

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting ~ August 15, 2022

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on August 15, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present: Meagan Van Gelder, President
Beth Morrisette, Vice President
Kris Karnes, Secretary
Dana Blakely, Treasurer
Adam Yale, Treasurer-Elect

Board members absent (excused): 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 July 19, 2022, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on August 12 and 15, 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, Kim De La Cruz, Robert Aranda, Jordan Rhodes, Russ Olsen, Jered Hellman, Maggie Person.

Others in Attendance*: Mike Coyle. *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. immediately following adjournment of the FY23 Budget Amendment Public Hearing. 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 an excused absence for Doug Krenzer. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Dr. Van Gelder read a short message from Mr. Krenzer, thanking the board and the community for their understanding during his extended time away while undergoing medical treatment for his illness. 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 Meetings held on July 18 and August 8, 2022. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote; Ms. Karnes abstained.

Board of Education Meeting

August 15, 2022

Page 2 of 5

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Blakely presented the treasurer's report for July 2022 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$6,795,723; Ms. Karnes seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the July 2022 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

Communications

Ms. Brandi Paul, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, introduced WHS Girls Golf Head Coach Jered Hellman, who was joined by his team captains. The girls shared about their commitment to their sport and what it takes to remain at the top of their game, all the while maintaining top scores in the classroom. Along with Coach Hellman, they expressed their thanks to the school community for being such strong supporters of Westside athletics. Ms. Paul shared a short video presentation about WMS student William Allpress, who advanced to the quarterfinals of the 2022 National Science Bee this past summer as a 6th grader! Outstanding job, William!

FY22 Budget Amendment

Mr. Brian Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance, requested board approval of adjustments to the original adopted FY22 budget that were presented at a public hearing immediately preceding this board meeting. Fund Accounting requires recognizing both the revenue and expense of the refinance to be recognized. In the Bond Fund, the budgeted disbursements and transfers increased by \$254,972.24 as a result of closing costs paid in FY22 for future refinancing of bonds. In the School Nutrition Fund, the budgeted disbursements and transfers increased by \$1,017,491 due to increased participation in the school lunch program. These adjustments do not require a change to the District's FY22 tax rates. Dr. Van Gelder invited any further comment from the board. Hearing none, Mr. Yale moved for approval of the FY22 budget amendments; Ms. Morrisette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and the original and amended budgets are included in the board meeting documents folder.

FY23 Budget Update

Mr. Gabriel presented an update and preliminary overview of the 2022-2023 budget ahead of the FY23 Budget Public Hearing, scheduled for September 6, 2022, at 6:00pm. He reviewed the budget process and timeline, as well as preliminary expenditure estimates of levy funds and preliminary revenue estimates for FY23. Approval of the FY23 budget will be requested at the Board of Education Meeting on September 19, 2022. Copies of Mr. Gabriel's Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of English Language Arts Academic Content Standards

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, requested board approval to adopt the English Language Arts (ELA) Academic Content Standards that were approved by the State Board of Education on September 2, 2021. Dr. Weichel shared that, over the past year, our District ELA curriculum leaders and curriculum toolbox members have been working together to explore the new standards.

Board of Education Meeting

August 15, 2022

Page 3 of 5

These new standards are now included as part of our written curriculum. ELA curriculum leaders also started the curriculum review process as a part of the district's toolbox cycle. Dr. Weichel reported that during the 2022 fall semester, K-8 teachers will be piloting two language arts programs, and in January, will select new materials for a fall 2023 implementation. At the high school level, the current curriculum will be evaluated in the context of the new standards, and any areas needing revision will be updated in the summer of 2023. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of Dr. Weichel's Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder: [Click here for a link to the NE ELA Standards.](#)

District Safety and Security Protocols Annual Review

Dr. Lucas and Mr. Robert Aranda, Director of Student Services, reviewed highlights of safety and security meetings that were held this summer for all K-12 buildings in the district. Emergency Operations Teams (EOT's) from each building were represented at a meeting held July 28, 2022, at Westside High School to review the School Safety and Security Plan template that each building compiles. "Hot seat" scenarios for various emergency situations were practiced, and building EOT's reviewed their individual safety plans. Safety and security procedures that were emphasized include limiting keyed door access; regular badge access audits; and a critical emphasis on not propping doors open. Mr. Aranda also stressed the importance for all staff (certified and classified) to build rapport and establish trust with students. Positive relationships among staff and students go a long, long way in helping to keep our schools safe. Mr. Aranda also shared that training was held with those in all buildings who have primary responsibility for buzzing in visitors: how to assess the visitor's purpose and how to advise that someone cannot be admitted. Mr. Russ Olsen, Director of Facilities, advised the board that OPD and OFD have all received updated building diagrams. Dr. Lucas reviewed the Safety and Security Plan template and the "In An Emergency" standard response protocol posters. A copy of the Executive Summary; Safety and Security Protocol template; and "In An Emergency SRP poster are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policy for Approval - #1170 - Committees of the Board

Mr. Nick Lesiak, District In-House Legal Counsel, presented a revision to existing board policy #1170 (Committees of the Board) for approval. This revision - the addition of a new Standing Committee: Policy Review Committee - was presented for board discussion and consideration on June 13, 2022. The Policy Review Committee will collaborate with Mr. Lesiak to provide input on revisions to existing policies and, as needed, the creation of new policies. Mr. Yale moved for approval of revisions to policy #1170; Mr. Morrisette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A redline copy of policy #1170 and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policy for Review - #6320 - Review of Education Materials

Mr. Lesiak presented minor language revisions to existing policy #6320 for board discussion and consideration. Mr. Lesiak advised that the district administration team is also working on revisions to the accompanying regulation and forms to policy 6320. Approval of revisions to policy #6320 will be requested at the Board of Education Meeting on September 6, 2022. A redline copy of policy #6320 and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Board of Education Meeting

August 15, 2022

Page 4 of 5

Personnel Report

Dr. Haynes presented the personnel report (one certified staff resignation) for board approval. Ms. Blakely 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.

Approval of Superintendent Goals - 2022-2023 School Year

Dr. Lucas presented his goals and priorities for the 2022-2023 school year for approval by the Board. The establishment of the Superintendent goals and priorities is a collaborative effort between the Superintendent and the Board of Education that align with the Superintendent Performance Assessment that is completed in the spring of each year. The areas of Dr. Lucas' goals include: Instructional Leadership; Financial Leadership; Communication/Public Relations/Community Engagement; Facilities Leadership; WE-SIDE; Visionary Planning; Culture Enhancement; and Legislative/Statewide Leadership. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of Dr. Lucas' goals are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Superintendent Adjunct Professorship at UNK

Dr. Lucas informed the Board that he will be serving an adjunct professorship for the University of Nebraska-Kearney's Educational Leadership Department during the 2022 fall semester. Dr. Lucas advised the Board that his duties of providing feedback to students and grading student work will be performed on Sundays and will not conflict with his day-to-day duties at Westside Community Schools. Board approval is required. Ms. Karnes moved to grant approval for Dr. Lucas to fill the adjunct professorship for the 2022 fall semester at UNK; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: There were no requests for public comment.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

Board members were represented at a number of back-to-school events over the past two weeks, including the New Teacher Luncheon on August August 1st, the All-Staff Opening at Baxter Arena on August 8th and Elementary Open Houses on August 11th. Ms. Morrisette participated in an NASB Legislative Committee meeting; and Ms. Blakely and Dr. Van Gelder joined the Facilities Task Force on school building tours as preparations begin for consideration of the Facilities Master Plan Phase II projects. The district's first Community Back-to-School / 75th Anniversary Celebration held yesterday at Westside High School was a tremendous success. Dr. Lucas and the board received lots of positive feedback from families and staff.

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

August 16, 2022	First Day of School!
August 24, 2022	Back To School BBQ (6pm) & Pep Rally (7:15pm) @ WHS
August 30, 2022	State Education Leaders visit to WCS - 9:00-11:00 a.m. CANCELED
September 1, 2022	NASB Area Membership Meeting - LaVista Conf. Center - 4:30-7:30 p.m.
September 6, 2022	Board of Education Meeting - 6:00 p.m. - ABC
September 19, 2022	Board of Education Meeting - 6:00 p.m. - ABC
September 24, 2022	VI-VI - 6:00 p.m. - CHI Center

Board of Education Meeting

August 15, 2022

Page 5 of 5

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. 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 clearly necessary to protect the public's interest and to maintain the attorney-client privilege. Motion was seconded by Mr. Yale 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 6:38 p.m. The board adjourned from closed session at 7:27 p.m.

Dr. Lucas reiterated for the board some of the steps that will be taken this year to address safety and behavior / student conflict issues at the middle school and high school: WMS - addition of full-time security guard and hall monitor; staggered passing periods and increased visibility of staff in the hallways; enhanced and increased peer conflict lessons during homeroom; and grade-level / team assemblies. At WHS, student parking was moved from the west lot to the east lot to direct student movement in and out of the building to the main entrance; all main doors have been rekeyed and master keys were reset. Only 6 doors will have master key access and some exterior doors have been plugged.

There being no further business, Dr. Van Gelder adjourned the meeting at 7:47p.m.



Kris Karnes, Secretary, Board of Education

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given of a Board of Education Budget Amendment Public Hearing and Meeting for the Westside Community School District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held **August 15, 2022, 5:00 p.m.** The meetings will be held at the District Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, NE. The Public Hearing will begin at 5:00 p.m.; the regular Board Meeting will immediately follow adjournment of the Public Hearing. The agendas, continually kept current, are available at the District Office. The meetings are open to the public.

8/12, 8/15

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**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 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

August 12

& 15, 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
PAYTON LUNDBERG
My Comm. Exp. June 30, 2026

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before
15th

Publisher's Fee \$ 27.88 me this August 22 day of

Additional Copies \$ 27.88

Total \$ 27.88

Payton Lundberg
Notary Public in and for Douglas County,
State of Nebraska


Notary Public