

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ November 15, 2021

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on November 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present:

Doug Krenzer, President
Beth Morrisette, Treasurer
Adam Yale, Secretary
Dana Blakely, Treasurer-Elect

Board member absent (excused):

Meagan Van Gelder, Vice President
Kris Karnes, 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 November 2, 2021, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on November 12 and 15, 2021, 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, Kim De La Cruz, Greg Betts, Kami Jessop, Brandi Paul, Nick Lesiak, Kelcy Tapp, Robert Aranda, Gary Smollen, Crystal Shirkey, Kim Schenkelberg, Sally Shepherd, Teresa Matthews.

Others in Attendance*: *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.

Mr. Krenzer called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He 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. He acknowledged that the meeting had been publicly announced and the agenda was available to any interested parties. Mr. Krenzer advised that Kris Karnes and Meagan Van Gelder would be absent and requested a motion to approve their absence. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Krenzer requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on November 1, 2021. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Ms. Morrisette seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Morrisette presented the treasurer's report for October 2021 and requested approval for expenditures in the amount of \$7,663,602; Ms. Blakely seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the October 2021 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

District Audit Annual Report

Mr. Jess Paisley, CPA, FHFMA, Partner with Seim Johnson, presented the annual district audit report to the Board of Education. Mr. Paisley advised that the majority of the work was completed remotely again this year and thanked Mr. Brian Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance, and his staff for their assistance and responsiveness to all their requests for information. Mr. Paisley met with the Board Finance Committee (Mr. Krenzer, Ms. Morrisette and Ms. Blakely) on October 28, 2021, to review the audit findings. He reported that there were only two small control deficiencies (not reportable) regarding contractor's wage reports that should be provided to the district, and unclaimed payroll checks that, after five years, should be remitted to the state treasurer. A previous control deficiency - segregation of duties - was cleared during this audit. The district's fund balance increased again this year, from \$20M to \$22.1M, and total expenditures decreased again, from \$79.6M to \$79.4M. Mr. Paisley commended the district for the significant growth in the fund balance over the last 5 years, from \$10.7M in 2017 to \$22.1M in 2021. Copies of the audit reports and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policy for Approval

Mr. Nick Lesiak, District Administrative Counsel, presented revisions to existing policy #1175 for board approval. These revisions were introduced at the Board of Education Meeting on November 1, 2021, for review and discussion and are primarily for the addition of cross-referencing to policies amended in February 2021 (#2211 and #2214) and to policy #2214, which was adopted in November 2020.

- Board Policy 1175 (Board of Education) - Suggestions, Concerns and Appeals/Grievances presented to the Board of Education: Mrs. Morrisette moved for approval of recommended revisions; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

A copy of the Executive Summary and a redline copy of policy #1175 are included in the board documents folder.

Consideration of Memorandum of Understanding with Avenue Scholars

Dr. Lucas presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Avenue Scholars to the Board for approval. This partnership will provide career and post-secondary education counseling and training for up to 30 juniors and 30 seniors who are selected for enrollment in the Avenue Scholars program. Westside will become the 10th high school in the metro to join Avenue Scholars, which provides a pathway to careers in health services, business, information technology, trades and manufacturing, and auto/diesel/ transportation technician.

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If approved and implemented, the course would become available to WHS students beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, and the district will provide the board with data on student success with the program. Ms. Blakely moved for approval of the MOU with Avenue Scholars; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary, Memorandum of Understanding and Avenue Scholars Fact Sheet are included in the board documents folder.

New Courses at WHS for the 2022-2023 School Year

Ms. Kim De La Cruz, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, presented a report to the Board on new courses that will be offered at Westside High School for the 2022-2023 school year. Courses include:

Advanced Algebra Lab: A supplemental course for students who have a demonstrated need for additional support in math; the Advanced Algebra Lab enhances the Algebra Lab, started in 2019-2020, and Geometry Lab, started in 2020-2021.

Teaching as a Profession: A new introductory course as part of the district's "Grow Our Own" initiative; the current Introduction to Education course will become a capstone course and continue to provide the dual enrollment option.

Introduction to Special Education: Pending teacher identification and UNO approval, this course will be offered as dual enrollment and is also part of our "Grow Our Own".

MCC Composition 1 & 2 Honors: An MCC dual enrollment, group 4 course for WHS upperclass students (juniors and seniors in 2022-2023) who have not yet taken and are not planning on taking AP Language and Composition.

MCC General Education Academy: A ½ day program for students interested in getting a jump-start on six general-education courses typically required at a 4-year college or university (Composition 1 & 2, Statistics, Psychology, Government and Public Speaking). Courses will be taught by an MCC faculty member who holds an NDE teaching certificate.

