

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ January 16, 2024

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on January 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present: Beth Morrisette, President
Meagan Van Gelder, Secretary
Adam Yale, Treasurer
Kris Karnes, Treasurer-Elect
Sarah Rider, Director

Board member absent (excused): Dana Blakely, Vice President

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 December 12, 2023, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on January 11, 12, and 15, 2024, 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, Kami Jessop, Kelcy Tapp, Laura Mann, Nick Lesiak, Robert Aranda, Abby Langner, Becky Lowther.

Others in Attendance*: Diane Cahill, 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 Ms. Blakely. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Ms. Karnes 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 Meeting held on December 11, 2023. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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Treasurer's Report

Mr. Yale presented the treasurer's report for December 2023 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$13,527,472; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the December 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 Engagement, shared that the District's Annual Report is being finalized and on track to be mailed out next month. Ms. Power also shared information about NASB School Board Member Appreciation week (Jan. 21-28), the district Caucus (February 6th), and a Community Information Forum at WHS (February 8th) regarding the planned addition and renovation project for the high school.

2023-2024 Academic Reports

As part of the Teaching and Learning team's year-long academic reports, there are two reports tonight: one on elementary and middle school MAP testing and one on English 2 at the high school.

Reading and Math MAP Assessment Update

Ms. Kim De La Cruz, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, and Dr. Kelcy Tapp, Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning, reviewed results of growth and achievement from winter MAP testing that took place in December 2023 in grades 3-8. Reading achievement data shows that Westside students are achieving at levels close to or above pre-pandemic scores. In math, while students are not yet achieving at pre-pandemic levels, achievement levels continue to rise. And students who have been with the district for three or more years are very close to, if not already meeting, pre-pandemic levels of achievement. In addition to national norms on student achievement, NWEA MAP also provides national norms on student growth through and across years. When evaluating student growth from fall to winter testing, we can see that, overall, current Westside students are demonstrating stronger growth than the nation as a whole, and are demonstrating stronger growth in both reading and math than before the pandemic. Copies of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board meeting documents folder.

WHS English 2

At the secondary level, each content area team was asked to identify its most essential unit - a unit with critical concepts foundational for success in the course, future courses, and/or key academic assessments. Mr. Chase Martin and Mr. Paul Sanders, WHS English Teachers, provided an overview of the *Macbeth* unit, which was identified as the most essential unit in English 2 (a grade level course most often taken during a student's sophomore year). Mr. Martin and Mr. Sanders reviewed a number of the state standards and learning activities associated with the *Macbeth* unit. There is a strong emphasis on the recursive writing process (pre-writing, or planning what you're going to write; drafting; writing; editing; rewriting; final draft), which is critical to student success on a number of state ELA standards, as well as career readiness standards and the ACT.

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Mr. Martin and Mr. Sanders also reviewed results of the assessment during the unit, follow-up actions and reteaching opportunities for students who did not demonstrate proficiency, as well as ideas for this unit for next year. Copies of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board meeting documents folder.

Approval of Construction Manager at Risk contract for Westgate Elementary

Construction of a new Westgate Elementary School is part of the District's Phase II Bond work. The Board of Education approved the Construction Manager Risk construction delivery method for this project at their meeting on October 17, 2023. A Request for Qualifications for Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) was publicly advertised and posted to the District website on October 30, 2023. Eight firms submitted Statements of Qualifications on November 30, 2023. Four firms were selected to interview with the CMR Selection Committee. The selection committee conducted interviews on December 8, 2023, and selected Charles Vrana & Son Construction as the CMR for the project. At the Board meeting on December 12, 2023, the Board approved a "Notice to Proceed" letter, authorizing the CMR to begin preconstruction services immediately while the final contract with Charles Vrana & Son was negotiated. That contract is now presented for approval by the Board of Education. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and CMR Contract are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Construction Manager at Risk contract for the ABC Building

ADA renovations and a new HVAC system at the District's ABC Building are part of the Phase II Bond projects. The Board of Education approved the Construction Manager at Risk construction delivery method for this project at their meeting on November 6, 2023. A Request for Qualifications for Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) was publicly advertised and posted to the District website on November 7, 2023. Three firms submitted Statements of Qualifications on December 8, 2023, and interviews were conducted with the CMR Selection Committee on December 20, 2023. The selection committee selected Hausmann Construction as the CMR for the ABC Building project. The CMR contract is now presented for approval by the Board of Education. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and CMR Contract are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Design Development for Westside Middle School Cafeteria Renovation and Expansion

BVH Architects was approved by the Board of Education for the WMS Cafeteria Renovation and Expansion project on August 7, 2023. The Board approved the Concept Design presented on October 17, 2023. Since that time, BVH has continued to work closely with the WMS DAC, the WMS school community and district staff to create the Design Development package that expands the seating capacity of the Middle School. The Board of Education had the opportunity to preview the Design Development package at a meeting on January 12, 2024. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and design development keynote are included in the board documents folder.

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Approval of Construction Manager at Risk contract for Westside Middle School

A cafeteria renovation and expansion at Westside Middle School is part of the Phase II Bond projects. The Board of Education approved the Construction Manager Risk construction delivery method for this project at their meeting on November 6, 2023. A Request for Qualifications for Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) was publicly advertised and posted to the District website on November 7, 2023. Four firms submitted Statements of Qualifications on December 8, 2023. The CMR Selection Committee conducted interviews on December 19, 2023, and selected Hausmann Construction as the CMR for the Westside Middle School project. The CMR contract is now presented for approval by the Board of Education. Ms. Karnes 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.

