

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ September 18, 2023

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on September 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present:

- Beth Morrisette, President
- Dana Blakely, Vice President
- Meagan Van Gelder, Secretary
- Adam Yale, Treasurer
- Kris Karnes, Treasurer-Elect
- Sarah Rider, Director

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 September 6, 2023, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on September 15 and 18, 2023, and on their website. 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, Molly Hurley, Paul Lindgren, Kim De La Cruz, Kami Jessop, Kelcy Tapp, Laura Mann, Nick Lesiak, Robert Aranda, Becky Lowther, Guy O'Brien.

Others in Attendance*: Carolyn Roeder, Diane Cahill.. *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. Morrisette called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:13 p.m., immediately following adjournment of the FY24 Property Tax Public Hearing. 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Morrisette requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education FY24 Budget Public Hearing held on September 5, 2023. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Morrisette requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on September 5, 2023. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Yale presented the treasurer's report for August 2023 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$7,206,303; Ms. Blakely seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the August 2023 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 Community Engagement, shared that three students from Westside High School qualified as National Merit Semi-finalists. Mrs. Power also updated the board on Homecoming events including the parade on September 27th, football game on September 29th, and the dance on September 30th. Lastly, Mrs. Power updated the board on social media statistics.

Approval of FY24 Budget

Mr. Brian Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance, presented the 2023-2024 budget for approval. The Budget Public Hearing was held on September 5, 2023. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Mr. Yale moved to approve the **General Fund budget** for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$98,742,264 calling for a local real property tax need of \$41,420,319.92 plus 1% County Treasurer Collection Fee of \$418,387 for a total of \$41,838,706.92. Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Blakely moved to approve the **Employee Benefit Fund budget** for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$150,000 calling for a local real property tax need of \$0. Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Rider moved to approve the **Activities Fund budget** for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$2,500,000 calling for a local real property tax need of \$0. Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Dr. Van Gelder moved to approve the **School Nutrition Fund budget** for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$7,442,700 calling for a local real property tax need of \$0. Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Karnes moved to approve the **Bond Fund budget** for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$9,763,493 calling for a local real property tax need of \$10,426,494.32 plus 1% County Treasurer Collection Fee of \$105,318 for a total of \$10,531,812.32. Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Yale moved to approve the **Special Building Fund budget** for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$23,850,000 calling for a local real property tax need of \$2,750,000 plus the 1% County Treasurer Collection Fee of \$27,778 for a total of \$2,777,778. Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Blakely moved to approve the **Student Fee Fund budget** for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in the amount of \$250,000 calling for a local real property tax need of \$0. Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Approval of Construction Manager At Risk Notice to Proceed Letter for WHS Addition and Renovation Project

Mr. Matt Herzog, Principal, Project Advocates, presented for board approval a *Notice to Proceed* letter for the Construction Manager at Risk firm that was selected for the addition and renovation project at Westside High School. Seven firms submitted Statements of Qualifications by September 7, 2023; four firms interviewed with the selection committee on September 14, 2023. The Weitz Company was selected as the CMR for the project. The *Notice to Proceed* authorizes the firm - The Weitz Company - to begin preconstruction services immediately while the contract is being finalized. The final contract is being negotiated with assistance from Project Advocates and will be presented to the board for approval on October 2, 2023. The high school project - which is not part of Phase II bond projects - will add approximately 67,000 GSF to include a new natatorium with pool, spectator seating, locker rooms, a new fitness center, Westside medicine, multipurpose room, innovation and learning center, a secondary gym, and associated support spaces. The project will also include interior renovation to existing spaces for a Life Skills Suite, Fitness and Dance Studio, and a College & Career Readiness Center for a total area of +/- 13,300 GSF. Construction is planned to begin the week of March 4, 2024 with the addition completion expected around October, 2025 and the interior renovations completion expected around March, 2026. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval of the CMR Notice to Proceed; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary and Notice to Proceed Letter is included in the board documents folder.

Board Policy for Approval (#5112)

Mr. Nick Lesiak, District In-House Legal Counsel, requested approval of revisions to existing board policy #5112 - Enrollment of Non Residents (Students). This policy was previously presented for discussion and consideration by the Board on September 5, 2023. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A redline copy of the policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Review (#4100, #4220, #4250)

Mr. Lesiak presented proposed revisions to three existing policies for review and first reading:

- Policy #4100 - Recruitment and Selection (Personnel) - revisions to existing policy
- Policy #4220 - Employment of All Staff (Personnel) - revisions to existing policy
- Policy #4250 - Employment of Classified Staff (Personnel) - revisions to existing policy

These policies will be presented again for approval at the Board Meeting on October 2, 2023. Redline copies of each policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Westside Education Association as Exclusive Bargaining Agent

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, requested board approval to recognize the Westside Education Association (WEA) as the exclusive bargaining agent for non-administrative certificated personnel (teachers) employed by Westside Community Schools. The WEA is requesting recognition for contract negotiations for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years. Dr. Haynes was joined by Ms. Becky Lowther, WEA President and teacher at Westside Middle School. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and WEA Negotiations letter are included in the board documents folder.

Personnel Report

Dr. Haynes presented the personnel report (three certified staff probationary contracts; one certified staff resignation) for board approval. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Personnel Report is included in the board documents folder.

Public Comment - There were two requests for public comment: Larry Yeager; Diane Cahill.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

Ms. Morrisette reviewed recent activities and events attended by board members that include: Phase II Community meetings at Hillside, Westgate and the middle school; Swanson Arboretum Committee meeting; WE-SIDE Steering Committee meeting; BOE Policy Committee meeting; Teaching and Learning Key Communicators meeting; Arts For Me Steering Committee meeting; school-day walk-through at Westside High School; and presenting to the WHS Hatch program. Upcoming events include:

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023	NASB Area Membership Meeting - LaVista Embassy Suites - 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023	Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally - WHS - 6:30 p.m.
Monday, October 2, 2023	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 7, 2023	VI-VI - CHI Center - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 11, 2023	Parent Teacher Conferences - 4:00-8:00pm
Thursday, October 12, 2023	Parent-Teacher Conferences - 8:00am-4:00pm (No School for Students)
Friday, October 13, 2023	No School - Semester Break
Monday, October 16, 2023	Professional Learning Day (No School for Students)
Tuesday, October 17, 2023	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.

District Legal Matters

Ms. Morrisette advised those in attendance that this next item on the agenda is consideration of information from legal counsel regarding personnel matters, and that discussion of these matters in closed session is necessary and permitted by law. Ms. Karnes moved that the Board enter closed session to discuss personnel matters and to receive and discuss legal advice from the District's attorney, both of which are clearly necessary to protect the public's interest, to maintain the attorney-client privilege, and to avoid needless injury to the reputation of a person. Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Board of Education Meeting
September 18, 2023
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Ms. Morrisette stated that the Board has adopted a motion to enter closed session to discuss personnel matters and to receive and discuss legal advice from the District's attorney, both of which are clearly necessary to protect the public's interest, to maintain the attorney-client privilege and to avoid needless injury to the reputation of a person. She reiterated that the Board will limit itself to discussion of these issues. The board entered closed session at 7:05 p.m. The board adjourned from closed session at 7:37 p.m. There being no further business, Ms. Morrisette adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.



Megan Van Gelder, Secretary, Board of Education

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Notice is hereby given of a Board of Education Meeting and FY24 Proposed Property Tax Public Hearing for the Westside Community School District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held **Monday, September 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.** at the District Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, NE. The Public Hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m.; the regular Board Meeting will start immediately following adjournment of the Public Hearing. The agendas, continually kept current, are available at the District Office. The meeting is open to the public.

9/15, 9/18

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**THE DAILY RECORD
OF OMAHA**
JASON W. HUFF, Publisher
PROOF OF PUBLICATION

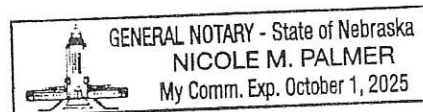
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
The State of Nebraska,
District of Nebraska,
County of Douglas,
City of Omaha

} ss.

JASON W. HUFF and/or JOSIE CHARRON, 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 1 consecutive weeks on:

9/15/23

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

\$20.24

Jason W. Huff

Additional Copies

\$ _____

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before
me this SEPTEMBER 15 2023

Filing Fee

\$ _____

Total \$20.24

Nicole M. Palmer
Notary Public in and for Douglas County, State
of Nebraska

Board of Education Meeting
FY24 Property Tax Public Hearing

September 18, 2023

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROOF OF PUBLICATION

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 Sept 6, 2023, and that it appeared there continuously up through the time of the scheduled board meeting.

Kim Sedivy

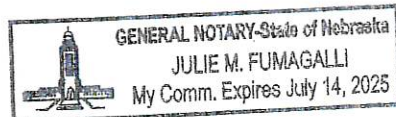
Name

Communications & Graphics

Title

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.



[Signature]
Notary Public