

## WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

### Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ March 7, 2022

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The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on March 7, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Board members present:**

- Doug Krenzer, President
- Meagan Van Gelder, Vice President
- Beth Morrissette, Treasurer
- Dana Blakely, Treasurer-Elect
- Adam Yale, Secretary
- 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 February 23, 2022, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on March 4 and 7, 2022, 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, Greg Betts, Brian Gabriel, Molly Hurley, Kim De La Cruz, Nick Lesiak, Kelcy Tapp, Robert Aranda, Kami Jessop, Becky Lowther, Maggie Person, Emily Vlcek, Sally Shepherd.

**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. 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 February 22, 2022. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Morrissette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Mr. Krenzer requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Workshop held on March 3 and 4, 2022. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Morrissette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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### **Communications**

Ms. Brand Paul, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, introduced student members of the Nebraska FIRST Lego League Champions' team - the Gizmo Gang: Westside students Liam and Aaron who attend WMS, Henry who attends Rockbrook Elementary, and their teammate Grace, who attends OPS's King Science & Technology Middle School. Not only did this team of outstanding students win the Nebraska FIRST Lego League competition, but they also received a Global Innovation Award for their "Challenge" project, earning them a trip to the World Competition in Houston in April, where they will be one of 100 teams from around the world. A demonstration of their Innovative Project Challenge can be seen here: [Gizmo Gang - Innovative Project Demo](#). Congratulations to these outstanding students!

### **Board Policies for Approval (#2210 and #2212)**

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Business Operations, presented two policies for approval. These policies were previously presented by Mr. Nick Lesiak, District In-House Legal Counsel, on February 22, 2022, for board discussion and consideration. Mr. Lesiak was unable to be in attendance at tonight's meeting.

#2210 - Administration in Policy Absence - recommending approval of minor language revisions. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

#2212 - Equal Allocation of Resources - recommending to repeal this policy; outdated assumptions that are not relevant to how the district is today; some terms are not referenced in any other policy language; and there are a number of other criteria that govern allocation of resources. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

### **Student Teacher Stipends**

Dr. Haynes presented a proposal for Student Teacher Stipends (beginning with the 2022-2023 school year) for board approval. Dr. Haynes shared that there is steep competition, both here in the metro and across the country, for new teacher candidates. Offering a stipend to Student Teachers is a way to not only help strengthen our pipeline for highly qualified teacher candidates, but it can also help lessen the financial barrier for many students who find that a semester of unpaid student teaching is a roadblock to ultimately attaining their teaching degree. Dr. Haynes advised that the stipend amount of \$4,000 per student teacher would be paid in two installments over the course of the one semester of a student teaching assignment. HR is working with the Business Office to establish the payment details. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

### **Personnel Report**

Dr. Haynes presented the personnel report (five probationary contracts; one temporary to probationary contract; six certified resignations; one certified resignation / not returning from Leave of Absence; and one cancellation of certified contract) for board approval.



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Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Morrisette 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 Report (Policy #5660)**

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, prepared the Student Wellness Annual Update as required under Policy #5660, which encompasses the following six areas of student health, wellness, well-being and safety: (1) Health and Nutrition Education; (2) Physical Activities and Education; (3) School-Based Activities to Promote Student Wellness; (4) Nutrition Services; (5) Counseling, Psychological and Health / Social Services; and (6) Safe School Environment. Dr. Weichel noted the expanded social services available to our district families through the Family Resource Center, located at the Pipal Park Community Center at Westgate Elementary. Grant funding and private donations allowed for consolidation of the food pantry and clothing closet to one location. New this school year is a partnership with One World Health, offering a mobile clinic to students, staff and families in select buildings. Dr. Weichel's full report is included in the board documents folder.

**Public Comment:** There was one request for public comment: Diane Cahill, curriculum.

**Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates**

Ms. Blakely represented the district at a recent NCTE Meeting (NE Council of Teacher Education). Discussion centered on the roadblocks that keep teachers (with their certification from another state) who move to Nebraska from being able to teach in Nebraska classrooms. Mr. Krenzer will be attending a MABE Meeting (Metropolitan Area Boards of Education) on March 9, 2022. Board members expressed positive feedback from their discussions at the Board Workshop held last week (March 3rd & 4th).

**Announcements**

Mr. Krenzer reviewed the following upcoming events:

March 14, 2022	WE-SIDE Unified "This is Me" Talent Show - WHS - 6:00 p.m.
March 19, 2022	Battle of the Books - WMS - 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
March 21, 2022	Board of Education Meeting - ABC - 6:00 p.m.
Week of April 4th	All Staff Appreciation Week
April 4, 2022	Board of Education Student Advisory Committee - ABC - 5:00 p.m. Board of Education Meeting - ABC - 6:00 p.m.
April 11-15, 2022	Spring Break - No School

There being no further business, Mr. Krenzer adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.



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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, March 7, 2022, at 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.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

March 4

& 7, 2022

**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

NICOLE M. PALMER

My Comm. Exp. October 1, 2025

**Publisher's Fee** \$ 22.25 me this 7th \_\_\_\_\_ day of

**Additional Copies** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \$ 22.25

March 2022  
*Nicole M. Palmer*  
Notary Public in and for Douglas County,  
State of Nebraska

