

## WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

### Board of Education Meeting ~ July 17, 2023

---

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on July 17, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Board members present:** Beth Morrisette, President  
Meagan Van Gelder, Secretary  
Adam Yale, Treasurer  
Sarah Rider, Director

**Board member absent (excused):** Dana Blakely, Vice President  
Kris Karnes, 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 June 13, 2023, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on July 14 and 17, 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, Andrea Haynes, Mark Weichel, Brian Gabrial, Molly Hurley, Nick Lesiak, Kim De La Cruz, Kami Jessop, Kelcy Tapp, Laura Mann.

**Others in Attendance\*:** Diane Cahill, Mary Clare Sweet. \*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 5:01 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 Ms. Blakely and Ms. Karnes. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### **Oath of Office; Conflict of Interest Agreement**

Ms. Morrisette welcomed Ms. Sarah Rider who was appointed to the Board of Education on June 28, 2023. Ms. Rider recited the Oath of Office and Ms. Morrisette confirmed receipt of Ms. Rider's conflict of interest agreement, per policy #1115.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Morrisette requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on June 26, 2023. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

## **Board of Education Meeting**

**July 17, 2023**

**Page 2 of 5**

Ms. Morrisette requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on June 28, 2023. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Yale presented the treasurer's report for June 2023 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$11,313,502; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the June 2023 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

### **Communications**

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, presented a communications report on behalf of Elizabeth Power, who was unable to be at tonight's board meeting. Recognition highlights included WHS 2023 graduate Lademi Davies being named Gatorade Girls Track and Field Athlete for the state of Nebraska. Ms. Davies will be in the running for the National Gatorade Athlete Award for Girls Track and Field. WHS Football Coach Paul Limongi was named The Omaha World-Herald's Boys Coach of the Year. And our WHS female athletes were recently named Class A Girls All-Sports Champions in Nebraska. And "Back-To-School" news is available on the district website under the red banner headline or by clicking on Back To School under the "For Families" tab. Social media campaigns are being finalized to help build awareness for back-to-school and build excitement. Be on the lookout for reminders, videos, and contests.

### **Bond Phase II Proposals for Approval**

Mr. Matt Herzog, Principal, Project Advocates, presented two proposals for board approval. Each proposal represents a separate project related to Phase II bond work.

#### Approval of Kitchen Consultant:

Foodlines - Food Service Design Consultants - submitted the only bid for kitchen design services for the Hillside, Westgate and Loveland Elementary School projects. This work will be completed over the next four years to align with each of the elementary school building projects. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

#### Approval of Firm for Updates to District Security Master Plan:

WCS and Project Advocates solicited a proposal from Morrissey Engineering to update the District's Security Master Plan that Morrissey completed during Phase I bond work. This work will be completed over the next six months to align with the design needs of Phase II projects. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Copies of the Executive Summaries and project proposals are included in the board documents folder.

### **Approval of Contractors for District Facilities Projects (as part of 3-5 Year Facilities Plan)**

Mr. Andy Wane, Director of Facilities, presented three separate project bids for board approval. These projects align with work to be completed as part of the District's long-term facilities plan.



## **Board of Education Meeting**

**July 17, 2023**

**Page 3 of 5**

### Westbrook Elementary HVAC Upgrades:

Replacement of the HVAC in the Westbrook gymnasium, with work being completed in the summer of 2024. Of three bids received, Ray Martin Co. submitted the lowest and complete bid of \$296,300. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary and Morrissey Engineering letter of recommendation and bid tab sheet are included in the board documents folder.

### Swanson Elementary School Access Drive Improvements:

Upgrades and improvements to the Swanson Elementary School access drive which were included in a recommendation from the Swanson Arboretum Revitalization Committee developed in 2019. Mackie Construction was the only bid at \$198,453.74. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary and Lamp Rynearson letter of recommendation and bid tab sheet of mechanical contractors are included in the board documents folder.

### Districtwide Security Upgrades:

Addition of districtwide electronic security cameras and access controls will be added to enhance security upgrades that were added during Phase I bond work. Two bids were received; the lowest complete bid was submitted by Electric Company of Omaha for \$373,485. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary and Morrissey Engineering letter of recommendation and bid tab sheet are included in the board documents folder.

## **Board Policies for Approval (#1155 and #4600)**

Mr. Nick Lesiak, District In-House Legal Counsel, requested approval of revisions to existing board policies #1155 - Vacancies (Board of Education), and #4600 - Family and Medical Leaves of Absence (Personnel). Both policies were presented for discussion and consideration by the Board on June 12, 2023.

Policy #1155 - Vacancies (Board of Education): Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Policy #4600 - Family and Medical Leaves of Absence (Personnel): Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

A redline copy of each policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

## **Board Policies for Review (#5300 and #6165)**

Mr. Lesiak presented revisions for first reading to existing board policy #5300 - Conduct (Students), and introduced proposed new policy #6165 - Collection of Information Relating to Dyslexia (Instruction).

Policy #5300 - Conduct (Students): The revisions to Policy 5300 are a result of LB 705, which made some changes to the Student Discipline Act that we need to reflect in our policy.

