

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66**

**Board of Education Meeting ~ May 15, 2023**

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The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on May 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Board members present:** Meagan Van Gelder, President  
Beth Morrisette, Vice President  
Kris Karnes, Secretary  
Dana Blakely, Treasurer  
Adam Yale, Treasurer-Elect

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 April 25, 2023, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on May 12 and 15, 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 Gabrial, Molly Hurley, Kim De La Cruz, Kami Jessop, Laura Mann, Kelcy Tapp, Robert Aranda, Becky Lowther, Sandra Fey, Lance Mosier.

**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.

Dr. Van Gelder 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 member attendance is noted above. Dr. Van Gelder shared, for those who had not yet heard, that our friend and board colleague Doug Krenzer passed away earlier this morning following his 4-year battle against cancer. On behalf of the District and the Board, Dr. Van Gelder expressed the profound sorrow that everyone is feeling with this loss. Doug will be remembered for his dedication to his family, his community, his service to others and the incredible impact he had as a member of the Westside Community Schools Board of Education. The District website will contain information on Mr. Krenzer's services as soon as it is available. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Van Gelder requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting and Student Fees Public Hearing held on April 24, 2023. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

**Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Blakely moved for approval of April 2023 expenditures in the amount of \$8,382,254; Ms. Karnes seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the April 2023

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financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

### **Communications**

No communications report.

### **Approval of Student Fees for the 2023-2024 School Year - Policy 6340**

Mr. Brian Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance, requested approval of student fees for the 2023-2024 school year. Mr. Gabriel presented proposed revisions at a Public Hearing on April 24, 2023, to provide the opportunity for input from the board and the public regarding changes. There were no additional questions or comments from the board. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and Student Fees Policy 6340 are included in the board documents folder.

### **Annual Review and Approval of Superintendent Succession Plan**

Dr. Van Gelder advised that this agenda item would be tabled until the Board of Education Meeting on June 12, 2023.

### **Board Policies for Review**

Mr. Lesiak presented revisions to the following two existing policies for board consideration and discussion:

- Policy #3110 - Census and Reports (Business)
- Policy #3220 - Payment of Bills (Business)

Both policies will be brought back for board approval at the Board of Education Meeting on June 12, 2023. The Executive Summary and redline copies of each policy are included in the board documents folder.

### **American Civics Committee: Social Studies Curriculum Review**

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, was joined by Sandra Fey, Elementary Social Studies Chair and 1st Grade Teacher at Prairie Lane; April Allen, 7th Grade Social Studies Teacher; Lance Mosier, 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher; and Bob Brousek, WHS Social Studies Teacher and Department Chair, to present an overview of the curriculum and materials used K-12. The American Civics Education Bill, introduced in the Nebraska Legislature in 2019, seeks to ensure civic competence, to promote the ideals and values of our country's democracy, and to develop responsible and civil American citizens. Ms. Fey shared that our youngest learners in grades K-3 begin with understanding their own personal family and community history; learning about being a community leader; and the importance of voting. Grades 4-6 learn about our state's history and citizenship (4); the American Bill of Rights and role of government (5); and begin exploring ancient history (6). Ms. Allen reviewed 7th grade topics (cultures of early American people; development of the Republic; Native American Tribes; economic and political systems in Western Europe and Government perspectives); Mr. Mosier highlighted 8th grade topics (development of the U.S.; major events from the Early Republic to Civil Rights in the 60's to present day; and making connections of our nation's past to the present); and Mr. Brousek gave an overview of U.S. History and American Government units covered at

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the high school. Copies of the Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **Approval of Compensation for Non-Negotiated Classified Employee Groups - 2023-2024 School Year**

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, presented proposed pay increases for the following current non-negotiated classified employee groups for the 2023-2024 school year for board approval:

Special Educational Assistants: \$1.61/ hour increase for all currently employed special education assistants, and a starting base pay increase of \$1.36/hour. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Part-Time Building Service Employees: 4.00% wage increase for all currently employed part-time building service employees, and a starting base wage increase of 3.70%. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Morrisette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Non-Certified Substitutes: An increase to the hourly rate so it is equal to that of the new starting base wage of each relevant group. Ms. Morrisette moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Remaining non-administrator and non-union classified employee groups: 3.10% wage increase for all currently employed, and a starting base wage increase of 2.50% for: Professional Classified staff; Technology staff; Administrative Assistants; Non-Special Education Assistants; Nurses; Building Service and Nutrition Service Leadership; Access 66 staff; Brailist; Transportation Staff; Accompanist. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

### **Approval of Sign Language Interpreters/Transliterators Negotiated Agreement - 2023-2024 School Year**

Dr. Haynes presented the Sign Language Interpreter / Transliterator Negotiated Agreement for the 2023-2024 school year per changes outlined by the District and the Westside Education Association. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and the Negotiated Agreement are included in the board documents folder.

