



The Newport Board of Education held a special meeting on Wednesday, March 10, 2026, at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at 30 W. 8th Street, Newport, KY. The purpose of the meeting was to announce new superintendent, approve contract for superintendent and other new business.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN the board went into executive session. KRS 61.810 (1) (f) – new superintendent and approval of contract - Time: 6:32 PM

1793 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL the board returned to open session. Time: 6:36 PM

1794 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

NEW SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENT

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL, Matt Atkins was named superintendent of Newport Independent Schools with a contract date starting July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2030.

Roll Call: Ramona Malone, yes, Tim Curl, yes, Sylvia Covington, yes, Ed Davis, yes, and Bobbie Stubbeman, yes

1795 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

The audience gave the Board and Matt a standing ovation in response to the announcement.

SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the superintendent's contract was approved as presented.

1796 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

The board questioned if the hearing-impaired service agreements were an 'either/or' situation. Ms. Niemann clarified that although there is an overlap, both separate services are necessary to satisfy IEP mandates.

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON the agreement with Destiny Patterson for instructional services for students with hearing impairments and the agreement with Interpreting Services with Central KY Interpreter Referral for sign language services were approved.

1797 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Expressing his gratitude for the Board’s confidence, Mr. Atkins reflected on his career-long dedication to Newport as a teacher, coach, and principal. He thanked his family, the district staff, and city leadership for their support, emphasizing that—above all else—his primary focus and gratitude remain with the students, which is why we are all here.

Before adjourning the board thanked the search committee for the work they provided in screening candidates for our next superintendent. While more senior candidates were interviewed, their vision for the district was the vision already being fulfilled by Mr. Atkins.

Newport Independent Schools continues to prove it produces leaders. With both Superintendent Atkins and City Manager John Hayden being Newport grads, the connection between the schools and the city has never been stronger. Mr. Hayden spoke, sharing his excitement to see a Newport grad in the superintendent’s role and expressing the positive meetings held so far. He looks forward to a strong partnership between the city and school district. The Mayor, Mr. Guidugli, dittoed Mr. Hayden’s remarks. He said the thing that impresses him most is Mr. Atkins’ humble nature.

Ms. Covington commented that there is no stopping us now. Ms. Stubbeman said she has been very impressed with Mr. Atkins every step of the way and she is not an easy person to “wow”. Mr. Curl said he is excited about the future and also thanked the search committee, which he was a part of. It was a very enjoyable experience.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM
A reception was held on the 4th floor to celebrate this occasion.

1798 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary