



The Newport Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 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

Presentation – Posthumous Diplomas

This evening, we are honoring the memory of Mary and Joseph Snow, siblings whose lives were tragically cut short during their school years. The class of 2026 would have been their graduating class. Tonight we recognize the milestones they should have had the opportunity to celebrate alongside their peers.

A diploma represents more than academic achievement. It symbolizes hope, potential perseverance, friendship, and the journey of growing up within a school community. While these students were unable to complete their journey, their memories have remained alive in the hearts of classmates, teachers, faculty, and loved ones throughout the years.

As a district, we believe it is important to honor their place in the graduating class and to acknowledge the impact they continue to have on those who knew them and love them. Their absence has never diminished the love and remembrance held for them by this community.

Retirees:

The following two employees were present and recognized for their years of service to Newport Independent Schools:

- Ms. Robin Combs
- Mr. Tommy Thompson

Retirees not present were:

- Susan Andreadis
- Pam Huff
- Mary Fulmer

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

- NPS recognized Navari Stanley Tyler as their student of the month and Robin Combs as the staff member of the month.

- NIS recognized Logen Sullivan as their student of the month and Jill Chambers as their staff member of the month.
- NHS recognized James Herold as their student of the month and Peachy Taylor as their staff member of the month.

The following students were recognized for their participation in STLP this year

- Newport Primary School – Imogen Moore, Liam Pablo Niz, Emmie Adams, Taliyah Ferguson, Rowan Davis, Izabella Brown, Navari Stanley Tyler. Coordinator: Stacey Reese
- Newport Intermediate School – Jasper Morris, Mia Hambrick, Alan Pablo Niz, and Marilyn Marcario Avila. Coordinator: Olivia Scranton
- Newport High School – Jerry Rice, Ricky Jackson, Kenya Tomas Aguilar, Holly Marcario Avila, Evelyn Morales, Alyson Ramirez, Colton Bush. Coordinator: Bonnie Stacey

Skills USA – Camila Sparks, Diana Agustin-Perez, Joey Mueller. Coordinator: Dustin Hinson

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

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2026, APRIL 29, 2026 AND MAY 13, 2026

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

1816 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

1817 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICE

Mr. Atkins, Superintendent, provided the Board with his monthly report. He noted that May has been an incredibly busy month, highlighting the successful completion of KSA testing, the end-of-year closeout, graduation, and the parade.

Under New Business, Superintendent Atkins will be requesting Board approval for the 2026–2027 salary schedules, noting specific updates to the athletic and extra service schedules, as well as an adjustment to the index for the psychologist position.

He then reviewed the BG-1 form for the High School CTE Renovation project, clarifying that the costs will be fully covered by grant funding. Additionally, he presented new, highly qualified instructional resources (HQIR) for English (grades 7–12) and Math (grades K–6). Mr. Atkins emphasized that the selection process heavily involved teacher input, and all chosen products are approved by the Kentucky Department of Education.

Finally, he is asking for approval for a \$1,000 supplemental stipend to be paid to all full-time employees, payable on November 30th. Mr. Atkins noted that this stipend represents the district's deep gratitude for the hard work each employee puts forth to keep the district running.

Ms. Malone inquired about the meeting with Lt. Kohls of the Newport Police Department. Mr. Atkins explained they are discussing installation of a safe crosswalk at one of the elementary schools.

She also inquired about the meeting with TradesNKY. TradesNKY is a non-profit organization that connects schools, industry, and community partners to prepare students for high-demand, high-skilled careers. Pathways are created for all students K-12 that allow them to gain exposure, explore, and engage with the essential workforce.

Ms. Slankard presented her report. District priorities transitioned from test readiness to active administration during the month.

Ms. Stubbeman inquired about the math curriculum for grades K-6 and why it did not include all grades.

HQIR competencies, a core pillar of high-quality resources is understanding the learning curve and how lessons and units build upon one another sequentially. Elementary school is the critical window for building essential math skills. Without a strong base in K-6, students will struggle in advanced high school math. Fixing the foundation must come before changing upper-level courses.

Ms. Malone thanked the building principals for instilling how the value of testing is important to their students. The energy districtwide is noticed and appreciated.

Mr. Curl asked Autumn how she came to utilize Kotter's Change Model and Knoster's Model for Complex Change as a focus for the rollout of new curriculum. Based on past experience, Autumn emphasized that she will not rely on guesswork for a rollout this critical. She is strictly adhering to Kotter and Knoster to ensure the district has both the roadmap and the tools required for a flawless, sustainable curriculum execution. She has tried other models that have proven unsuccessful.

Ms. Stewart presented her report. There were no questions.

Ms. Niemann provided her report. There were no questions. She noted that the primary school is getting a sensory room this summer. Once completed, all three schools will be equipped with a sensory room.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no old business items.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel report;
2. Tentative budget 2027;
3. Renew the auditor's contract with Maddox and Associates, CPAs, Inc. for audit period 6/30/2026;
4. Remove the following positions from the athletic and extra service salary schedules:
 - Head and assistant soccer coach positions
 - Head and assistant archery coach positions
 - Indoor soccer coach
 - NPS and NIS basketball league coach
 - NPS soccer league coach
 - Key Club Sponsor

- District videographer
 - EL Lead Teacher
 - ESS Coordinator
5. 26/27 salary schedules:
 - Certified
 - Classified
 - District-Wide extra service
 - Athletic extra service
 - Administrative supplemental services
 6. Certified and classified staff 26/27 SY
 7. Surplus items from Newport Intermediate School
 8. Change order #1 – CTE Renovations
 9. New English HQIR for grades 7-12
 10. New Math HQIR for grades K-6
 11. \$1,000 supplemental stipend for full-time employees (payable Nov. 30 pay period)

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY CURL consent agenda items 1-11 were approved.

1818 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS/ UPDATES

Donovan Marcario Avila, student board rep and this year's Senior Class Valedictorian, thanked the board for the opportunity to serve in this role. He recognized the retirees and thanked them for their support throughout his career. He said he is looking forward to his next adventure which will be attending the University of Louisville.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN the board went into executive session. KRS 61.810(k) and KRS 156.577 – discussions relating to the evaluation of the superintendent. Time: 7:41 PM

1819- MOTION CARRIED 5-0

On MOTION BY CURL AND SECONDED BY STUBBEMAN the board returned to open session. Time 8:32 PM

1820 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

On MOTION BY STUBBEMAN AND SECONDED BY COVINGTON, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM

1821 – MOTION CARRIED 5-0

Chairman

Secretary