

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ February 20, 2024

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on February 20, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present: Beth Morrissette, President
Dana Blakely, Vice President
Adam Yale, Treasurer
Kris Karnes, Treasurer-Elect
Sarah Rider, Director

Board member 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 February 6, 2024, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on February 16, 19, 20, 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, Nick Lesiak, Robert Aranda, Abby Langner, Becky Lowther, Maggie Person, Sandra Fey, Bob Brousek.

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.

Ms. Morrissette 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. Morrissette requested a motion for an excused absence for Dr. Van Gelder. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Morrissette requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on February 5, 2024. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Morrissette requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Building Project Presentations held on February 16, 2024. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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Treasurer's Report

Mr. Yale presented the treasurer's report for January 2024 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$8,733,764; Ms. Blakely seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the January 2024 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, welcomed members of the WHS Girls Wrestling Team and their head coach Bob Mulligan to recognize their historic State Championship win this past weekend. The Board expressed their congratulations and admiration for the team's dedication and hard work and being outstanding representatives of Westside Community Schools. And members of the WHS Dance Marathon Committee shared a presentation on their group's fundraising efforts so far this school year that benefit our local Children's Hospital. At their final event on April 13th at WHS - "Warriorthon", which the entire Westside community is invited to attend - they will reveal their fundraising total from all of their events.

BOE Committee on American Civics: Curriculum Report and Public Comment on American Civics

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, presented an overview of the district's American Civics curriculum, per Nebraska Statute 79-724. Implemented in 2019, the American Civics Education Bill was introduced to ensure that all Nebraska school districts have a curriculum that aligns with state social studies standards and teaches foundation knowledge in civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography. Other requirements under this bill include: all school boards appoint three of its members to a Committee on American Civics that meets twice per school year; and public comment - specifically on American Civics curriculum - is offered at a regular Board Meeting. Prior to tonight's board meeting, board members Dana Blakely, Kris Karnes, and Sarah Rider met with social studies curriculum chairs. Further, those in attendance at tonight's board meeting were offered the opportunity for public comment regarding the district's American Civics curriculum. There were no requests for public comment. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Phase II Bond: Approval of Design Development for Westgate Elementary

Mr. Matt Herzog from Project Advocates, and Mr. Chris Houston and Ms. Nichole Schultes from TACK Architects, presented the Design Development for Westgate Elementary for board approval. Since approving the Concept Design on October 2, 2023, TACK has continued to work closely with the Westgate DAC and District staff to create the Design Development package being presented for approval. Construction is scheduled to begin in June 2024. Staff and students will remain in the current building during construction. The Board of Education had the opportunity to preview the Design Development at a meeting with Project Advocates and TACK on February 16, 2024. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and design development presentation are included in the board documents folder.

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Phase II Bond: Security Design Advisory Committee - Safety and Security Enhancements

This past year - upon the implementation of Phase II Bond work of the District's Facilities Master Plan - the District convened a Security Design Advisory Committee (Security DAC) to oversee an evaluation of school safety and security measures. The Security DAC met several times to review a number of recommendations for improvements that were identified by Morrissey Engineering upon their reassessment of the district's security master plan. These recommendations will impact both existing buildings as well as those to be built in the future. Dr. Lucas identified approximately \$700,000 worth of improvements that the district would like to make across the district that includes: installation of panic buttons in key locations to enhance paging systems; integrate corridor doors with panic buttons; installation of security film at entry vestibules and select doors; increased signage; key card access to back of office exits; installation of warning lights in gyms and common areas. He advised the board that proceeds from bond interest and premiums will cover these costs. Ahead of moving for approval, the board recommended increasing the amount for approval to \$750,000. Ms. Rider moved for approval of the Security DAC recommended school safety and security enhancements up to \$750,000; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Westside High School Life Complex: Limited Notice to Proceed GMP with The Weitz Company

Mr. Herzog presented a Limited Notice to Proceed (LNTTP) Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Amendment to the Construction Manager at Risk Contract with The Weitz Company for the Westside High School Life Complex Project for board approval. The proposed LNTTP GMP amendment includes sanitary and storm sewer relocation, building demolition, precast material procurement, deep foundations, soil retention, and mechanical, electrical and plumbing make safe for demolition scopes of work. Mr. Herzog advised the board that the proposed LNTTP GMP value is \$3,521,324, which is about \$100,000 below initial estimates. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and CMR Contract Amendment are included in the board documents folder.

