

**Newton Elementary
School Organizational Team Minutes
8/27/2025
3:30**

The Newton ES School Organizational Team meeting was called to order at 3:30 on 8/27/25. The meeting was held in the library and virtually at <https://meet.google.com/bzw-hhch-tmr>.

Members present:

Kasey O'Horo, Parent
Gina Topor, Parent
Rebecca Hickey, Parent (online)
Kristan Sanchez, Parent

Pulamahaheo Berg, Licensed Staff
Samantha Olson, Licensed Staff
Meaghan McGowan, Principal

Members absent:

Lindsey Douglas, Support Staff

Non-voting members present:

Ms Wagstaff, 2 other PTA members

Online non-voting members present:

Cassie Radich, Christen Campbell

1. Welcome, Roll Call, & Approval of Minutes. The minutes from the meeting dated 5-13-25 were presented and motioned to be approved "as presented" by Kasey O'Horo and Meaghan McGowan seconded the motion.

2. Old Items

2.1 MAP Testing Update

2.2 School Performance Plan Review/Update

2.3 End of Year Updates & Reflection

3. New Items

3.1 MAP & SBAC Testing Update 2025

Scores are in for FALL MAPS, the majority of kids have tested. Overall, in math we are at 49 %, slightly lower than last year. Reading is at 54%. The goal will be to improve to get kids to 60% in math by Spring (which means they will be prepared for next school year). The goal is to hit 70% overall for Reading by the Spring MAP test. The fall MAP results should get printed and go home to families soon.

Final count for kids was due today. We are around 530 total, but that includes some special ed, which has its own funding, so that number will be lower. The final budget will be released in September for the year. That will be reviewed at the next SOT meeting. The SBAC results are in from spring testing. Also, NSPF is next week, which is how we get our star rating. We are graded on growth (SBAC scores), attendance and language learners.

3.2 School Performance Plan Review/Update

Plan for learning. Details about the 3 goals for the school will be posted to the website. Implementation. Introducing "Leader in me" this year to staff and students. "Proactive" is this month. "Begin with the end in mind" will be next month. Then we will assess as we go. School continuous Improvement Team - anyone that has input.

3.3 Start of Year Updates & Reflection

School year kicked off; lots of testing happening to have good academic understanding and start interventions. Hoping to get additional funds for tutoring.

Specials (art, PE, music, library) will start to rotate on the Tuesday following Labor Day to accommodate for holidays. Each holiday will push the special one day out so each child is getting equal time in each special. Contact the teacher to know your kid's letter. There is a calendar available showing which letter corresponds with which day.

Attendance is important!! A form was sent to parents showing the rules. Regardless of reason for absence, chronic will still trigger a retention call. Ms Johnson will be following up. Hoping to keep attendance up.

The playground for K-2 needs some privacy. When construction was happening with Lennar, there was a tarp which provided privacy between the school and homes. That has been removed and is very expensive to replace. Fundraising was suggested as an option to provide privacy, cups in the fence holes is another idea. Open to other options.

Open house night was great! Interested in feedback on how to get more parents to come. Should it be done during Meet & Greet or separate (at night)? It was suggested to do the Thursday evening before Meet & Greet or have some time slots during Meet & Greet in the gym to get info from Ms McGowan. Teachers don't have time to talk to parents during meet and greet, but want to get information to parents and go over expectations for the year. Ideally, ONLY for parents.

Per PTA, Newton has signed up for "School of excellence PTA". It is a national and state PTA program that will send out help once you achieve/meet the requirements. They set you up with a team to grow, etc. You get it over the year as you show growth and it requires participation from admin, teachers and parents.

It was suggested that the information for the next SOT meeting in Sept detail that budget will be reviewed, so parents are aware what SOT goes over. All parents and staff are invited to attend. Will be included in Dojo.

4. Information

4.1 Next Meeting: Newton Elementary Library, September 10, 2025 at 3:30 pm.

5. Public Comment Period (Two (2) minutes maximum allotted)

None

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 4:31 by Kasey O'Horo, 2nd by Samantha Olsen.