

## WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

### Board of Education Meeting ~ October 18, 2022

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The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on October 18, 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  
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 October 4, 2022, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on October 14, 17 and 18, 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 Gabriel, Molly Hurley, Nick Lesiak, Kami Jessop, Kelcy Tapp, Kim De La Cruz, Laura Mann, Robert Aranda, Jordan Rhodes, Russ Olsen, Jaime Kammandel, Tyler Foster, Maggie Person, Melanie Connolly.

**Others in Attendance\*:** Dr. Tyrie Fant, 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 6:00 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 an excused absence for both Kris Karnes and Doug Krenzer. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Blakely 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 October 3, 2022. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Morrisette seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

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### Treasurer's Report

Ms. Blakely presented the treasurer's report for September 2022 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$10,607,182; Mr. Yale seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the September 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, congratulated four students from Westside Middle School who were selected to the first-ever Nebraska Middle Level All State Orchestra: Whitney Ingvaldstad, Luke Sonsthagen, Cyndi Christensen and Dylan Gross. Ms. Paul recognized the Westside High School Nutrition Services Team for always earning high marks and praise from staff, students and parents for not only providing outstanding service and delicious meals, but for the positive and engaging atmosphere in the courtyard that the entire WHS NS team creates for students.

### Lighthouse Educator Academy Update

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Ms. Laura Mann, Coordinator of Learning and Development, presented a report on the district's new-teacher program (Lighthouse Education Academy - LEA) that has been in existence for over 25 years. All new teaching staff participate in this program during the first three years of their employment with Westside that introduces the district's foundational best practices and establishes a base of support and mentorship. This past summer, Dr. Weichel and Ms. Mann, along with other members of the Teaching and Learning team, began an assessment of the program's strengths and considered needed changes to ensure that the program continues to meet the needs of all new teaching staff. To guide this assessment, they utilized the district's Instructional Model to identify what is important to the LEA program. Ms. Mann outlined the four areas that have been a focus of renewal for the Lighthouse Educator Academy: (1) **transparency** of the program; (2) **trust** that we do what we say we are going to do; (3) **accountability** of all parties involved; and (4) building a **community of learners** focused on having a growth mindset and recognizing that we work for all students. The district's instructional coaches have played a key role in the renewal of LEA. Copies of the Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board meeting documents folder.

### Elementary Safety Overview

Mr. Robert Aranda, Director of Student Services, presented an overview of action steps for elementary buildings identified at a Safety and Security Meeting held on September 6, 2022. Key highlights include: enhanced parent / guardian communication regarding Standard Response Protocols (SRP's); creation of a short SRP demonstration video that will be shared across the district (2023-2024 school year); building badge access audit; renewed emphasis on building-specific evacuation and reunification plans; additional crisis response training for all elementary administrative teams in Spring 2023; and establishing VPN remote camera access for all elementary administrative staff. Copies of Mr. Aranda's Executive Summary and the Elementary School Safety and Security Plan template are included in the board documents folder.

**Sale of District Equipment**

Mr. Russ Olsen, Director of Facilities, requested board approval for the sale of one 2012 Ford F-350 pickup truck (Building Services Department); one 2015 pull-behind cargo trailer (high school Fine Arts Department); and functional welding equipment (high school Technical Sciences Department); and for the disposal of outdated and non-functioning equipment from the high school woods and construction labs. Ms. Morrisette moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

**Board Policy for Approval - #3170 - Gifts, Grants and Bequests (Business)**

Mr. Nick Lesiak, District In-House Legal Counsel, presented revisions to existing board policy #3170 for approval that were previously brought before the board for discussion and consideration on October 3, 2022. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A redline copy of policy #3170 and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

**Board Policies for Review - #3180 - Bonding; #3240 - Audit (Business)**

Mr. Lesiak presented two existing policies for board discussion and consideration. Policy #3180 - Bonding - is being recommended for elimination, as the information contained in this policy is outlined in Policy #1160 - Organization and Officers (Board of Education). Policy #3240 - Audit - is being presented with minor language revisions. Approval of these recommendations will be requested at the Board of Education Meeting on November 7, 2022. Redline copies of each policy 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**

The Board was represented at a number of events over the past two weeks, including the Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally; Parent / Teacher Conferences; Inclusive Communities ACTION Planning Committee Meeting; UNO's PDK Fall Leadership Dinner on October 13th; and NCTE Fall Meeting on October 14th. Dr. Lucas reminded those in attendance that State Education Leaders and State Senators have been invited to visit the District on October 26th for a presentation on how our elementary staff are teaching reading, math and social-emotional lessons.

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

October 26, 2022	State Education Leaders visit WCS - 1:00pm - Westside Boys & Girls Club
October 27, 2022	Lighthouse Leader / Alumni Association Hall of Fame Dinner - 6:00pm - HHC
October 28, 2022	Dr. Lucas' Community Coffee - 9:30am - Prairie Lane
November 1, 2022	Dr. Lucas' Lunch & Learn - 12:00noon - Westside Boys & Girls Club
November 1, 2022	Collaborative Community Club Meeting - 6:00pm - WHS
November 7, 2022	BOE Student Advisory Committee Meeting - 5:00pm - ABC
November 7, 2022	Board of Education Meeting - 6:00pm - ABC
Nov. 16-18, 2022	State Education Conference - CHI Center

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November 21, 2022     Board of Education Meeting - 6:00pm - ABC  
Nov. 23-25, 2022     Thanksgiving Break - No 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 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 6:52 p.m. The board came out of closed session at 7:25 p.m. There being no further business, Dr. Van Gelder adjourned the meeting at 7:25 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 **Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 6:00 p.m.** at the District Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, NE. An agenda, continually kept current, is available at the District Office. The meeting is open to the public.

10/14, 10/17, 10/18

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
October 14,

\_\_\_\_\_  
17, & 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
18th

Publisher's Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_ me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of

Additional Copies \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ 32.80

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for Douglas County,  
State of Nebraska

  
Notary Public