

## WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

### Board of Education Meeting ~ August 21, 2023

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The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on August 21, 2023, at 6:00 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  
Kris Karnes, Treasurer-Elect  
Sarah Rider, Director

**Board Member absent (excused):** Dana Blakely, Vice President

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 August 8, 2023, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on August 18 and 21, 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, Mark Weichel, Brian Gabriel, Nick Lesiak, Kim De La Cruz, Kami Jessop, Kelcy Tapp, Abby Langner, Judy Stucky, Guy O'Brien, Becky Lowther.

**Others in Attendance\*:** Diane Cahill. \*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 6:04 p.m., immediately following adjournment of the FY23 Budget Amendment Public Hearing. She welcomed those in attendance and confirmed with Mr. Lesiak 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. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder 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 August 7, 2023. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Yale presented the treasurer's report for July 2023 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$7,598,648; Ms. Rider seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the July 2023 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

### **Communications**

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, shared that the Communications Department is working to build stronger partnerships with other WCS departments in order to help them achieve their goals. The overarching goal is to build more cohesive campaigns that have a unified message and optimize the many channels the District uses to communicate with families, community members, and the Omaha metro, resulting in effective and results-driven campaigns.

### **FY23 Budget Amendment**

Mr. Brian Gabrial, District Officer of Business and Finance, requested board approval of adjustments to the original adopted FY23 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 Special Building Fund, budgeted disbursements and transfers (expenses) increased by \$1,000,000. In the Enterprise Fund, budgeted disbursements and transfers (expenses) increased by \$373,470. In the Activities Fund, budgeted disbursements and transfers (expenses) increased by \$500,000. These adjustments do not require a change to the District's FY23 tax rates. Ms. Morrisette invited any further comment from the board and from those in attendance on the topic of the FY23 budget amendments. Hearing none, Ms. Morrisette requested a motion for approval. Mr. Yale moved for approval of the FY23 budget amendments; Dr. Van Gelder 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.

### **FY24 Budget Update**

Mr. Gabrial presented an update and preliminary overview of the 2023-2024 budget ahead of the FY24 Budget Public Hearing, scheduled for September 5, 2023, at 6:00pm. He reviewed the budget process and timeline, as well as preliminary expenditure estimates of levy funds and preliminary revenue estimates for FY24. Approval of the FY24 budget will be requested at the Board of Education Meeting on September 18, 2023. Copies of Mr. Gabrial's Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **Bond Oversight Committee, Phase II**

On May 11, 2015, the Board of Education authorized the creation of a Bond Oversight Committee, contingent upon voter approval of the \$79.9 million bond for school building upgrades and construction as part of Phase I of the District's Facilities Master Plan. Creation of the BOC was part of the District's commitment to transparency and public confidence in the use of the bond funds. Phase I was approved by voters on May 12, 2015, with all Phase I projects completed on time and on budget.



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With the recent approval of the \$121 million bond for Phase II of the Facilities Master Plan (passed by district voters on May 9, 2023), District Administration and Project Advocates will be reinstating the services of the Bond Oversight Committee. Dr. Lucas presented two recommendations for Board approval regarding the Bond Oversight Committee for Phase II: **1)** Adjustment of the Bond Oversight Committee terms, with appointees serving an initial term of two or three years. *(Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval of revisions to appointee terms; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote).* **2)** initial appointments of six BOC members: Kris Brown - two years; Ann Christiansen - two years; Sean Conway - three years; Ryan Decker - three years; Jaci Lindburg - two years; and Dr. Rebecca Murray - three years. *(Ms. Karnes moved for approval of BOC appointees; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote).* Copies of the Executive Summary and BOC Roles and Responsibilities are included in the board documents folder.

### **District Facilities - WHS Auditorium Upper Balcony Seating**

Mr. Andy Wane, Director of Facilities, presented a bid from Mid-States School Equipment Co. for \$125,335 for seating replacement in the WHS upper balcony. Of three bids received, this was the lowest responsible bid. Seating replacement will ensure spectator safety and bring seating capacity in the auditorium back up to 1,002. A copy of the Executive Summary and bid tab sheet are included in the board documents folder.