Avenue Scholars: Juniors accepted into the Avenue Scholars program will participate in "career coaching" three times per week at WHS. Taught by an Avenue Scholars coach, the instructor will work with Avenue Scholars students during their junior and senior year to help them achieve their career goals. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Personnel Report

Dr. Haynes presented the personnel report (two probationary contracts and three retirements) for board approval. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Personnel Report is included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Superintendent's Temporary Emergency Adjunct Professorship

Dr. Lucas informed the Board that he has been asked to fill in as an emergency adjunct professor for the University of Nebraska-Kearney's Educational Leadership Department. He will be fulfilling instructor duties for the remainder of the semester for a professor who experienced a medical emergency. Dr. Lucas advised the Board that his duties of providing feedback to students and grading student work will be performed on Sundays and will not conflict with his day-to-day duties at Westside Community Schools. Board approval is required. Ms. Morrisette moved to grant approval for Dr. Lucas to fill the

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temporary emergency adjunct professorship for the current semester at UNK; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Board of Education Legislative Priorities for the 2022 Legislative Session

Dr. Lucas presented legislative priorities for the 2022 Legislative session, which commences January 5, 2022. He advised that the following four positions - topics that come up frequently in legislative activity - serve to help guide the work of Westside Community Schools:

- 1) Westside Community Schools supports the current school district boundaries and process;
- 2) Westside Community Schools supports a school finance model that is predictable and sustainable without limiting the current levy authority;
- 3) Westside Community Schools supports the current net option aspect in the State's funding formula;
- 4) Westside Community Schools opposes funding to any entities not subject to the same accountability and standards as Nebraska public schools.

A copy of the Legislative priorities will be posted on the district website and are included in the board documents folder.

Public Comment

There were no requests for Public Comment.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates

Mr. Krenzer represented the District at a recent MABE Meeting (Metropolitan Area Boards of Education) and reported that a potential third Learning Community Center could be opening that would be located in an area to serve Westside, Ralston and Papillion-LaVista. Mr. Krenzer also helped with the "Royalty Cup" surprise presentation to Tommy Krueger, WHS Band Director. Other board members conducted building walk-throughs and participated in the Inclusive Communities Dialogue sessions at Westside High School on November 2nd and November 8th. Dr. Lucas advised that a third "Senator Visit" to the district will take place in December at Hillside Elementary.

Announcements

Mr. Krenzer reviewed the following upcoming events:

Nov. 17-19, 2021	State Education Conference - CHI Center
Nov. 24-26, 2021	Thanksgiving Break - No School
Nov. 25-26, 2021	District Offices Closed
Dec. 13, 2021	BOE Student Advisory Committee Meeting - ABC - 5:00 p.m.
Dec. 13, 2021	Board of Education Meeting - ABC - 6:00 p.m.

Consideration of Tort Claim

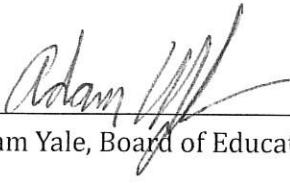
Mr. Krenzer advised that this item on the agenda - consideration of a claim filed with the District - will include legal advice and matters for discussion necessitate a closed session, which is permissible by law. He requested a motion for a closed session. Ms. Blakely moved that Board enter closed session to discuss pending or threatened litigation and to receive legal advice from the District's attorney, both of

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which are clearly necessary to protect the public's interest and to maintain the attorney-client privilege; Mr. Yale seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll-call vote. Mr. Krenzer restated that the Board would enter closed session only to discuss pending or threatened litigation and to receive and discuss legal advice from the District's attorney, both of which are clearly necessary to protect the public's interest and to maintain the attorney-client privilege and that the Board would limit itself to discussion of these issues. The Board entered closed session at 7:04 p.m. The Board came out of closed session at 7:17 p.m. There being no further business, Mr. Krenzer adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Adam Yale", is written over a horizontal line.

Adam Yale, Board of Education Secretary

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NOTICE OF MEETING**

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, November 15, 2021, 6:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held 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.

11/12, 11/15

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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 SCOTT STEWART


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, printed in Omaha, in said County of Douglas, for more than fifty-two weeks last past; that the printed notice hereto attached was published in **THE DAILY RECORD**, of Omaha, on _____
November 12

_____ & 15, 2021

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

 GENERAL NOTARY - State of Nebraska
ELLEN FREEMAN
My Comm. Exp. December 11, 2021

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before

Publisher's Fee \$ 21.13 me this 15th day of
Additional Copies \$ _____ November 21
Total \$ 21.13

Notary Public in and for Douglas County,
State of Nebraska

Christa
Notary Public