Policy #6165 - Collection of Information Relating to Dyslexia (Instruction): Proposed policy recommended from our policy services that was brought about by LB 298, which requires schools to submit information

## **Board of Education Meeting**

**July 17, 2023**

**Page 4 of 5**

to NDE regarding student dyslexia by July 1st of each year so that NDE can prepare a report for the legislature.

Both policies will be presented again for board approval at the Board of Education Meeting on August 7, 2023. Copies of each policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

### **State Aid Review - FY24**

Mr. Brian Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance, presented the annual state aid review, including an overview of the state aid funding formula and the district's needs and resource components. Total aid increased for FY24, primarily due to the implementation of Foundation Aid with the recent passage of LB583, as well as increased option enrollment. Foundation Aid added \$6,247,815, representing \$1,500 for each resident student. Also impacted by LB583 was the increase to Special Education reimbursement, which rose significantly from approximately 42.3% in FY23 to 80%, adding an estimated \$5.7M in revenue. However, Mr. Gabriel explained that another bill that the legislature passed - LB243 - places a revenue cap on the school district's property tax authority, which will negate some of the positive impacts of the additional Foundation Aid and Special Education reimbursement. Mr. Gabriel will provide further detail on the impact of LB243 during his budget and property tax updates in August and September. Copies of Mr. Gabriel's Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **Review of Non-Levy Funds - FY24**

Mr. Gabriel provided a timeline of the FY24 budget adoption process and an overview of preliminary budgeted expenses in non-levy funds: Nutrition Services, Activities, Enterprise, and Student Fees. Mr. Gabriel reported that total budgeted expenses in the non-levy funds for FY24 (\$10,192,700) represents an increase of 3.3% (\$327,513) from FY23 (\$9,865,187). Douglas County has scheduled a joint public hearing on September 20, 2023, for local taxing entities that are planning to raise their levy by more than 2%. This will not include Westside Community Schools, though Mr. Gabriel does plan to attend the hearing. The district's public hearing on the proposed property tax request for FY24 is scheduled for September 18, 2023. Copies of Mr. Gabriel's Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **Approval of Substitute Teacher Pay and Incentives for the 2023-2024 School Year**

Dr. Haynes presented substitute teacher pay and incentives for the 2023-2024 school year for board approval. Current pay rates that will remain the same are:

- \$165 per day - (Tuesday through Thursday)
- \$175 per day - Long-term subbing position (begins day 1)
- \$175 per day - For 10 consecutive days of subbing in any certified position (begins day 10)

Newly proposed rates and incentives beginning with the 2023-24 school year:

- \$190 - Increased daily rate for Mondays and Fridays
- \$100 - Incentive amount for working every student contact day in one month
- \$250 - Special End-of-Year paid incentive for subbing more than 100 of the student contact days in a school year



## **Board of Education Meeting**

**July 17, 2023**

**Page 5 of 5**

Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval of Substitute Teacher Pay and Incentives for the 2023-2024 school year; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

### **Personnel Report**

Dr. Haynes presented the personnel report (one probationary contract and one administrator contract) for board approval. Mr. Yale 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.

**Public Comment:** There was one request for Public Comment: Diane Cahill - kids.

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

Ms. Morrisette reviewed upcoming events:

July 19-20, 2023 - All Administrator Jim Tangdall Leadership Retreat - UNO - 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

July 21, 2023 - Board of Education Workshop - College of St. Mary - 8:30 a.m.

July 26, 2023 - New Teacher Luncheon with BOE and Senior Leadership - West Campus - 11:15 a.m.

August 2, 2023 - All Staff Welcome Back Event - Baxter Arena - 7:30 a.m. Cont'l Brkfst / 8:30 a.m. program

August 7, 2023 - Board of Education Meeting - ABC - 5:00 p.m.

August 10, 2023 - First Day of School!

### **District Legal Matters**

Ms. Morrisette 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. Dr. Van Gelder 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. Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Morrisette 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 6:33 p.m.

At 6:58 p.m. the Board came out of closed session. There being no further business, Ms. Morrisette adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.



Board of Education, Acting Secretary

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
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 **Monday, July 17, 2023, at 5:00 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.

7/14, 7/17

ZNEZ

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

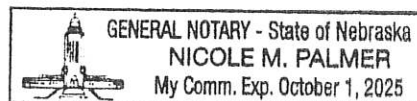
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
The State of Nebraska,  
District of Nebraska,  
County of Douglas,  
City of Omaha

} 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, 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:

7/14/23      7/17/23

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      \$24.36

Additional Copies      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Filing Fee      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$24.36

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before  
me this July 17, 2023

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nicole M. Palmer".  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for Douglas County, State  
of Nebraska

Board of Education Meeting  
July 17, 2023 - 5:00 p.m.

# 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 June 12, 2023 and that it appeared there continuously up through the time of the scheduled board meeting.

Kim Seony

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Assoc., 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 Seding, 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.

State of Nebraska – General Notary  
CHELSEA DUBAS  
My Commission Expires  
April 6, 2024

Chelb...  
Notary Public