### **WHS Modular Scheduling Review and Update**

Dr. Jay Dostal, Westside High School Principal, presented an informational report to the Board regarding recent updates to the modular scheduling system used at WHS. Implemented in the mid-1960's and, until recently, still operating on a 1980's Disk Operating System (DOS), changes and updates were necessary in order to ensure the long-term viability of the modular schedule from the standpoints of increased time students are in a classroom receiving instruction; student / building safety; efficient utilization of staff; and the balancing of class sizes. Last fall, after visiting River Bluff High School in South Carolina to learn about a modular schedule that was developed using the PowerSchool student information system, the team from WHS was successful in building the modular schedule in PowerSchool. While the transition to the new schedule has been faced with some complications and setbacks, Dr. Dostal reiterated that the transition was necessary and assured the Board that the process is improving each and every day. A copy of Dr. Dostal's Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation 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 #7250 and #7260. Both policies were presented for discussion and consideration by the Board on August 7, 2023.

Policy #7250 - Distribution of Materials from Outside Organizations (Community Relations): Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Policy #7260 - Use of School Facilities (Community Relations): Ms. Karnes moved for approval; 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.

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### **Approval of Revised Evaluation Model and System for Certified Staff**

Ms. Melanie Connolly, presented a revised Teacher Evaluation System for Board approval. This recommendation is in alignment with Policy #4330 (Supervision and Evaluation). The district has received a preliminary approval letter from the Nebraska Department of Education and confirmation that the revised system is compliant with all requirements regarding the approval of certified employee evaluations. Final approval from NDE is contingent upon approval by the WCS Board of Education. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval of the Administration's recommended revisions to the District's Evaluation Model and System for Certified Staff; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **Personnel Report**

Ms. Connolly presented the personnel report (one probationary contract) for board approval. Ms. Karnes 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**

Ms. Morrisette reviewed upcoming events:

August 23, 2023	Back to School BBQ @ 6:00 p.m.; Pep Rally @ 7:15 p.m. - WHS
September 1, 2023	Professional Learning Day for Staff / No School for Students
September 4, 2023	Labor Day Holiday - No School
September 5, 2023	Board of Education Meeting / FY24 Budget Public Hearing - 6:00 p.m. - ABC Building
September 10, 2023	Westside Community Walk @ Tri-Faith's "United We Walk" Event - 3:00 p.m. 3136 Faith Plaza
September 11, 2023	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m. - ABC Building

### **District Legal Matters**

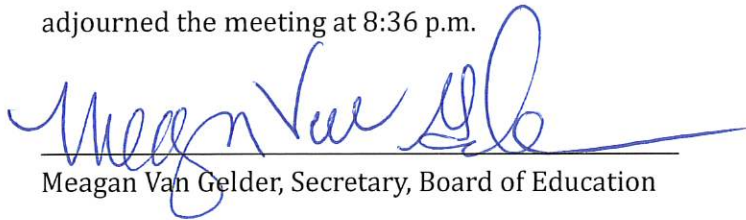
Ms. Morrisette advised those in attendance that this next item on the agenda is consideration of information from legal counsel regarding pending litigation and risk management, and that discussion of these matters in closed session is necessary and permitted by law. Mr. Yale moved that the Board enter 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. Dr. Van Gelder 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 8:07 p.m.

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At 8:36 p.m. the Board came out of closed session. There being no further business, Ms. Morrisette adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Meagan Van Gelder", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Meagan Van Gelder, Secretary, Board of Education



**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

Notice is hereby given of a Board of Education Budget Amendment Public Hearing and Board Meeting for the Westside Community School District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held **August 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.** at the District Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, NE. The Public Hearing will begin at 6:00 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 meeting is open to the public.

8/18, 8/21

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

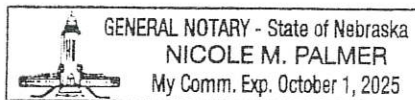
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
The State of Nebraska,  
District of Nebraska,  
County of Douglas,  
City of Omaha

} ss.

JASON W. HUFF and/or 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:

8/18/23      8/21/23

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      \$27.95

Additional Copies      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Filing Fee      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$27.95

*Jason W. Huff*  
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before  
me this AUGUST 25 2023

*Nicole M. Palmer*  
Notary Public in and for Douglas County, State  
of Nebraska

# WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROOF OF PUBLICATION

Name Kim Seolvy

Title Communications & Graphics

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.

Christa  
Notary Public