

## WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

### Board of Education Meeting ~ September 6, 2022

---

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on September 6, 2022, at 6:00 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
- 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 August 16, 2022, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on September 2, 5 and 6, 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, Brian Gabrial, Molly Hurley, Nick Lesiak, Kami Jessop, Kelcy Tapp, Kim De La Cruz, Erin Vik, Becky Lowther, Kira Mclean, Lauren Kestel, Sandra Fey.

**Others in Attendance\*:** Mike Coyle, 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.

Dr. Van Gelder called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. immediately following adjournment of the FY23 Budget 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. 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 Public Hearing and Meeting held on August 15, 2022. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

#### **Communications**

Ms. Brandi Paul, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, introduced Lauren Buban, a junior at WHS and member of the History Club. This past summer, Lauren qualified for and participated in her fourth National History Day competition! Outstanding work, Lauren!

Ms. Paul welcomed Ms. Kira Mclean, Assistant Principal, and Ms. Lauren Kestel, 1st Grade Teacher, from Westbrook Elementary. Ms. Kestel has created a tradition in her classroom known as "Freeze Dance Friday" that is a favorite "end of the week" activity for her students, as well as everyone who follows her on Twitter! It makes everyone smile! Thank you Ms. Kestel! And Ms. Mclean arranged for WHS cheerleaders to cheer on Westbrook students as they arrived on the first day of school. Finally, Ms. Paul recognized the WHS cheer and dance teams for the time and effort they put forth in celebrating and supporting our entire school community.

#### **Nutrition Services Annual Update per Policy #3400 - School Lunch Services Management**

Mr. Erin Vik, Director of Nutrition Services, presented the annual Nutrition Services update and overview to the Board. Due to the pandemic, year-to-year comparables are significantly varied in a number of areas. Free meals that were funded by the USDA during the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years ended in June 2022. Because free meals were provided to all families, many households that typically qualify for free / reduced meals do not have updated applications on file. Mr. Vik advised that they are working to get families requalified by September 29, 2022, which is the 30-day window from the start of school. He also shared that, while the no-cost lunch waivers have been suspended, the USDA is extending higher reimbursement rates to school districts to help cover increased costs due to supply issues. However, with increased costs anywhere from 10% to 40%, Mr. Vik expects - even with higher reimbursement rates - a rise in food costs for the 2022-2023 school year. Copies of Mr. Vik's Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

#### **High School Advanced Placement / Dual Enrollment**

Ms. Kim De La Cruz, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, presented an update to the Board on the high school's Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Enrollment programs. AP enrollments - while remaining steady - have declined slightly over the past few years, attributable to both changes in the AP exam registration process as well as to more students opting for Dual Enrollment (earning college credit while still enrolled in high school). The high school's primary dual (concurrent) enrollment partners are UNO and Metro Community College, with other opportunities available through Career Academies, Kickstart Online, College Now! and Gateway to College. New dual enrollment courses being offered in 2022-2023 include PreCalculus Algebra and MCC Comp I and II. This past spring, the high school held a Qualification Day (like a "signing day") for seniors enrolled in the Welding CTE program, with instructors from MCC administering students' final weld tests. Looking ahead, Ms. De La Cruz shared that they are working to increase the number of eligible instructors for dual enrollment, establish additional course offerings outside of AP, and add additional pathways that provide CTE credentials. Copies of Ms. De La Cruz's Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

#### **Board Policy for Approval - #6320 - Review of Education Materials (Instruction)**

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, presented minor revisions to existing policy #6320 (Committees of the Board) for Board approval. These changes were presented for discussion and consideration at the Board Meeting on August 15, 2022, by Mr. Nick Lesiak, District In-House Legal Counsel. (Dr. Weichel presented for approval due to Mr. Lesiak's absence this evening).



**Board of Education Meeting**  
**September 6, 2022**  
**Page 3 of 4**

Dr. Weichel advised the Board that revisions were also made to the accompanying regulation #6320R and regulation forms. Mr. Krenzer moved for approval of revisions to policy #6320; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A redline copy of policy #6320 and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

**Board Policy for Review - #4380 - Holidays and Vacations (Personnel)**

Ms. Melanie Connelly, Director of Employee Information Systems, presented one minor revision to existing policy #4380 for board discussion and consideration. Prepared by Mr. Lesiak, this revision includes the addition of Juneteenth as a paid holiday for all Classified and Administrative employees not covered under a negotiated agreement. Approval of this revision will be requested at the Board of Education Meeting on September 19, 2022. A redline copy of policy #4380 and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

**Public Comment:** There were no requests for public comment.

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

Mr. Krenzer thanked his board colleagues for their support and for keeping him informed of district business during his time away for medical treatments. Dr. Lucas and Ms. Blakely attended the NASB Area Membership Meeting last Thursday at the La Vista Embassy Suites. Next week (9/14/22), Dr. Lucas will be attending the GNSA (Greater Nebraska Schools Association) Meeting in Lincoln.

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

September 19, 2022	Board of Education Property Tax Public Hearing - 6:00 p.m. - ABC Board of Education Meeting - Immediately following Public Hearing
September 24, 2022	VI-VI - 6:00 p.m. - CHI Center
October 3, 2022	BOE Student Advisory Committee Meeting - 5:00 p.m. - ABC Board of Education Meeting - 6:00 p.m. - ABC
October 3-7, 2022	HOMEcomings WEEK!! Early Dismissals & Parade on Friday Oct. 7th Dismissals: Elementary @ 12:30pm; WMS @ 1:00pm; WHS @ 1:10pm Lunch will be served in all buildings prior to dismissal Parade begins at 1:30pm from WHS East Parking Lot

**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. Krenzer 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

**Board of Education Meeting**

**September 6, 2022**

**Page 4 of 4**

to maintain the attorney-client privilege. Motion was seconded by Ms. Karnes 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 adjourned for a short recess at 7:15 p.m. and entered closed session at 7:18 p.m. The board came out of closed session at 7:43 p.m. There being no further business, Dr. Van Gelder adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.



---

Kris Karnes, Secretary, Board of Education

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice is hereby given of a Board of Education FY23 Budget Public Hearing and Board Meeting for the Westside Community School District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held **September 6, 2022, 6:00 p.m.** The meetings will be held 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 meetings are open to the public.

9/2, 9/5, 9/6

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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_,  
September 2,  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
5, & 6, 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

Publisher's fee \$

36.21

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before

me this

6th

September

day of

22

20

Additional Copies \$

36.21

Total \$

36.21

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



Board of Education - Sept. 6, 2022

- FY23 Budget Public Hearing
- Board Meeting

# 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 August 16, 2022 and that it appeared there continuously up through the time of the scheduled board meeting.

Kim Seoung

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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

Chelms

Notary Public