Approval of Design Development for WHS Restroom Renovation Project

BVH Architects was approved by the Board of Education for the WHS Restroom Renovation project on September 5, 2023. The Board of Education approved the Concept Design presented on November 3, 2023. Since that time, BVH has been working closely with the WHS DAC, the WHS school community and district staff to create the Design Development package that updates the bathroom infrastructure, relocates the sinks to the hallway for better monitoring, and addresses accessibility issues. Work will be constructed in phases over the summers of 2024 and 2025. The Board of Education had the opportunity to preview the Design Development package at a meeting on January 12, 2024. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Copies of the Executive Summary and Design Development presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Concept Design for WHS Cafeteria Renovation and Expansion Project

BVH Architects was approved by the Board of Education on September 5, 2023, for the bathroom, locker room and cafeteria renovation projects at Westside High School as part of the Phase II Bond. Since that time, BVH has been working with the high school design advisory committee, district leadership and Project Advocates to develop a concept design that addresses increasing the seating capacity in the cafeteria. Board members were invited to preview the concept design package at a meeting on January 12, 2024. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Copies of the Executive Summary and Concept Design presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Purchase Order for Electrical Distribution Equipment for Hillside and Westgate Projects

Approval of bid for new electrical distribution equipment for the new Hillside and Westgate Elementary Schools (prior to the hiring of the Construction Manager at Risk (CMR)) is being requested now, due to the long lead time for the new electrical distribution equipment. The equipment will be assigned to the CMR and used in the construction of the new buildings. Per the attached bid tab, three complete bids were received. The lowest complete bid was submitted by Echo Electric in the amount of \$68,398.81. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and bid tab sheet are included in the board documents folder.

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Approval of Building Commissioning Services for Hillside, Westgate, ABC and WMS

The firm selected for "Commissioning Services" will provide documented confirmation that the new facilities fulfill the functional and performance requirements of the District, students and staff, and facilities personnel. On November 21, 2023, Project Advocates issued a Request for Third Party Commissioning Services for Building Systems. The notice was posted on the District website and four proposals were received on December 14, 2023. Westside Facilities staff and Project Advocates interviewed three firms and selected Optimized Systems based on their past performance on Westside Community Schools projects, self performing of the functional performance tests versus relying on the contractor, and testing 100% of the affected equipment versus sampling. Mr. Yale moved for approval of the bid from Optimized Systems for Building Commissioning Services for Hillside, Westgate, ABC, and Westside Middle School in the amount of \$168,961; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and evaluation spreadsheet are included in the board documents folder.

District Strategic Plan Semi-Annual Progress Update

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, presented an update to the Board on the District's Strategic Plan. When the current 5-year strategic plan was introduced in 2021, the district (in partnership with OnStrategy) implemented a Strategic Plan Dashboard on the district website that displays the Strategic Plan goals and strategies, and the district's progress toward each one. Joining Dr. Weichel in his presentation were Mr. Brian Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance; and Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Board Policy for Review - #4282

Mr Nick. Lesiak, District In-House Legal Counsel, presented revisions to the following existing policy for board consideration and discussion:

- Policy #4282 - Notification of Arrest (Personnel)

This policy will be brought back for board approval at the Board of Education Meeting on February 5, 2024. The Executive Summary and redline copy of policy 4282 are included in the board documents folder.

Sale of District Equipment

Mr. Andy Wane, Director of Facilities, requested board approval for the sale of two smoke eaters that have been used by the WHS Skilled and Technical Sciences Department. After recent equipment upgrades and the reconfiguration of space, these items are no longer needed. Both pieces of equipment are still operational and have value. Matheson, a local vendor, has expressed interest in purchasing the smoke eaters. Proceeds from the sale would be put back into the WHS Skilled and Technical Sciences Department for future equipment and materials. Mr. Yale moved for approval of this sale; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board document folder.

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Superintendent Discretionary Bonus

Ms. Morrissette requested approval from the board for payment of a discretionary bonus as outlined in item #3.a. of the Fifth Amendment to the Superintendent Employment Agreement, which was approved by the board on June 12, 2023. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and Fifth Amendment to the Superintendent Employment Agreement are included in the board documents folder.

Personnel Report


Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, presented the personnel report (three certified staff resignations; one certified staff cancellation of contract) for board approval. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Personnel Report is included in the board documents folder.

Public Comment - There was one request for public comment: Diane Cahill.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

Ms. Morrissette reviewed recent activities and events attended by board members that included a number of Phase II Bond meetings (Bond Oversight Committee, WMS Design Advisory Committee, CMR Short-List meetings and CMR Interviews); District and building activities (West Campus staff luncheon, elementary strings and choral concerts, WMS and WHS Show Choirs preview nights, building walk-throughs); and Board of Education commitments (Policy Review Committee meeting; Student Advisory Committee orientation; NASB Legislative Committee meeting; Omaha-area senator reception).

January 22, 2024	NASB Legislative Issues Conference - Lincoln - 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
January 22, 2024	Westside Caucus Candidate Informational Meeting - ABC Building - 4-5 p.m.
January 24, 2024	Caucus Committee Meeting - Westside High School - 4:00 p.m.
February 1, 2024	WCS Community Walk - UNO Samuel Bak Museum - 4:00-5:30 p.m
February 5, 2024	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
February 6, 2024	2024 Caucus - Westside High School
	- 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Daytime Voting for District Residents
	- 6:15 - 7:00 p.m. - Caucus Voter Check-in
	- 7:00 p.m. - Caucus
February 8, 2024	WHS Life Complex Community Information Meeting - WHS - 6:00 p.m.
February 12, 2024	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 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 **Tuesday, January 16, 2024 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.

1/12, 1/15, 1/16

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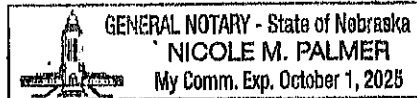
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County of Douglas,
City of Omaha

} ss.

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1/12/24 1/15/24 1/16/24

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



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