Annual Review: District Safety and Security Protocols

Mr. Robert Aranda, Director of Student Services, presented the annual review of district safety and security protocols and updated the board on the status of action steps that were identified in the fall of 2023 by the district's safety committee. Items that have been completed since fall include: an audit of all access badges; the establishment of VPN (virtual private network) remote camera access for building level administrative staff; the addition of a full-time security guard and hall monitor at WMS; and updated evacuation and reunification procedures for all elementary buildings. Mr. Aranda advised the board that, in addition to emergency preparedness and crisis response, school safety measures also encompass student and staff well-being and ensuring a safe and supportive school / work environment. Focus areas include reducing trips, slips and falls, and enhancing grief support systems for students, families and staff. The District Safety and Health Steering Committee meets quarterly. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Approval

Mr. Nick Lesiak, In-House Legal Counsel, presented revisions to four existing policies for board approval. These policies were previously presented for board consideration and discussion on February 5, 2024 :

Policy #4300 - Definition of Teaching Personnel - Recommended for elimination, since the policy text is taken strictly from Statute. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Policy #4330 - Supervision and Evaluation - Minor language revisions. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Policy #4340 - Professional Growth and Development - Minor language revisions. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Policy #4350 - Personnel Assignment and Transfer - Minor language revisions. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

Approval of Teacher Negotiated Agreement for the 2024-2025 School Year

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, presented the 2024-2025 Teacher Negotiated Agreement for approval. Dr. Haynes, along with Ms. Becky Lowther, WMS Science Teacher and President of the Westside Education Association, and Ms. Melanie Connolly, Director of HR and Business Systems, shared highlights of the agreement that include a base salary increase of 3.64% and new teacher starting salary increase from \$41,050 to \$42,500. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary, Negotiated Agreement and powerpoint presentation and are included in the board documents folder.

Personnel Report

Dr. Haynes presented the personnel report (seven certified staff probationary contracts; one administrator resignation; five certified staff resignations; one certified staff retirement) for board approval. Mr. Yale 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.

Consideration of Academic Partnership with Purdue University

Dr. Lucas presented an agreement with Arizona State University for board approval that will provide Westside High School students with access to 21 different courses through their Universal Learner program. These transferable college credits will be offered at between \$250 and \$400 per 3-credit-hour course. The District is continually looking for ways to create new academic opportunities for our students through on-line academic offerings. This agreement with ASU will be available beginning in August 2024 and run through the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and Memorandum of Agreement are included in the board documents folder.


Public Comment - There were no requests for public comment.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

Ms. Morrissette reviewed recent activities and events attended by board members that included the Caucus on February 6th; Community Meeting for the WHS Life Complex on February 8th; middle school show choir performance; and a number of athletic events, including the Westside Unified Sports Polar Plunge! Shout-out to Board Member Dr. Meagan Van Gelder for plunging in the cold lake!

March 4, 2024	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
March 11, 2024	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
March 13, 2024	Parent Teacher Conferences - 4:00-8:00 p.m.
March 14, 2024	Parent Teacher Conferences - 8:00am - 4:00pm - No School for Students
March 15, 2024	No School
March 18, 2024	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.

At 7:41 p.m., Ms. Morrissette advised that the next item on the agenda is consideration of district legal matters, and that discussion of this item in closed session is necessary and is permitted by law. She requested a motion to enter closed session. Mr. Yale moved that the Board enter closed session to discuss district legal matters, which is necessary and permitted by law; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Morrissette reiterated that the Board had adopted a motion to enter closed session to discuss district legal matters, which is necessary and is permitted by law, and that the Board will limit itself to discussion of these matters. The Board entered closed session at 7:44 p.m. The Board adjourned from closed session at 8:00 p.m. There being no further business, Ms. Morrissette adjourned the meeting at 8:00 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, February 20, 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.

2/16, 2/19, 2/20

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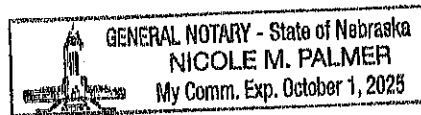
**THE DAILY RECORD
OF OMAHA
JASON W. HUFF, Publisher
PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
The State of Nebraska,
District of Nebraska, --- } ss.
County of Douglas,
City of Omaha

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 3 consecutive weeks on:

2/16/24 2/19/24 2/20/24

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 \$30.05

Jason W Huff

Additional Copies \$ _____

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this FEBRUARY 20 2024

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Nicole M Palmer

Notary Public in and for Douglas County, State of Nebraska