### **Personnel Report**

Dr. Haynes presented the personnel report (five certified staff probationary contracts; one certified staff resignation; one Administrator contract) for board approval. Ms. Morrisette 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.

### **Bond Oversight Committee, Phase II**

Dr. Lucas and the Board discussed preliminary ideas on terms and appointments to the Bond Oversight Committee for Phase II of the Facilities Master Plan. Approved by the Board of Education in May 2015 to

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ensure its commitment to transparency and oversight of bond funds - for, at the time, Phase I of the Facilities Master Plan - appointments to the Bond Oversight Committee will be made as Phase II projects get underway. The District and the Board will consider term limits, reappointments, and institutional knowledge of Phase I, as well as those with industry specific expertise and new perspectives who are able and willing to make a commitment to the responsibilities and service of the Bond Oversight Committee. Appointments to the Bond Oversight Committee will be brought back for Board approval. Copies of the Executive Summary and Bond Oversight Committee Roles and Responsibilities are included in the board documents folder.

### **Public Comment**

There was one request for public comment: Diane Cahill. Ms. Carolyn Roeder submitted copies to the Board of Education of excerpts from five books that she has submitted for the book review process

### **Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates**

The Board was represented at a number of district events over the past three weeks, including the Westside WE-SIDE Community Walk at Restoring Dignity on April 25th; the last four Phase II Bond Informational meetings on April 26th (WHS); April 27th (Hillside); May 1st (Paddock Road); and May 3rd (Rockbrook); a ribbon-cutting for a new stained glass window installed at Oakdale Elementary in memory of former administrator and Oakdale Principal Dr. Bob Bruckner on April 27th; "Meet and Greets" for new admin teams at Paddock Road Elementary (May 2nd) and Westgate Elementary (May 9th); and the "Arts for Me" Exhibit at Kaneko on May 11th.

### **Announcements**

Dr. Van Gelder reviewed the following upcoming events:

May 18, 2023	Project Search Graduation - Children's Hospital - 10:00 a.m.
May 21, 2023	WHS Commencement - Baxter Arena - 2:00 p.m.
May 26, 2023	Last Day of School! Dismissal at 12:00 Noon

### **District Legal Matters**

Dr. Van Gelder advised those in attendance that this next item on the agenda is consideration of information from legal counsel regarding pending litigation and risk management, and that discussion of these matters in closed session is necessary and permitted by law. Ms. Karnes moved that the Board enter closed session to discuss pending litigation and risk management 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. Ms. Morrisette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Dr. Van Gelder again advised those in attendance that the Board has adopted a motion to enter closed session to discuss pending litigation and risk management 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. She reiterated that the Board will limit itself to discussion of these issues. The board entered closed session at 7:09 p.m.



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At 7:25 p.m. the Board came out of closed session. There being no further business, Dr. Van Gelder adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

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Kris Karnes, Secretary, Board of Education

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
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 **May 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.** at the District Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, NE. The Board of Education Student Advisory Committee will meet at 5:00 p.m., immediately prior to the Board Meeting. The agendas, continually kept current, are available at the District Office. The meetings are open to the public.

5/12, 5/15

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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

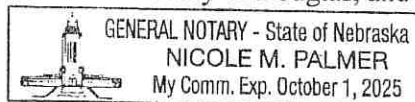
} ss.

JASON W. HUFF and/or NIKLAUS STEWART, being duly sworn, deposes and say that they are the PUBLISHER and/or LEGAL MANAGER 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, has a general circulation in Sarpy, Lancaster, and Cass 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:

5/12/23

5/15/23

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

\$27.95

Additional Copies

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Filing Fee

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$27.95

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason W. Huff".

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before  
me this MAY 15 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole M. Palmer".

Notary Public in and for Douglas County, State  
of Nebraska

  
Notary Public