



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 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 Eden Reinhardt as their student of the month and Maggie Whitfield as the staff member of the month.
- NIS recognized Maria Jones as their student of the month and both Bev Smith and Christy Tiemeier as their staff members of the month. Both Bev and Christy are also retiring from education on February 28, 2026.
- NHS recognized Harper Wood as their student of the month and Kim Weber, Shayliah Cottie, & Sydney Cottie as their staff members of the month.

Ms. Tracy Kaake, Counselor at Newport Primary School, introduced their Student Ambassador Program. The purpose of the ambassador program is to start building leaders at a young age. The program is in its 3rd year and ambassadors are chosen based on attendance, academics, & behavior.

Goals include:

- Promote a positive school climate
- Strengthen and support academic and social emotional development
- Build the foundations for college and career readiness

From the district's portrait of a graduate, they work on foundational skills such as:

- Communication
- Responsible and engaged citizen
- Resilience
- Self-awareness
- Lifelong love of learning

Other skills taught include:

- Responsibility
- Collaboration
- Public speaking
- Community

Ambassadors get to have lunch together monthly. They lead the morning Pledge of Allegiance on Friday, they assist with the Veterans Day assembly, and they are greeters for school events. Second grade ambassadors help welcome new students by leading a tour of the building and introducing them to staff as well as assist with the NPS college and career unit by interviewing local professionals. All ambassadors are expected to model core expectations such as safety, being respectful, and being responsible students.

Next steps include refining the program, expand leadership opportunities, create vertical alignment as students move to the intermediate school, and provide consistent opportunities for student voice.

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

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Paul Maddox, CPA, was in attendance to review the financial audit for FY 2025. Districts are audited annually by an independent accounting firm. He reported that based on the work performed, the financial statements were fairly presented. There were no comments on internal controls and there were no issues with federal compliance.

Mr. Maddox explained that financial statements belong to the district. The district internal controls such as procedures that ensure assets are safeguarded and financial records are accurate are the district's responsibility. This audit is not a forensic audit that looks for fraud. The financial audit is looking for internal control compliance. Mr. Maddox said he is not aware of any fraud or illegal acts, and if he had come across any he would have brought them to the board immediately.

The management letter pointed to issues within the school activity funds that need to be addressed. Mr. Maddox stated that almost every district receives school activity fund comments due to turnover and retraining bookkeepers and secretaries.

His presentation included comparisons over the last 5 years on the district's"

- Net position
- Liabilities
- Revenue and expense trend
- Revenue source trend
- General fund balance sheet
- General fund revenue and expense trend

Overall, the district's net position has increased or remained steady for two years. He feels the district is in pretty good financial health.

The board thanked Mr. Maddox for attending the meeting and for his presentation of the district's financial picture.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2026, FEBRUARY 4, 2026, AND FEBRUARY 11, 2026

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

1784 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the bank reconciliation for January was approved and will be filed for audit and the invoices were approved for payment. The two invoices submitted by Mr. Turner were also approved.

1785 – 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.

District leaders and teachers from all three schools met to develop a districtwide math instructional vision. They also provided input on potential high-quality instructional resources in math for the 26-27 school year.

School leaders participated in professional learning facilitated by KDE focused on establishing conditions for effective PLCs.

We collaborated with KDE to begin revising the District's Portrait of a Learner.

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

- Staffing allocations
- Fundraising requests
- Surplus items
- NatCon – a conference for mental wellbeing. NKCES is paying for one person's registration and hotel accommodations. The district will pay for travel and meals. Ms. Stewart said travel and meals can be paid using federal funds.

Mr. Atkins introduced his mentor, Misty Middleton. Ms. Middleton is the superintendent of Bellevue Independent. As part of the Superintendent Training and Assessment Program, every first-time superintendent is paired with an experienced mentor—typically a current or retired Kentucky superintendent. A mentor's role is to provide one-on-one coaching in areas such as school finance, board and community relations, instructional leadership, and school law.

Ms. Middleton said she was learning from Mr. Atkins just sitting in the meeting. She will be looking into starting an ambassador program at Bellevue. She continued by complimenting Mr. Atkins on his growth and hopes to see him named as the next superintendent for Newport in a couple of weeks. She said the River City superintendents are a close and supportive group of leaders.

Before moving on, Ms. Stubbeman said she attended a session at the KSBA conference on the Portrait of a Learner. The district presenting renamed it Portrait of a Trojan after their school mascot. She liked the idea of using the logo to show ownership.

Mr. Davis said he was happy to see work around a consolidated math program throughout the district.

Ms. Stubbeman also wanted to point out that staffing allocations are determined by law and there are no ulterior motives behind any of the numbers.

Ms. Slankard shared her report. There were no questions. She did share that she is taking a deep dive into iReady scores to get a breakdown by student; looking for consistencies and inconsistencies. She said she loves this type of work and will share whatever data that comes out of her study.

Ms. Slankard shared that the math program currently being considered will be for grades K-6 but the older grades would follow soon.

Ms. Stewart presented her report to the board. There were no questions. There was a brief discussion regarding attendance and how it is recorded impacts SEEK funding. This stemmed from a session Ms. Malone attended at KSBA. Ms. Covington asked about NTI funding calculations. Funding for NTI is based on prior year AADA numbers.

Ms. Niemann provided her report. There were no questions.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no old business items.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1 Personnel report.
- 2 Accept the Annual Financial Audit
- 3 Staffing allocations 26/27 SY
- 4 School calendar 26/27 SY
- 5 Fundraising requests – NHS and NIS
- 6 Surplus items – NPS and Adult Learning:
 - Anthologies – 107
 - Anthologies – 116
 - Anthologies – 120
 - Anthologies – 123
 - 2nd grade Anthologies – 143
 - Turning Technologies Response NCT Clickers software receiver.
 - Shelving and desks
- 7 NatCon Conference – National Council for Mental Wellbeing – April 27-29, 2026, Denver, CO

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL consent agenda items 1-7 were approved.

1785 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS/ UPDATES

Donovan Macario-Avila, Student Board Representative, updated the board on the FCCLA State Competition held at Newport High School, the regional FBLA competition held at NKU, the upcoming state indoor track meet, and the boys' basketball senior night.

On behalf of the board, a sincere thank you was extended to staff who created the KSBA Banner for the district that was displayed at the annual conference.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY COVINGTON AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN, the meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM

1786 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary