

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ April 9, 2021

The Board of Education Meeting of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on April 9, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. at Westside High School - 8701 Pacific Street - Omaha, Nebraska.

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

Board member absent (excused): 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 March 16, 2021, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on April 7 & 8, 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, Kim De La Cruz, Greg Betts, Kami Jessop, Paul Lindgren, Robert Aranda, Brandi Paul, Nick Lesiak.

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.

Ms. Karnes called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 11:06 a.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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Ms. Karnes welcomed all the students and their teachers and thanked them for using their class time to observe a Board of Education Meeting. Today's board meeting is being held at the high school to support students in one of the requirements associated with Nebraska Statute 79-724 (students attend a meeting of a public body) and for the board to offer and accept public testimony regarding American Civics curriculum.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Karnes requested a motion for approval of minutes from the March 15, 2021, Board of Education Meeting. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

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Communications

Public Comment: There were no requests for public comment.

Public Comment Opportunity regarding American Civics Curriculum: There were no requests for public comment regarding American Civics Curriculum.

Committee on American Civics - NE Statute 79-724

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, presented an overview of the requirements under Nebraska Statute 79-724 that outlines the requirements of school districts related to American Civics curriculum. He provided the students with a bit of context regarding Rule 10 that governs the regulations and procedures that are required of all public school systems in the state to maintain their accreditation. Dr. Weichel also shared with the students that the district conducts curriculum audits as outlined by the NE Department of Education (NDE) every seven years in content area standards required under state statute (reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies). Though among the content that does not have a required curriculum audit, the district will be conducting a curriculum audit next month on content and materials around diversity and inclusion. Dr. Weichel reviewed additional requirements of the American Civics curriculum in grades K-12 and how the district meets those guidelines. A copy of Dr. Weichel's Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Westside Community Center

Ms. Jennifer Fox, District Facilities Rental Coordinator, advised the Board that the West Campus Swing School (upper level) will be opening again as a community meeting facility now that the final project of Phase I of the Facilities Master Plan has been completed. Prairie Lane Elementary students and staff returned to their brand new school on April 6, 2021, following spring break. The lower level will remain occupied with WHS West Campus and professional development classroom space. Since the upper level has not been used as rental space since 2015, Ms. Fox advised the board that she will be recommending an increase in the current rental rates. No food service will be provided, though the district will offer coffee service on request. Only cold food items may be catered in by approved vendors. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Anti-Bullying Report (Policy 5310)

Mr. Robert Aranda, Director of Student Services, presented an overview of the district's anti-bullying efforts and programs. He shared that there are grade / age appropriate lessons and programming in place that span all grade levels (K-12) and departments (T&L, Special Services, Student Services and Professional Learning), contributing to intentional and consistent instruction. These lessons occur in the classroom, in small groups, at whole-school assemblies and in after-school clubs. Mr. Yale shared that, when faced with a situation of bullying, inequity or intolerance, it takes courage to speak up. He stated that the Board and district leadership is committed to fostering a culture of acceptance and supporting lessons on how to resolve conflict. Mr. Krenzer concurred, and affirmed that lessons on conflict resolution are life skills and something that students will take with them into their adult and professional lives. Copies of Mr. Aranda's Executive Summary and keynote presentations are included in the board documents folder.

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Board Policies for Review

Mr. Nick Lesiak, District In-House Legal Counsel, presented the following two policies for first reading and consideration by the board:

#1105 - Relationship with District Outside Legal Counsel (new policy)

#1110 - A Code of Ethics (revisions to existing policy)

Mr. Lesiak will present both policies again at the April 19th Board of Education Meeting for board approval. The Executive Summary and copies of each policy are included in the board documents folder.

Personnel Report

Dr. Schonewise presented the personnel report (12 certified staff probationary contracts; two certified staff retirements; one administrator resignation; seven certified staff resignations) for board approval. Mr. Krenzer moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Personnel Report is included in the board documents folder.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates

Ms. Blakely represented the district at a recent NCTE (NE Council on Teacher Education) Meeting on March 19, 2021. Mr. Krenzer is participating in an NASB legislative update on Monday, April 12th. A number of board members attended the special ribbon cutting at the new Prairie Lane Elementary last week to welcome 6th graders and their parents, along with Prairie Lane staff. Another community-wide ribbon cutting and dedication is scheduled for August 10th. Dr. Lucas reminded everyone of "Westside on the Green" at Turner Park on Saturday, May 1, 2021. Choirs will perform at 12:30pm; Orchestra will perform at 4:00pm; Band will perform at 6:30pm.

Announcements

Ms. Karnes reviewed the following upcoming events:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| April 13, 2021 | Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - 6:00pm @ ABC |
| April 19, 2021 | Board of Education Student Fees Public Hearing and Board Meeting - 6:30pm @ ABC |
| April 23, 2021 | No School - Westside hosting NSAA District II Music Competition April 22-24, 2021 |
| May 1, 2021 | Westside on The Green - Turner Park @ Midtown Crossing |

There being no further business, Ms. Karnes adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.



Dana Blakely, Board of Education Secretary

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY 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 **Friday, April 9, 2021, 11:00 a.m. at Westside High School, 8701 Pacific 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.

4/7, 4/8

**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 _____

April 7

& 8, 2021

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
ELLEN FREEMAN
My Comm. Exp. December 11, 2021

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before

Publisher's Fee \$ 21.13 me this 8th day of
Additional Copies \$ _____ April 2021
Total \$ 21.13

Notary Public in and for Douglas County,
State of Nebraska

For 4/9/21
BOE 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) beginning on March 16, 2021, and that it appeared there continuously up through the time of the scheduled board meeting.

Kim Sedivy

Name

Assoc., Communications & Graphics

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.



Notary Public

