

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ March 24, 2025

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on March 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present:

Dana Blakely, President
Adam Yale, Vice President
Sarah Rider, Secretary
Kris Karnes, Treasurer
Meagan Van Gelder, Treasurer-Elect
Beth Morrisette, 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 March 11, 2025, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on March 21 and 24, 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 Gabrial, Nick Lesiak, Molly Hurley, Robert Aranda, Kim De La Cruz, Kelcy Tapp, Kami Jessop, Laura Mann.

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. Blakely 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Blakely requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on March 10, 2025. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Ms. Morrisette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Karnes presented the treasurer's report for February 2025 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$13,668,281; Mr. Yale seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the February 2025 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

Board of Education Meeting

March 24, 2025

Page 2 of 4

Communications

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Engagement, was absent this evening, so there was no Communications report.

Phase II Bond Project - Underwood Hills HVAC and Intercom Upgrade Contract

Mr. Matt Herzog, Project Advocates, requested approval of the contract with Black Hawk Construction LLC for the HVAC and Intercom upgrade at Underwood Hills that is part of the Westside Facilities Master Plan Phase II Bond projects. Project Advocates received five bids on March 6, 2025, and selected Black Hawk Construction LLC. They submitted a bid in the amount of \$791,185. The project will include the replacement of the unit ventilators, an upgrade to DDC controls and a new intercom system. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and contract are included in the board documents folder.

District Technology

Dr. Paul Lindgren, Director of Technology, requested approval from the board for the following items as related to the District Technology Refresh, which was presented at the Board of Education Meeting on March 10, 2025:

District Technology - Device Refresh

- Approval of the Schedule 500-5070-4504 Addendum to the previously approved Master Lease Purchase Agreement with Apple, Inc. from July 15, 2011, for the current purchase of technology devices for Westside staff and students, as recommended by the Administration. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

District Technology - Fiber Wide Area Network (WAN) refresh

- Approval of the Administration's recommendation for refreshing the District's wide area network, providing within-district and internet connectivity via leased-lit fiber network, and contingent upon USAC/E-Rate approval of a minimum of a 60% reimbursement of the annual cost. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

District Technology - Wireless Local Area Networks (LAN) refresh

- Approval of the Administration's recommendation of the plan (with Cisco) for refreshing the district buildings' wireless networks, contingent upon USAC/E-Rate approval of a minimum of a 60% reimbursement of the total project cost. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

A copy of Dr. Lindgren's Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Early Childhood Education Overview

Dr. Kami Jessop, Director of Special Services, and Ms. Julie Oelke, Program Director for the Westside Foundation's Early Childhood Centers, presented an overview of the early childhood programs and services that are available to families with children below age five. The District's Special Services Department and the Westside Foundation's Early Childhood program work together to meet the needs of

Board of Education Meeting

March 24, 2025

Page 3 of 4

our earliest learners through a variety of service-delivery models and a network of collaborative support systems. Dr. Jessop and Ms. Oelke highlighted demographics and enrollment numbers of their respective programs, as well as the current partnerships and shared resources that allow the District and the Foundation to provide the highest level of educational services to our families. A copy of the Executive Summary and slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

District Communications Update

In Ms. Powers' absence this evening, Dr. Lucas reviewed her presentation regarding District Communications activities and initiatives in the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years. Highlights included: establishing efficiencies in communicating with staff, families and the community; the creation of a district image library; attention to district safety and security; cultivating and furthering our strategic partnerships; and a refresh of the district logo. A copy of Executive Summary and slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Review (4028 and 4042)

Mr. Nick Lesiak, In-House Legal Counsel, presented two new proposed policies for board consideration and discussion:

- #4028 - Substitute Teachers (Personnel)
- #4042 - Employee Social Security Numbers (Personnel)

These policies are recommended by KSB School Law and will be presented again for approval at the April 21, 2025, Board of Education Meeting. Copies of the Executive Summary and policies are included in the board documents folder.

Personnel Report: Employment Actions Related to the Contracts of Certified Staff Members

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, presented the personnel report (13 probationary contracts; two leaves of absence; one administrator retirement; and six resignations) for board approval. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the personnel report is 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: Westside Foundation Board Meeting; Unified Talent Show; Paddock Road walk-through; Loveland Design Advisory Committee Meeting; Bond Oversight Committee Meeting; WHS conferences; Boys Basketball - quarter, semi and final games; WMS tour; 7th Grade Pep Rally; Student Board Connection meeting; WE-SIDE Steering Committee Meeting; and NASB Washington DC Legislative trip.

Ms. Blakely reviewed the following upcoming activities and events:

March 25, 2025	Loveland Phase II Project Community Meeting - Loveland Elementary - 6:00 p.m.
March 26, 2025	Rockbrook Pre-Construction Community Meeting - Rockbrook Elementary - 6 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting

March 24, 2025

Page 4 of 4

March 29, 2025	Westside Multicultural Fair - WHS - 12:00 Noon - 3:00 p.m.
April 2, 2025	Paddock Road Pre-Construction Community Meeting - PR Elementary - 6:00 p.m.
April 7, 2025	NOTE: BOE Mtg. previously scheduled for 4/7/25 has been cancelled - no quorum of the Board is available
April 9, 2025	Westbrook Pre-Construction Community Meeting - Westbrook Elementary - 6 p.m.
April 10, 2025	K-8 Art Fair - Regency Shopping Center - 5:30-6:30 p.m.
April 14, 2025	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.

Pilot Funds

Ms. Blakely advised that this next item on the agenda is consideration of information from legal counsel regarding pending litigation; and that discussion of these matters in closed session is necessary and permitted by law. Ms. Blakely requested a motion for a closed session. Ms. Karnes 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 clearly necessary to protect the public's interest and to maintain the attorney-client privilege; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Blakely reminded those in attendance 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 clearly necessary to protect the public's interest and to maintain the attorney-client privilege; and that the Board will limit itself to discussion of these issues. The Board entered closed session at 7:12 p.m. At 7:46 p.m., Mr. Yale moved for the Board to exit closed session; Motion was seconded by Ms. Karnes. There being no further business, Ms. Blakely adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Dana Blakely, PRESIDENT (SIGNED IN MS. RIDER'S ABSENCE)

Sarah Rider, Secretary, Board of Education



Public Notice Placement Confirmation

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Scheduled Publication

3/21, 3/24

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
NOTICE TO PUBLIC**

Notice is hereby given of a Board of Education Meeting for Westside Community Schools, District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held **March, 24, 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.

3/21, 3/24

ZNEZ

All notice submissions, changes and cancellations must be made by 12 p.m. two weekdays prior to publication, or by earlier deadlines noted in your confirmation email in advance of court holidays. Please note the The Daily Record reserves the right to delay publication if we are unable to reach you to resolve questions or concerns.

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Notice Content

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3/21, 3/24 ZNEZ

Web display limited to 1,000 characters. Please view the PDF for the complete Public Notice.

[Back](#)

Board of Education Meeting
March 24, 2025

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) beginning on March 11, 2025, and that it appeared there continuously up through the time of the scheduled board meeting.

Hemis Sedyug

Name

Name _____
Title _____
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.

Chelston

Notary Public

