



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 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 Andrea Reid as their student of the month and Amanda Barbour as the staff member of the month.
- NIS recognized Dustin Combs as their student of the month and Megan Kelly as their staff member of the month.
- NHS recognized Makayla Collins as their student of the month and Cheryl Noonchester as their staff member of the month.

The board took at 5-minute recess to greet tonight's guests.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Kelsey Bosley, Newport Club Director of the Boys and Girls Club, was present to introduce herself and give an overview of their programming. Their current enrollment is 220 students; 76% are students in grades K-7 and 24% are students in grades 8-12. 87% of the K-7 students are from Newport Primary School. She highlighted their hours of operation, what a typical club day looks like, their program model, additional programming offered to teens, and how they measure success. Their vision is to provide a world-class Club experience that assures success is within reach of every young person who enters their doors. Ms. Bosley said the center has been newly renovated and she is very excited about their new look. She invited the board and anyone who is interested to stop by and tour their facility.

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2026, MARCH 3, 2026, MARCH 4, 2026, AND MARCH 10, 2026

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

1799 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

1800 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICE

Mr. Atkins, Superintendent, provided the Board with his monthly report. He updated the board on the constructions projects that have taken place over the school year:

- The concession stands and restroom project at the stadium was completed in the fall of 2025. It has been winterized and will be ready to re-open this spring.
- The CTE project was completed in November/December 2025. There were some flooring issues that were resolved over winter break.
- Library at Newport High School – while this was not a construction project, the flood that took place in September did cause major damage to that area of the building. Repairs have been completed and the library is almost completely operable again. Our maintenance team did an excellent job of reassembling all the shelves and placing them back in the library. Mr. Atkins gave a shout out to the high school media specialist, Ms. Parr, for all her hard work in re-shelving all the library books.

Mr. Atkins also updated the board on HB 500. The House and Senate passed different versions of the state budget. Because the House refused to concur with the Senate's changes, the bill has been passed to a conference committee of members from both chambers to "iron out" the differences before a final vote.

The bill proposes a gradual increase in SEEK funding but it does not keep pace with inflation. The district continues to be conservative in our forecasting and spending trends.

Under New Business, Mr. Atkins is asking for the board to create a new position for the district: an Alumni and Community Engagement Coordinator. The person will serve as the primary bridge between the district and its external stakeholders. This role focuses on building a network of former students, local business owners, and community members to foster school pride, support district initiatives, and support communication. This person will create and maintain a database, write and distribute newsletters, and coordinate events for alumni. A \$5,000 stipend will be paid to the person hired for the position.

Mr. Curl inquired about the estimated hours required to fulfill the duties outlined in the job description. Mr. Atkins noted that it is currently difficult to gauge a precise figure, as requirements will fluctuate during peak periods—such as initial database creation, newsletter production, and event planning. It was agreed that the workload could be re-evaluated as needed. Ms. Malone suggested tracking hours to provide data for future staffing discussions.

Ms. Slankard presented her report. District priorities shifted from foundational planning & visioning toward active implementation, rigorous system validation, and high-stakes assessment readiness. Efforts focused on refining instructional coaching using the Instructional Practice Guide, piloting high-quality math resources, and conducting comprehensive learning walks to ensure district-wide coherence.

Ms. Malone asked about feedback from TNTPs coaching plan for principals. Ms. Slankard said principals have been very receptive to the feedback provided. Walkthrough data mirrored what district leadership has been seeing which was good but not surprising. Very actionable next steps was provided with the assurance of support through whatever situation comes up.

Each principal then reviewed Winter i-Ready data. While we are seeing growth, the current rate is not meeting the level required for significant proficiency gains. Projections run through Looker Studio suggest that upcoming KSA scores will likely mirror last year's performance. Each school has an improvement plan to specifically target and accelerate these growth percentages.

Mr. Curl asked is there is a plan to increase scores. Intervention, IAs that have been hired to help with core instruction, MTSS Coaches, intentional conversations, and attendance talks were all discussed.

Ms. Malone asked if volunteer readers have any impact on growth. While volunteer readers could have an impact on growth, we currently face a shortage of volunteers willing to assist in classrooms.

Ms. Hayden said data was not collected from the 1:1 reading program. The biggest impact was the sense of belonging that was provided by the mentors. Students were impacted academically and socially by the positive influence mentors provided.

Ms. Stubbeman requested a report showing scores using students who have attended Newport their entire career vs. students who have not. The board received a similar report using data from grades 3, 6, and 10 in the past. At that time, the report showed our students performed well in all content areas. Ms. Slankard agreed to put this report together again.

Ms. Stewart presented her report to the board. There were no questions. Ms. Stewart said she is asking the board to approve the amended calendar for the current school year. Her recommendation is to maintain the current student last day of May 21 and require staff to report on May 22, 26, and 27 to fulfill contractual days.

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

OLD BUSINESS

There were no old business items.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel report
2. Amended calendar 25/26 SY
3. Newport Regional School calendar 26/27 SY
4. Fundraising request – FCCLA
5. Create an Alumni and Community Engagement Coordinator position and corresponding job description
6. KETS 2nd Offer of Assistance for FY 2026 - \$10,650
7. Surplus items –
 - NHS – 6 stoves
 - NIS – various items from music room

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

1801 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS/ UPDATES

Ms. Stubbeman thanked district administration for their monthly reports. They are well-written and the content is informative and helps keep the board in the know.

Mr. Atkins mentioned the reason Donovan missed the meeting tonight is because he is currently at the FCCLA State event. The board wished him well.

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL, the meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM

1802 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary