

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66**

**Board of Education Meeting ~ July 18, 2022**

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The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on July 18, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Board members present:**

Doug Krenzer, President  
Meagan Van Gelder, President  
Beth Morrisette, Vice President  
Dana Blakely, Treasurer  
Adam Yale, Treasurer-Elect

**Board members absent (excused):**

Kris Karnes, Secretary  
Doug Krenzer, 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 June 14, 2022, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on July 15 and 18, 2022, 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, Nick Lesiak, Kami Jessop, Kelcy Tapp, Jordan Rhodes, Russ Olsen, Becky Lowther, Sandra Fey.

**Others in Attendance\*:** \*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 5:03 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 requested a motion for excused absences for Kris Karnes and Doug Krenzer. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. 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 held on June 13, 2022. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Morrisette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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### **Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Blakely presented the treasurer's report for June 2022 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$11,250,242; Mr. Yale seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the June 2022 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

### **Communications**

No communication report this evening. Ms. Brandi Paul, Director of Communications and her staff are attending the NSPRA (National School Public Relations Association) Conference in Chicago this week.

### **Board Policies for Approval (#2216 and #2240)**

Mr. Nick Lesiak, District In-House Legal Counsel, presented revisions to existing board policies #2216 (Service Animals) and #2240 (Energy Management) for approval. Both policies were presented for board discussion and consideration on June 13, 2022. Mr. Lesiak reminded the board that the revisions to both policies are minor language changes and that he is currently working with district administrators on updates to the Regulation governing each policy. These updates will be presented to the board in the coming weeks. Mr. Yale moved for approval of revisions to policy 2216; Ms. Morrisette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Blakely moved for approval of revisions to policy 2240; Mr. Yale 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.

### **State Aid Review - FY23**

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. He advised the board that there was a very slight decrease in state aid due to a drop in option enrollment students. Mr. Gabriel attributed this to an increase of district resident enrollments of children from families who held their kindergarten students out during the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID. Fewer openings were available for placement of option enrollment families. Copies of Mr. Gabriel's Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **Non-Levy Budget Funds Review - FY23**

Mr. Gabriel provided a timeline of the FY23 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 FY23 (\$9,865,187) represents an increase of 11.2% (\$992,361) from FY22 (\$8,872,826). He advised the board that Douglas County has scheduled a joint public hearing on September 21, 2022, 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 FY23 is scheduled for September 19, 2022. Copies of Mr. Gabriel's Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

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### **District Strategic Plan Semi-Annual Update**

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, presented the semi-annual update on the District's Strategic Plan. Adopted by the board on July 19, 2021, Dr. Weichel and his team will provide regular updates in January and July of each year to inform district stakeholders of the progress in each of the strategic plan areas. Since January, Dr. Weichel and his team have made some revisions to the [Strategic Plan Dashboard](#) on the district website that includes clarifying descriptions of how each strategy is measured, as well as a more streamlined display of each goal and the strategies aligned to that goal. Finally, district leaders and principals will utilize a "Building Action Plan" template for tracking goal / strategy progress. Copies of Dr. Weichel's Executive Summary, the Strategic Plan and the Building Action Plan are included in the board documents folder.

### **Personnel Report**

Dr. Haynes presented the personnel report (one probationary contract; two certified staff resignations; one non-certified administrator contract) for board approval. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Morrisette 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 district hosted state education leaders on June 28th to share information on our "Grow Our Own" initiative to address teacher shortages and a pilot program for students using virtual reality technology; Ms. Blakely attended a Loveland Roads neighborhood meeting on behalf of the district; a number of board members and district admin participated in another successful Westside Open event on June 27th.

Dr. Van Gelder reviewed the following dates and upcoming events:

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|------------------|--|
| July 20-22, 2022 | All Administrator Jim Tangdall Leadership Retreat  |
| August 1, 2022   | New Teacher Luncheon with District Admin and BOE - 11:30 a.m. - WCC  |
| August 8, 2022   | All Staff Back-To-School Meeting - 7:30 a.m. - Baxter Arena  |
| August 11, 2022  | Elementary Sneak-A-Peek Night (times vary by building)   |
| August 14, 2022  | Community-Wide Back to School & 75th Anniversary Celebration<br>12 Noon to 4:00pm @ Westside High School (FREE EVENT!) |
| August 15, 2022  | Board of Education Meeting - 5:00 p.m. - ABC Building  |
| August 16, 2022  | First Day of School!   |

### **District Legal Matters**

Dr. Van Gelder advised that this next item on the agenda is for consideration of information from legal counsel regarding pending district litigation and that discussion of these matters in closed session is necessary and permitted by law. Dr. Van Gelder requested a motion to enter a closed session. Mr. Yale 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



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to maintain the attorney-client privilege. Motion was seconded by Ms. Blakely and carried by unanimous roll-call vote. Dr. Van Gelder advised that the board would 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. The Board will limit itself to discussion of these issues. The board entered closed session at 6:36 p.m. The board adjourned from closed session at 6:47 p.m. and took a brief recess before reconvening in open session at 6:53 p.m. for discussion of board workshop topics.

### **Board of Education Workshop**

#### **Update of WHS Leadership Transition**

Dr. Jay Dostal, incoming Principal at Westside High School, shared some highlights with the board regarding his transition over the past few months. Dr. Dostal began communicating with WHS staff earlier this year - prior to his arrival - to solicit feedback using the *Start - Stop - Continue* template. This model allows leaders to identify common themes and helps teams in determining what actions / measures they want to start doing; what they want to stop doing; and what they want to continue doing. Dr. Dostal received a significant amount of staff feedback and responded to every submission. The common themes that he identified were: Professionalism / Honoring People's Time; Building Culture / Morale; Accountability for Students (Attendance and Behavior); Communication; and Strategic Change. Dr. Dostal shared further their plan for addressing each theme through strategic change and communication; clear and identifiable leadership roles; and listening and learning. A copy of Dr. Dostal's keynote presentation is included in the board documents folder.

#### **District Video Project**

Dr. Lucas shared a proposed video project that has been presented by Just Jump Films, LLC, a local film production company that specializes in stories about public schools and their impact on the communities they serve. Dr. Lucas will share the board's feedback with Just Jump Films before moving forward with any future projects.

There being no further business, Dr. Van Gelder adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

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Kris Karnes, Secretary, Board of Education

**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 **July 18, 2022, 5:30 p.m.** Immediately following the conclusion of the regular board meeting, the Board of Education will hold a Board Workshop. The meeting and workshop will be held at the District Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, NE. The agenda, continually kept current, is available at the District Office. The meetings are open to the public.

7/15, 7/18

ZNEZ

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

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,**  
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**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 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, printed in Omaha, in said County of Douglas, for more than fifty-two weeks last past; that the printed notice hereto attached was published in **THE DAILY RECORD**, of Omaha, on \_\_\_\_\_

July 15

& 18, 2022

That said Newspaper during that time was regularly published and in general circulation in the County of Douglas, and State of Nebraska.



GENERAL NOTARY - State of Nebraska

NICOLE M. PALMER

My Comm. Exp. October 1, 2025

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before \_\_\_\_\_

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July

22

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State of Nebraska

# WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROOF OF PUBLICATION

Name Molly Hurley

STATE OF NEBRASKA )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS )

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

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