

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ May 12, 2025

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on May 12, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present: Dana Blakely, President
Adam Yale, Vice President
Meagan Van Gelder, Treasurer-Elect
Beth Morrisette, Director

Board members absent (excused): Kris Karnes, Treasurer
Sarah Rider, Secretary

Notice of the meeting was given by placing advance notice on the front page of the District's website no less than 48 hours in advance of the scheduled commencement of the meeting as authorized by Board Policy 1220. Notice for this meeting appeared beginning on April 22, 2025, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on May 9 and 12 2025, and on their website at omahadailyrecord.com, as well as the NE Press Association website at nepublicnotices.com. Copies of proof of publication are attached to the official minutes. Notice of this meeting and the availability of the agenda was simultaneously given to all members of the Board of Education and available to anyone at the Board of Education office. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

District Staff in Attendance: Mike Lucas, Mark Weichel, Andrea Haynes, Brian Gabrial, Nick Lesiak, Molly Hurley, Kim De La Cruz, Kelcy Tapp, Laura Mann, Paul Lindgren, Becky Lowther.

Others in Attendance*: Brandy Klipfel. *Members of the public are not required to identify themselves to attend. Attendee names appearing in these minutes are those who signed a voluntary sign-in sheet.

Ms. Blakely called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She welcomed those in attendance and confirmed with Ms. Hurley that public notice had been given of the meeting under the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted at the meeting and on the district website, as required by law. She acknowledged that the meeting had been publicly announced and the agenda was available to any interested parties. Board Meeting attendance is noted above. Ms. Blakely requested a motion to approve excused absences for Ms. Karnes and Ms. Rider. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Blakely requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting and Student Fees Public Hearing held on April 21, 2025. Ms. Morrisette moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Van Gelder presented the treasurer's report for April 2025 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$16,155,151; Ms. Morrisette seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by

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unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the April 2025 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

Communications

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Engagement, welcomed WHS Science Teacher Ms. Judy Stucky and two members of the WHS Science Club, which provides students the opportunity to further explore science, engineering and mathematics. The students shared about the Club's activities and competitions this year that included field trips, guest speakers, UNO Physics Day, Physics Bowl Competition, and Science Bowl. The team concluded the year with outstanding finishes at both the State Science Olympiad (5th place) and the Regional Science Olympiad (4th place). Ms. Power also welcomed Ms. Dana Bartee from the Westside Community Council who shared an update on the outreach activities of the WCC, which is made up of parent volunteers from all schools. Two of their biggest events of the school year are Career Day at WMS (for all 8th graders) and Battle of the Books, which is a team reading competition for students in grades four through six. WCC also helps with sorting and organizing donations to the Westside Clothing Closet and supporting clothing drives throughout the year; providing volunteer assistance as needed at any district school building; and serving as the Community Club for the high school. All parents and guardians are welcome to become involved with the WCC.

Phase II Bond Project: Construction Manager at Risk Contract - WHS Locker Rooms and Cafeteria

Mr. Matt Herzog, Principal, Project Advocates, presented the Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) Contract with The Weitz company for the Locker Rooms and Cafeteria renovation projects at Westside High School for approval. These renovations are part of the District's Phase II Bond work. The Board of Education approved the Construction Manager at Risk construction delivery method for this project at their meeting on March 10, 2025. A Request for Qualifications for Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) was publicly advertised and posted to the District website on March 14, 2025. Seven firms submitted Statements of Qualifications on April 16, 2025. Five firms were selected to interview with the CMR Selection Committee. The selection committee conducted interviews on April 23, 2025, and selected The Weitz Company as the CMR for the project. The contract is being presented for approval. No modifications were made from the District standard contract. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and CMR Contract are included in the board documents folder.

2025-2026 Pilot Agreement with Advance Services Inc.

