

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ January 18, 2021

The Board of Education Meeting of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on January 18, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. at the District Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present: Adam Yale, Interim President
Doug Krenzer, Vice President
Dana Blakely, Secretary
Meagan Van Gelder, Treasurer
Kris Karnes, Interim Director

Board member excused absence: Beth Morrissette, Treasurer-Elect

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 December 15, 2020, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on January 18, 2021, 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, Enid Schonewise, Mark Weichel, Brian Gabriel, Molly Hurley, Greg Betts, Kim De La Cruz, Kami Jessop, Paul Lindgren, Robert Aranda, Brandi Paul, Nick Lesiak, Russ Olsen, Becky Lowther.

Others in Attendance*: Dave Richardson. *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.

Mr. Yale called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. He 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. He acknowledged that the meeting had been publicly announced and the agenda was available to any interested parties. Board member attendance is noted above. Board member attendance is noted above. Mr. Krenzer was in attendance via teleconference, as allowed per the Governor's Executive Order #20-36, a copy of which is attached to the official minutes. Motion to approve Ms. Morrissette's absence was moved (Ms. Karnes) and seconded (Ms. Blakely) and approved by unanimous roll call vote. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Realignment of Board Officer Positions

Mr. Yale advised that agenda item "E" under New Business (Realignment of Board Officer Positions) would be taken up next in the order of business. In August 2020, Mr. Yale assumed duties of Interim President and Ms. Karnes assumed duties of Interim Director.

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This temporary change of officer positions is now being realigned back to the original board officer slate as originally approved in June 2020: Ms. Karnes - President; Mr. Yale - Director. Ms. Karnes expressed her thanks to Mr. Yale for his leadership and for assuming her duties over the past few months. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Karnes requested a motion for approval of minutes from the December 14, 2020 Board of Education Meeting. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Van Gelder presented the treasurer's report for December 2020, and requested approval for expenditures in the amount of \$13,442,313; Ms. Blakely seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the December 2020 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are attached to the official minutes.

Communications

Public Comment - There were no requests for Public Comment.

District Enrollment and Demographic Report for the 2020-2021 School Year

Mr. Robert Aranda presented the District Demographic and Enrollment Report for the 2020-2021 school year. The data contained in the report is based on numbers reported to the Nebraska Department of Education as of their collection date of October 1, 2020. Though the district's total enrollment of 5,965 was a slight increase over last year (.59%), the pandemic impacted the decision of many families to enroll their kindergarten students. Subsequently, Mr. Aranda anticipates an increase in the number of kindergarten enrollments for the 2021-2022 school year. He did report an increase in enrollment numbers at the 7th and 9th grade level, as well as an increase in the number of students who qualify for free or reduced lunch. Other highlights from Mr. Aranda's report: a slight increase in English Language Learners, from 2.5 to 2.85% of total student population; and a slight decrease (.4%, from 15.5 to 15.1%) in the number of students eligible for Special Education Services. Copies of the Demographic Report and Executive Summary are attached to the official minutes.

Board Policies for Revision

Mr. Nick Lesiak, District Administrative Counsel, presented proposed revisions and consolidations to current district board policies on nondiscrimination and harassment: #2211 - Nondiscrimination (revisions); #2213 - Harassment (revisions); #2215 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability (consolidation into existing policy); #4210 - Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination in Employment

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(consolidation into existing policy); and #5330 - Equal Educational Opportunity and Nondiscrimination (consolidation into existing policy). These revisions and consolidations are a result of the recent approval of board policy #2214 (Title IX Policy and Grievance Process for Formal Complaints of Sexual Harassment) on November 16, 2020. Mr. Lesiak will present these policy revisions and consolidations again on February 1, 2021, for board approval. Redline copies of all policies are attached to the official minutes.

