

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66**  
**Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ February 5, 2024**

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The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on February 5, 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  
Dana Blakely, Vice President  
Meagan Van Gelder, Secretary  
Kris Karnes, Treasurer-Elect  
Sarah Rider, Director

**Board member absent (excused):** Adam Yale, Treasurer

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 January 17, 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 2 and 5, 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 Gabrial, Molly Hurley, Kim De La Cruz, Kami Jessop, Kelcy Tapp, Laura Mann, Nick Lesiak, Robert Aranda, Abby Langner, Becky Lowther, Cynthia Bailey, Matt Lee, Jeanette Lengemann, Leigh Wengert, Belinda Westfall, Kayla Neumann, Kerri Lewis, Garret Higginbotham.

**Others in Attendance\*:** Ann Christiansen, 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 Mr. Yale. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Rider 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 January 16, 2024. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Morrisette requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Building Project Presentations held on February 2, 2024. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

### **Communications**

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Engagement, welcomed LOTS of student visitors who were in attendance with their teachers and parents to help celebrate our Board of Education in recognition of NASB School Board Appreciation Week! Students presented an array of tokens of appreciation (artwork, poems, plants) to all board members and expressed gratitude and appreciation for the time they dedicate and the hard work they do to make Westside such an amazing district! THANK YOU to Dana Blakely, Kris Karnes, Beth Morrisette, Sarah Rider, Meagan Van Gelder and Adam Yale.

### **2023-2024 Academic Reports**

As part of the Teaching and Learning team's year-long series of academic reports, tonight's focus highlights WHS Geometry, a grade level math course most often taken during a student's sophomore year. In the secondary buildings, each content area team was asked to identify its "most essential unit" that covers concepts which are foundational for success in the course, future courses, and/or key academic assessments (i.e. ACT, Career Readiness Standards). Mr. Trevor Whitaker, WHS Geometry Teacher, shared that his team introduced this unit in the second quarter and just recently completed final assessments last week. For students who are below proficiency, there are numerous reteaching opportunities that are available to ensure students achieve mastery of the concepts, including lab classes and video tutorials. Copies of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **Bond Oversight Committee Semi-Annual Report to the Board - Phase II**

Mr. Matt Herzog, Project Advocates, and Ms. Ann Christiansen, Bond Oversight Committee (BOC), presented a review of the role the BOC plays in the oversight of each phase of the District's Facilities Master Plan projects. Ms. Christiansen advised the Board that the BOC for Phase II began meeting in September 2023. They meet monthly with Project Advocates to review overall and individual project budgets, as well as the progress of each project, to ensure the best and most efficient use of bond funds. Current members of the BOC are: Kris Brown, Ann Christiansen, Sean Conway, Ryan Decker, Jaci Lindburg and Rebecca Murray. Their monthly meetings with Project Advocates are held at the District Administration Office and are open to the public. A copy of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **Approval of Construction Manager at Risk contract for Hillside Elementary**

Construction of a new Hillside Elementary School is part of the District's Phase II Bond work. The Board of Education approved the Construction Manager at Risk construction delivery method for this project at their meeting on November 20, 2023. A Request for Qualifications for Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) was publicly advertised and posted to the District website on December 4, 2023. Seven firms submitted Statements of Qualifications on January 10, 2024. Four firms were selected to interview with the CMR Selection Committee. The selection committee conducted interviews on January 19, 2024, and selected Boyd Jones Construction as the CMR for the project. The CMR contract is now presented for approval by the Board of Education. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Blakely 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 ABC Building Renovation Project**

Mr. Matt Erion, BCDM Architects, and Mr. Matt Herzog, Project Advocates, presented the Design Development for the ABC Building for Board approval. Since the Board's approval of the Concept Design on November 6, 2024, BCDM has continued to work closely with the ABC Design Advisory Committee and district staff to create the Design Development package that will include a new HVAC system and address ADA issues. The Board of Education had the opportunity to preview the Design Development package at a meeting with BCDM and Project Advocates on February 2, 2024. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and design development keynote are included in the board documents folder.

**Approval of Design Development for WHS Life Complex**

Mr. Chris Houston, TACK Architects and Mr. Matt Herzog, Project Advocates, presented the Design Development for the WHS Life Complex for Board approval. Since its presentation of the Schematic Designs to the Board of Education on December 11, 2023, TACK has been working with Project Advocates, the Weitz Company, district staff and administration, and the Westside Foundation to further refine the design for the WHS Life Complex. The Design Development package presented for approval represents further refinement of the Schematic plans with no major changes from the Schematic Designs previously reviewed. Board members had the opportunity to preview the Design Development package at a meeting with TACK and Project Advocates on February 2, 2024. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and design development keynote are included in the board documents folder.

**Approval of Contract with Project Advocates for WHS Life Complex**

As part of the Westside Foundation's Impacting Excellence campaign, the Foundation began working with Project Advocates in January 2023 to provide project management services for a high school addition and renovation project. Since that time, Project Advocates has worked closely with the Foundation and TACK Architects during the design phase of the project, as well as for the selection of the Construction Manager at Risk delivery method and ultimate selection of The Weitz Company as the project CMR. At this time, approval is being requested of the Owner-Consultant Agreement for Project Advocates as Owner's Representative. This contract provides a continuation of professional project management services to the District for the WHS Life Complex. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and Contract are included in the board documents folder.