Dr. Lucas and Dr. Haynes presented an agreement with Advance Services, Inc. (ASI) for the 2025-2026 school year for board approval. The services provided by ASI will be offered as an option to any interested staff members who are employed as Educational Assistants (EA's). A recent work satisfaction survey of EA's identified a number of items that are important, including pay, benefits, summer employment opportunities and retirement. Because some of these are outside the scope of what the District can offer (like access to health insurance benefits, personalization of retirement accounts, weekly pay, more opportunities for summer employment), District leadership began a conversation with ASI to explore a partnership with Westside Community Schools. Senior Leadership and HR has held informational meetings with EA's to introduce the ASI partnership.

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It is important to note that EA's who might choose to work through ASI would retain their current work assignment; have their schedule and wage structure set by Westside Community Schools; and have access to the non-wage benefits provided through ASI. Ms. Morrisette moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary, ASI Agreement and WCS / ASI Benefits Comparison sheet are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Approval (#4281 and #4460)

Mr. Nick Lesiak, In-House Legal Counsel, requested approval of revisions to two existing policies, previously presented for board discussion on April 21, 2025:

- #4281 - Weapon-Free Workplace (Personnel)
- #4460 - Political Activities of Employees (Personnel)

Mr. Yale moved for approval of policy 4281; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval of policy 4460; Ms. Morrisette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of each policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Review (#4230; #4360)

Mr. Lesiak presented revisions to two existing board policies for board consideration and discussion:

- #4230 - Employment Requirements for Certificated Staff
- #4360 - Outside Employment and Business Activities

Policies will be presented again for approval at the June 16, 2025, Board of Education Meeting. Copies of each policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Student Fees for the 2025 - 2026 School Year (Policy 6340)

Mr. Brian Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance, presented Student Fees for the 2025-2026 school year for approval. Changes were previously presented at the Student Fees Public Hearing on April 21, 2025, and include: an increase to school lunch prices (all levels); updated lost/damaged property fees (all levels); and assorted extracurricular activities fees (secondary). The Student Fee fund budget is \$250,000 and expenses will be transferred in late August each fiscal year from the General Fund to "use" all revenue generated by the fund. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and redline policy 6340 are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Transliterator / Interpreter Negotiated Agreement - 2025-2026 School Year

Dr. Haynes was joined by Ms. Becky Lowther, President of the Westside Education Association, to present the Sign Language Interpreter / Transliterator Negotiated Agreement for the 2025-2026 School Year for board approval.

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This one-year agreement was established by District Administration and the Westside Education Association and includes a 3.14% increase to the starting pay rate, as well as revised language updates for personal leave accrual and buy-back parameters. Ms. Morrisette moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and red-line and final versions of the Negotiated Agreement are included in the board documents folder.

Personnel Report: Employment Actions Related to the Contracts of Certified Staff Members

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, presented the personnel report (three probationary contracts; two resignations) for board approval. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the personnel report is included in the board documents folder.

Written Report: Student Wellness Annual Progress Report (Policy 5660)

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Mr. Erin Vik, Director of Nutrition Services, submitted the Student Wellness Annual Progress Report, as outlined in Policy 5660. Copies of the Executive Summary, along with policy 5660 and regulation 5660R, are included in the board documents folder.

Public Comment: There were no requests for public comment.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

The Board was represented at a number of activities and meetings, including: Loveland Phase II Project Community Meeting; WHS Welding qualification ceremony; Congressman Don Bacon and elected officials welding program tour at WHS; Arts for Me Exhibition at Kaneko; Policy Review Committee meeting; Oakdale Spring Fling; NASB Committee Meeting; WHS Boys Soccer - Districts; WHS Girls Soccer - Districts; WHS Varsity Baseball; WMS Parent Council meeting; WMS Honors Night; WHS Big Band Night; Bond issuances discussion; Unicameral Advocacy; Westbrook walk-through; WHS Life Complex walk-through.