Personnel Report

Dr. Enid Schonewise, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented the personnel report (one certified staff probationary contract; one certified staff resignation) for board approval. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Mr. Krenzer seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Revision to the Student Calendar for the 2021-2022 School Year

Dr. Lucas presented a revised Student Calendar for the 2021-2022 School Year for board approval. Because of the toll that the Covid-19 Pandemic has had on families and staff over the past 10 months, the start date for the 2021-2022 school year has been pushed back from August 12 to August 17, 2021. This will provide an additional summer weekend and also a few extra days to conclude summer "Jump Start" camps. These camps will be targeted to any student who needs / desires extra academic and emotional enrichment support. Dr. Lucas reviewed modified Parent Teacher Communication / Conference dates for both fall and spring, as well as a modified winter break that will start on December 22, 2021, and still provide two full weeks and two full weekends off. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the 2021-2022 student calendar with proposed revisions is attached to the official minutes and will be posted on the district website.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates

The 2021 legislative session commenced on January 6, 2021; Dr. Lucas introduced a letter to Senator Walz and the Education Committee expressing the district's support for Senator Wishart's bill - LB135, which would - over time - increase the rate of reimbursement that districts receive for special education programs. Mr. Krenzer advised that he would be participating in the GNSA virtual meeting on Wednesday, January 20, 2021.

Announcements

Ms. Karnes reviewed the following upcoming events:

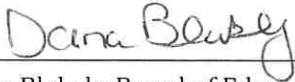
January 20, 2021	"I Love Public Schools" Day
February 1, 2021	NASB 2021 Legislative Issues Virtual Conference - 9am-1pm
February 1, 2021	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:30 p.m.
February 9, 2021	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
February 15, 2021	President's Day - No School for Students / Teacher PD Day
February 15, 2021	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:30 p.m.

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There being no further business, Ms. Karnes adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dana Blakely". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dana Blakely, Board of Education Secretary

WESTSIDE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Notice is hereby given of the Board of Education Meeting of Westside Community School District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held **Monday, January 18, 2021, 6:30 p.m. at the District Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, NE.** An agenda, continually kept current, is available at the District Administration Office. The meeting is open to the public. Social distancing protocols are followed and masks are required. Meeting will also be broadcast via Facebook Live (Facebook: WestsideCommunitySchools).

1/18

**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.**

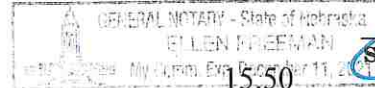
ELIZABETH WHITE

being duly sworn, deposes and says that she is

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
January 18, 2021

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



Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before
18th

Publisher's Fee \$ 15.50 me this _____ day of
January 21
Additional Copies \$ _____ 20____
Total \$ 15.50

Notary Public in and for Douglas County,
State of Nebraska



STATE *of* NEBRASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LINCOLN

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 20-36

CORONA VIRUS – PUBLIC MEETINGS REQUIREMENT LIMITED WAIVER

WHEREAS, In order to provide flexibility to assist in meeting the emergency conditions and subsequent impacts brought on from COVID-19, a state of emergency was declared in Nebraska on March 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nebraska is committed to providing seamless government operations to the people of Nebraska throughout the state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, state and local governmental boards, commissions and other public bodies must comply with the Open Meetings Act so that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of participating in meetings of public bodies; and

WHEREAS, for public health purposes, meetings and gatherings have now been limited to no more than 10 people and may be further limited if the presence of COVID-19 warrants;

NOW THEREFORE, I Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of Nebraska, hereby issue this limited waiver of certain requirements of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Pursuant to this declaration, I hereby order the following:

1. This executive order applies to public bodies as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1409 (1) and to all public meetings as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1409 (2).
2. All governing bodies may meet by videoconference or by telephone conferencing or by conferencing by other electronic communication so long as there is made available at such meeting access to members of the public and to members of the media.

3. The advanced publicized notice and the agenda requirements for meetings that are set forth in Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1411 and the remaining provisions of Nebraska's Open Meetings Act shall continue to be complied with by all public bodies and are not waived by this executive order.
4. This waiver shall apply to all public governing body meetings that occur from December 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed on this 25th day of November, 2020.

ATTEST:



Pete Ricketts, Governor



Robert B. Evnen, Secretary of State

