

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ September 8, 2025

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on September 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present:

- Adam Yale, President
- Kris Karnes, Vice President
- Meagan Van Gelder, Treasurer
- Sarah Rider, Treasurer-Elect
- Beth Morrisette, Secretary (arrived late)
- Dana Blakely, 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 August 19, 2025, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on September 5 and 8, 2025, and on their website at omahadailyrecord.com, as well as the NE Press Association website at nepublicnotices.com. 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, Nick Lesiak, Molly Hurley, Kim De La Cruz, Kelcy Tapp, Matt Lee, Becky Lowther.

Others in Attendance*: Diane Cahill. *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.

Immediately following adjournment of the FY26 Budget Public Hearing, Mr. Yale called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:14 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. Board Meeting attendance is noted above. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Yale requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education FY25 Budget Amendment Public Hearing held on August 18, 2025. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded; Ms. Karnes abstained. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Yale requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on August 18, 2025. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded; Ms. Karnes abstained. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Yale requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Schematic Design Presentation held on September 5, 2025. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Communications

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Engagement, highlighted students, staff and community including: WHS Homecoming Queen and King candidates; Warrior Theatre's fall play production of Romeo & Juliet (October 2-5, 2025); fantastic level of student engagement at WMS through sports, clubs, fall musical and show choir; WHS Bowling open house for all students at Maplewood Lanes on Sept. 18th; and distribution of the Golden Key pass (for persons age 65 and older) for free admittance to district plays, musicals and athletic events.

Phase II Bond Project: Guaranteed Maximum Price Contract Amendment - WHS Locker Rooms and Cafeteria Project

Mr. Matt Herzog, Project Advocates, requested approval of the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Amendment to the Construction Manager at Risk Contract with The Weitz Company for the WHS Locker Rooms and Cafeteria renovation projects. The proposed GMP value is \$6,687,647.00. The project scope includes: an addition to the cafeteria, and renovation to the boys and girls locker rooms at the high school. Construction is scheduled to begin November 2025 and will be completed August 2026. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Morrisette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Phase II Bond Project: Schematic Design Update for Loveland Elementary

Mr. Herzog, along with Matt Wegener and Cynthia Ray from BVH Architects, presented the schematic design update for Loveland Elementary. Since early March of this year, BVH and Project Advocates have been working with the Loveland Design Advisory Committee and District leadership on the design elements of a new Loveland Elementary School. The initial Concept Design was approved by the Board on June 16, 2025. Tonight's Schematic Design presentation is an update on the continuation of the design process. The "village square" concept is a blending of the old and new that incorporates elements of the original building with the new structure, a large entry plaza and gathering spaces for the school and community. The next step in the design process will be approval of the Design Development package, which is tentatively scheduled for the Board of Education meeting on January 12, 2026. Construction is planned to start in the spring of 2026. A copy of the Executive Summary and slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Disposal of District Equipment

Mr. Matt Lee, Interim Director of Technology, requested approval to dispose of 12 outdated Lenovo Thinkpad P50 laptops that have been used by the Skilled & Technical Sciences (STS) Department at Westside High School. The STS Department would like to donate them to Battle Creek High School. The STS instructor at Battle Creek is interested in them and still has the ability to utilize them with his students. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Approval of 2026 Caucus Committee

Mr. Nick Lesiak, In-House Legal Counsel, presented the 2026 Caucus Committee for board approval:

- Rod Anderson; Amy Brown; Michael Grier; Todd Johnson; Charlie Liakos; and Janet Parsonage

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The Caucus is held every two years to nominate candidates to fill vacancies on the Board of Education. Terms expiring on May 31, 2026 are currently held by Dana Blakely and Beth Morrisette. The Caucus Committee is an advisory committee to the Board of Education, with appointments confirmed in the fall preceding the caucus. Once appointed, the Caucus Committee will meet in an open meeting (public notice is given) to establish its recommendations to the Board on caucus details to include: date, time and location of the caucus; preparation of caucus rules; and filing deadline for candidates. Ms. Morrisette moved for approval of the 2026 Caucus committee (Rod Anderson, Amy Brown, Mike Grier, Todd Johnson, Charlie Liakos and Janet Parsonage); Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Approval

