteers feel welcome and valued.
- Clear requirements for onboarding new volunteers.
- Invaluable opportunities and programs where volunteer support can have the greatest impact.
- Future plans to increase engagement.
- A *Call to Action* for district involvement.

While the list of interested volunteers continues to grow, the district has historically lacked a structured system to utilize them effectively. This program addresses that critical need by turning interest into meaningful action.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN the board went into executive session. KRS 61.810 (1) (f) - Discussions or hearings which might lead to the appointment, discipline, or dismissal of an individual employee, member, or student without restricting that employee's, member's, or student's right to a public hearing if requested. This exception shall not be interpreted to permit discussion of general personnel matters in secret. Time: 8:13 PM

1778 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL the board returned to open session. Time: 8:59 PM

1779 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY DAVIS, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM

1780 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary