

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ October 2, 2023

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on October 2, 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
Adam Yale, Treasurer
Kris Karnes, Treasurer-Elect
Sarah Rider, Director

Board members absent (excused): Meagan Van Gelder, 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 September 19, 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 29 and October 2, 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 Gabriel, Molly Hurley, Paul Lindgren, Kim De La Cruz, Kami Jessop, Laura Mann, Nick Lesiak, Robert Aranda, Scott Becker, Becky Lowther, Abby Langner, Steve Rys, Kayla Newmann.

Others in Attendance*: Lisa Hatterman, Carolyn Roeder. *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 6:00 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. Morrisette requested a motion for an excused absence for Dr. Van Gelder. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. 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 Property Tax Public Hearing held on September 18, 2023. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Mr. Yale 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 18, 2023. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Communications

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, highlighted recent positive news stories that had been shared about Westside Community Schools, and extended congratulations to the high school team for organizing a successful parade and pep rally last week for Homecoming Week! Lots of candy, a fantastic turnout, and great weather = lots of fun!

Approval of FY24 Property Tax Request

Mr. Brian Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance, presented the FY24 Property Tax Levies for board approval, previously introduced at a public hearing on September 18, 2023. Mr. Gabriel reviewed the proposed amounts and invited questions from the Board:

General Fund:	\$41,838,707
Levy:	\$0.870000
Bond Fund:	\$10,531,812
Levy:	\$0.219000
Special Building Fund:	\$ 2,777,778
Levy:	\$0.057762
All Levy Funds Total:	\$55,148,297
Combined Total Levy:	\$1.146762

Mr. Yale read the tax request resolution and moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. The Property Tax Resolution passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary, Property Tax Resolution and Daily Record Notice of the Property Tax Public Hearing held on 9/18/23 are included in the board documents folder.

Phase II Bond Project: Approval of Westgate Elementary Concept Design

Mr. Chris Houston and Ms. Nichole Schultes with TACK Architects presented the Concept Design for the new Westgate Elementary School for board approval. A presentation to the Board was also held on Friday, September 29, 2023 at the district office. Mr. Houston and Ms. Schultes reviewed the meetings that have been held to date with the Westgate Design Advisory Committee (staff, parents, Project Advocates and district leadership), as well as with the Westgate neighborhood, to gather input and ideas on a new Westgate Elementary building. Numerous design concepts, building site options, and other elements such as learning spaces, community spaces, safety and security, pick-up and drop-off, and the playground area were discussed and considered. The concept design being presented for approval is a single-story building with a public wing (main entrance and offices, cafeteria, gymnasium) and secure classroom wing and will be set back along the northern edge of the district property line. This will allow for a substantial pick-up and drop-off traffic lane. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and Powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

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Phase II Bond Project: Approval of Asbestos Survey Proposal

Mr. Matt Herzog, Principal, Project Advocates, presented for board approval a proposal from B2E Environmental for \$25,900 for Asbestos Survey services. B2E was the lowest responsible bid of three proposals that were received. The asbestos survey work will be completed over the next two years to align with the various timelines of Phase II Bond projects. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary, proposals and proposal spreadsheet are included in the board documents folder.

Construction Manager at Risk Contract for WHS Addition and Renovation Project

Dr. Lucas advised that this agenda item will be tabled until the October 17, 2023, Board Meeting.

Annual Anti-Bullying Report to the Board (Policy 5310)

Mr. Robert Aranda, Director of Student Services, presented an overview of the district's anti-bullying efforts that are integrated through many departments (Teaching and Learning, Student Services, Special Services, and Professional Development) and across all grade levels (K-12). Grade and age appropriate lessons on topics such as empathy, conflict resolution, inclusion, and tolerance and acceptance, are taught as part of the district's Social Emotional Learning curriculum. Other activities and programs that complement anti-bullying efforts include No Place For Hate, Circle of Friends, and Unified Sports. Mr. Aranda reviewed action steps that are taken in response to reports of bullying, and emphasized that establishing trust and building positive relationships with students is the key foundation to maintaining safe environments in our schools. Copies of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

2023-2024 Academic Report: MAP Assessment Updates

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; Ms. Kim De La Crus, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning; and Dr. Kelcy Tapp, Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning, presented a report on student academic data in relation to before the pandemic, and student academic performance when they have been with us for less than a year, between one and three years, and more than three years. They reviewed how the Teaching and Learning team analyzes this data by student groups, proficiency, and growth, and use of student achievement percentile and RIT (Rasch Unit) scores, which can be used to illustrate how students learn and grow over time. We also heard from four staff members via video (Melisa Reeves, Reading Coordinator at Hillside; Belinda Westfall, Principal at Prairie Lane; Diana Williams, Instructional Coach at Westgate; and Andrea Neuzil, English Language Arts Teacher at WMS) and the high levels of growth they have seen from students from the fall of 2022 to the fall of 2023. Dr. Weichel and his team will be sharing regular academic and student learning reports throughout the 2023-2024 school year. Copies of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

High School AP and Dual Enrollment Annual Update

Ms. De La Cruz presented updates on the high school's Advanced Placement course offerings and dual enrollment partners and courses. Westside's primary dual enrollment partners are UNO and MCC, and a majority of the dual enrollment offerings at UNO are connected to AP classes.

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During the 2022-23 school year, the addition of Composition I and II, and PreCalculus Algebra helped boost dual enrollment numbers. Other popular dual enrollment courses include Personal Finance, Spanish and Welding. Dual enrollment numbers grew from 1652 hours in 2021-22 to 4283 in 2022-23. Ms. De La Cruz shared that they are always working to identify additional non-AP course offerings for dual enrollment, while also ensuring high school staff have the requisite graduate-level credits in the specific content area required to teach the dual-enrollment course. Dr. Lucas commended Ms. De La Cruz for her continued work in this area to secure even more opportunities for our high school students to establish pathways for post-secondary success. Copies of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

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

Mr. Nick Lesiak, District In-House Legal Counsel, requested approval of revisions to the following existing board policies that were previously presented for discussion and consideration by the Board on September 18, 2023.

Policy #4100 - Recruitment and Selection (Personnel) - Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Policy #4220 - Employment of All Staff (Personnel) - Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Policy #4250 - Employment of Classified Staff (Personnel) - Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Redline copies of each policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Review

Mr. Lesiak presented one new policy and proposed revisions to one existing policy for review and first reading:

Policy #4105 - Behavioral and Mental Health Training (Personnel) - New policy established due to LB705, which requires all district personnel who interact with students to complete at least one hour of behavioral and mental health training with focus on suicide awareness and prevention each year.

Policy #4280 - Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace (Personnel) - Revisions to existing policy; clarification of defined terms.

Policies 4105 and 4280 will be presented again for approval at the Board Meeting on October 17, 2023. Copies of each policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Building Service Negotiated Agreement

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, requested board approval of the Building Service Negotiated Agreement for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 contract years.

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Terms of the agreement - established by the District and Service Employees International Union, Local #226 - include an estimated base salary increase of 3.25% for each of the two years, and language revisions that add two additional holidays, an increase to maximum sick leave accrual, and clarifications regarding parameters for overtime assignments. Dr. Haynes expressed her thanks to Mr. Steve Rys, Building Services Engineer, for his leadership and representation of our building service employees. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and redline and final versions of the Negotiated Agreement are included in the board documents folder.

BOE Student Advisory Committee Refresh

Ms. Morrisette presented a preliminary proposal to her board colleagues for consideration regarding a renewal of the BOE Student Advisory Committee (SAC). They discussed a preliminary idea around two board members meeting with small groups of students and a district representative, focusing on a single topic or action. They also discussed possible requirements for student attendance at BOE SAC meetings and a proposed nomination process for service on the BOE SAC. They considered the original intent of a student advisory committee (a focus on the duties of the BOE), as well as timing / frequency of the BOE SAC meetings and acknowledging both student and adult schedules. No firm consensus reached; board members will give further thought to Ms. Morrisette's proposal and bring this topic to their monthly 3:1 meetings with Dr. Lucas. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Public Comment - There was one request for public comment: Steve Rys

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

Ms. Morrisette reviewed recent activities and events attended by board members that include: Phase II Design Advisory Committee meetings; NASB Area Membership Meeting on September 19th; BOE Policy Committee meeting; Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally; and a number of building visits and walk-throughs.

Tuesday, October 3, 2023	BOE Committee Meeting: Committee on American Civics - ABC - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 7, 2023	VI-VI - CHI Center - 6:00 p.m.
Monday, October 9, 2023	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - ABC - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 11, 2023	Parent Teacher Conferences - 4:00-8:00 p.m.
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 - 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Ms. Morrisette adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.



Meagan Van Gelder, Secretary, Board of Education

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Notice is hereby given of a Board of Education Meeting for the Westside Community School District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held **Monday, October 2, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** at the District Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, NE. The agenda, continually kept current, is available at the District Office. The meeting is open to the public.

9/29, 10/2

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

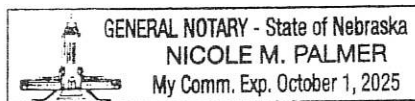
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
The State of Nebraska,
District of Nebraska,
County of Douglas,
City of Omaha

} 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 2 consecutive weeks on:

9/29/23 10/2/23

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

\$23.17

Jason W. Huff

Additional Copies

\$

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before
me this OCTOBER 02 2023

Filing Fee

\$

Total \$23.17

Nicole M. Palmer

Notary Public in and for Douglas County, State
of Nebraska

Board of Education Meeting
October, 2, 2023

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROOF OF PUBLICATION

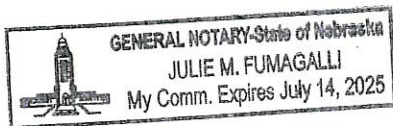
The undersigned hereby certifies that a Notice of Board Meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto, was placed on the home page of the website of Westside Community Schools (www.westside66.org) beginning on Sept. 19, 2023 and that it appeared there continuously up through the time of the scheduled board meeting.

Name

Title

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS)

Before me, a Notary Public, qualified in and for said County and State, personally came Kevin 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