Mr. Lesiak requested approval of the following two policies that were previously presented for Board discussion and consideration on August 18, 2025:

#1220 - Public Meetings (Board of Education) - Minor language revisions to this existing policy regarding public notices of board meetings. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

#3150 - Law Enforcement Unit (Business) - Proposed new policy in which the board would designate our Director of School Safety and Security as the district's "law enforcement unit". This policy also puts the responsibility of the school's security cameras with the law enforcement unit. Since records of the law enforcement unit (e.g. surveillance video) are not covered by FERPA, the law enforcement unit could disclose such records to other entities (like local police departments) at our discretion. This is important for purposes of our cameras' proposed integration with OPD's real time operations center. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Morrisette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Copies of the Executive Summary and each policy are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Review

Mr. Lesiak presented proposed revisions to two existing policies for board consideration and discussion.

#5600 - Student Government (Students) - Minor updates to defined terms.

#6135 - Multicultural Education (Instruction) - Recommended revisions that are in line with KSB's policy book.

Policies will be presented for approval at the Board of Education Meeting on September 22, 2025. Redline copies of each policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Public Comment: There were no requests for public comment.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

The Board was represented at a number of activities and meetings, including: Loveland Schematic Design Meeting; WHS athletic events; WESIDE Steering Committee; "Arts for Me" meeting; and BOE Policy Subcommittee. Dr. Lucas advised that the district will be hosting a Special Education Showcase on December 3, 2025, for interested State Senators. Mr. Yale reviewed the following upcoming activities:

September 10, 2025	Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally - WHS
September 15, 2025	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
September 22, 2025	Board of Education Meeting and FY26 Property Tax Request Public Hearing - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
September 23, 2025	TEAMMATES Westside Chapter Runza Day! (965 S. 72nd <u>and</u> 105th & Pacific)
September 27, 2025	Westside Foundation VI-VI 2025 - CHI - 6:00 p.m.

Pilot Funds

Mr. Yale requested a motion to enter closed session to consider information from legal counsel regarding pending litigation. Discussion of this matter in closed session is necessary and permitted by law. Ms. Blakely moved that the Board enter closed session to discuss pending litigation and to receive and discuss legal advice from the District's attorney, both of which are necessary to protect the public's interest and to maintain the attorney-client privilege. Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Mr. Yale restated that the Board had adopted a motion to enter closed session to discuss pending litigation and to receive and discuss legal advice from the District's attorney, both of which are necessary to protect the public's interest and to maintain the attorney-client privilege. The Board will limit itself to discussion of this issue. At 7:04 p.m., Mr. Yale advised those in attendance that the Board would take a short recess and reconvene once the public had exited the boardroom. The Board entered closed session at 7:07 p.m. The Board exited the closed session at 7:38 p.m.

There being no further business, Mr. Yale adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Beth Morrisette, Secretary, Board of Education

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of a Board of Education FY26 Budget Public Hearing and regular Board Meeting for Westside Community Schools, District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held September 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration 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.

9/5, 9/8 ZNEZ



The Daily Record

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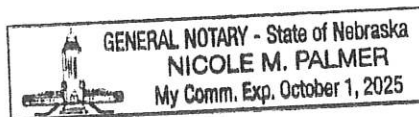
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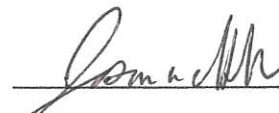


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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before
me this SEPTEMBER 12 2025



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Douglas County, State of Nebraska

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9/5, 9/8 ZNEZ

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Cheryl R. [Signature]
Notary Public