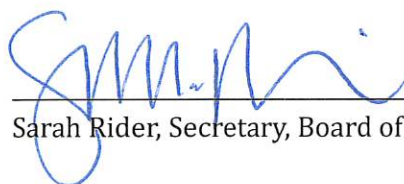
Ms. Blakely reviewed the following upcoming activities:

May 14, 2025	Class of 2025 - Last Day of School
May 18, 2025	Class of 2025 - Commencement - Baxter Arena - 2:00 p.m.
May 19, 2025	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
May 20, 2025	Special Meeting of the Board of Education - ABC Building - 1:30 p.m.
May 23, 2025	Last Day of School - Dismissal at 12:00 Noon
May 26, 2025	Memorial Day - District Administration Office Closed
June 9, 2025	Westside Alumni Association - 2025 Westside Open - Oak Hills Country Club
June 16, 2025	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 5:00 p.m.
June 17, 2025	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
June 19, 2025	District Offices Closed in observance of Juneteenth
	Summer Board Workshop - Henry Doorly Zoo - 9:00 a.m.

Pilot Funds

Ms. Blakely requested a motion to enter closed session to consider information from legal counsel regarding pending litigation. Discussion of this matter in closed session is necessary and permitted by law. Ms. Morrisette moved that the Board enter closed session to discuss pending litigation and to receive and discuss legal advice from the District's attorney, both of which are necessary to protect the public's interest and to maintain the attorney-client privilege. Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Blakely restated that the Board had adopted a motion to enter closed session to discuss pending litigation and to receive and discuss legal advice from the District's attorney, both of which are necessary to protect the public's interest and to maintain the attorney-client privilege. The Board will limit itself to discussion of this issue. At 6:45 p.m., Ms. Blakely advised those in attendance that the Board would take a short recess and reconvene once the public had exited the boardroom. The Board entered closed session at 6:47 p.m. The Board exited the closed session at 7:17 p.m.

There being no further business, Ms. Blakely adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.



Sarah Rider, Secretary, Board of Education

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NOTICE OF MEETING**

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5/9, 5/12 ZNEZ

The Daily Record

Proof of Publication

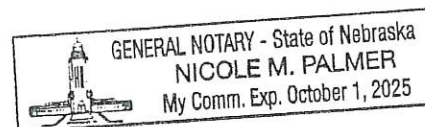
JASON W. HUFF, Publisher

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
The State of Nebraska,
District of Nebraska,
County of Douglas,
City of Omaha } ss.

JASON W. HUFF, being duly sworn, deposes and say that they are the PUBLISHER and/or MANAGING EDITOR of THE DAILY RECORD, of Omaha, a legal newspaper, printed and published daily in the English language, having a bona fide paid circulation in Douglas County in excess of 300 copies, and a general circulation in Sarpy, Lancaster, Cass and Dodge Counties, printed in Omaha, in said County of Douglas, Nebraska for more than fifty-two weeks last past; that the printed notice here-to attached was published in THE DAILY RECORD, of Omaha, for 2 consecutive weeks on:

5/9/25 5/12/25

That said Newspaper during that time was regularly published and in general circulation in the County of Douglas, and State of Nebraska.

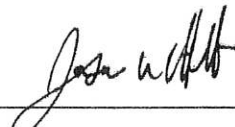


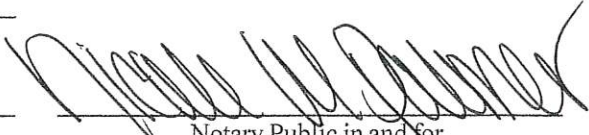
Publisher's Fee \$26.18

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before
me this MAY 16 2025


Notary Public in and for
Douglas County, State of Nebraska

Omaha Daily Record



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Notice Content

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5/9, 5/12 ZNEZ

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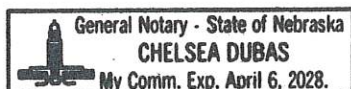
The undersigned hereby certifies that a Notice of Board Meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto, was placed on the home page of the website of Westside Community Schools (www.westside66.org) beginning on April 22, 2025 and that it appeared there continuously up through the time of the scheduled board meeting.

Name Kim Seewig

Communications

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS)

Before me, a Notary Public, qualified in and for said County and State, personally came Kim Sedivy, known to me to be the identical person, and signed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the execution of this document to his or her voluntary deed.



Notary Public