**Parking Plan Update (during WHS Life Complex construction)**

Dr. Lucas reviewed a map for alternate parking for students during construction of the WHS Life Complex. Beginning March 4, 2024, the south parking lot (located between the baseball field and Phelps Field) will close and remain closed through November 2025. This lot will serve as the main construction traffic entrance off of William Street. Thirty parking spots will be retained at the southeast corner for staff who already have their daily parking in the south lot. Alternate parking areas will be made available in a temporary lot on 87th Street, just east of the school's main entrance; in a temporary lot by the Westside Foundation House; adjacent to the 1305 House; and at Pacific Hills Lutheran Church.

Advanced notice will be given when the church requires their parking lot during the week for a funeral. The District and the Board expressed their appreciation in advance to everyone for their patience during construction of this generational project. Dr. Lucas advised that high school and district administrative staff will be present at numerous parking areas and at Pacific Hills Lutheran Church for two weeks (from 7:30-8:00 a.m.) to assist students as everyone adjusts to their new morning parking routines. There will certainly be inconveniences, but the outcome will be transformational for the entire community. A copy of the parking map is included in the board documents folder.

### **Technology Infrastructure and Integration Update**

Dr. Paul Lindgren, Director of Technology, and Dr. Matt Lee, Coordinator of Technology Integration and Digital Content, presented an informational report to the board on district technology including online safety and security practices; rapid response and support for staff and students; and numerous examples of technology implementation in the classroom at all levels that demonstrate the development of core competencies and higher-level thinking skills. The district technology team consistently receives high marks from users for overall support services, as well as from a reliability survey that is sent daily to 10% of all certified staff and administrators regarding airplay, connectivity, helpdesk and printing. A copy of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **Board Policy for Approval**

Mr Nick. Lesiak, District In-House Legal Counsel, requested approval of revisions to the following existing policy, which was presented for board consideration and discussion on January 16, 2024:

Policy #4282 - Notification of Arrest (Personnel)

Copies of the Executive Summary and policy 4282 are included in the board documents folder. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

### **Board Policies for Review**

As part of the District's regular policy review process, Mr. Lesiak presented revisions to four existing policies for board consideration and discussion:

Policy #4300 - Definition of Teaching Personnel

- Recommended for elimination, since the policy text is taken strictly from Statute.

Policy 4330 - Supervision and Evaluation

Policy 4340 - Professional Growth and Development

Policy 4350 - Personnel Assignment and Transfer

- Minor language revisions

Mr. Lesiak will present these policies for approval at the Board of Education Meeting on February 20, 2024. The Executive Summary and redline copies of each policy are included in the board documents folder.



**Personnel Report**

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, presented the personnel report (five certified staff resignations; one certified staff leave of absence; one certified staff non-approval of resignation) for board approval. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Personnel Report is included in the board documents folder.

**Consideration of Universal Learner Agreement with AZ State 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. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and Universal Learner Agreement are included in the board documents folder.

**Public Comment** - There were no requests / was one request for public comment.

**Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements**

Ms. Morrisette reviewed recent activities and events attended by board members that included a number of middle and high school athletic and show choir events; BOE Policy Committee Meeting; NASB Legislative Issues Conference; NE State Board of Education Association Meeting; and Phase II Bond meetings (construction interviews, design development presentations, Bond Oversight Committee). Also, Ms. Morrisette and one of our high school students presented testimony at a legislative hearing in Lincoln regarding LB1231.

February 6, 2024	2024 Caucus - Westside High School <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Daytime Voting for District Residents</li><li>- 6:15 - 7:00 p.m. - Caucus Voter Check-in</li><li>- 7:00 p.m. - Caucus</li></ul>
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.
February 19, 2024	Teacher Work Day - No School for Students
February 20, 2024	Professional Development Day - No School for Students
February 20, 2024	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.

  
Meagan Van Gelder, Secretary, Board of Education

*Beth Morrisette, President*

**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 **Monday, February 5, 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.

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

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
The State of Nebraska,  
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County of Douglas,  
City of Omaha

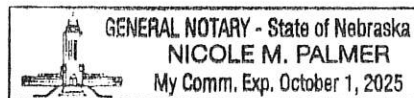
} ss.

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 2 consecutive weeks on:

2/2/24

2/5/24

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 \$23.69

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

Filing Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$23.69

*Jason W. Huff*

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before  
me this FEBRUARY 05 2024

*Nicole M. Palmer*

Notary Public in and for Douglas County, State  
of Nebraska

Board of Education Meeting  
February 5, 2024

## WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROOF OF PUBLICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies that a Notice of Board Meeting, a copy of which is attached hereto, was placed on the home page of the website of Westside Community Schools ([www.westside66.org](http://www.westside66.org)) beginning on Jan. 17, 2024, and that it appeared there continuously up through the time of the scheduled board meeting.

Kim Sedivy

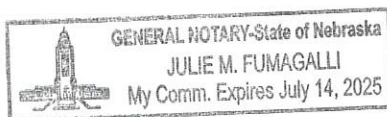
Name

Communications & Graphics

Title

STATE OF NEBRASKA )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS )

Before me, a Notary Public, qualified in and for said County and State, personally came Kim Sedivy, known to me to be the identical person, and signed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the execution of this document to his or her voluntary deed.



Julie M. Fumagalli  
Notary Public