

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting & Student Fees Public Hearing Minutes ~ April 19, 2021

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on April 19, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present:

- Kris Karnes, President
- Doug Krenzer, Vice President
- Dana Blakely, Secretary
- Meagan Van Gelder, Treasurer
- Beth Morrissette, Treasurer-Elect
- Adam Yale, 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 April 6, 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 16 & 19, 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, Kami Jessop, Paul Lindgren, Robert Aranda, Brandi Paul, Nick Lesiak, Tyler Hottovy, Maggie Person.

Others in Attendance*: Dave Richardson, Emma Dobson.

*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 6:34 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Student Fees Public Hearing

Ms. Karnes advised those in attendance that the Public Hearing is to hear opposition, support and observations regarding Student Fees for the 2021-2022 School Year, and that any resolution setting, altering or amending the Student Fees Policy (#6340) as a result of the hearing will be in accordance with Nebraska Revenue Statutes, Section 79-2,125 through 2,134. Mr. Brain Gabriel, Interim Chief Financial Officer, reviewed Policy 6340 and the changes being proposed for the 2021-2022 school year.

Board of Education Meeting

April 19, 2021

Page 2 of 4

Those changes include: an increase of 5 cents to breakfast and lunch prices (K-12); language changes in the *"Reimbursement for Lost or Damaged Property"* section to reflect new 1:1 technology devices (K-12); lowered summer school course fees at Westside High School and the addition of a price point for up to three courses; and price adjustments for numerous Summer Sports camps as well as making the fees the same for both resident and non-resident participants. Questions / comments were invited from the board and those in attendance. Revisions to Students Fees for 2021-2022 will be presented again for board approval at the Board of Education Meeting on May 17, 2021. A copy of Mr. Gabriel's Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Karnes requested a motion for approval of minutes from the April 9, 2021, Board of Education Meeting. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Financials

Dr. Van Gelder presented the treasurer's report for March 2021, and requested approval for expenditures in the amount of \$7,686,521; Ms. Morrissette seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the March 2021 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

Communications

Public Comment: There was one request for public comment: Mr. Dave Richardson with the WEA regarding the positive relationships between the BOE, the District and the WEA.

Board Policies for Approval

Mr. Nick Lesiak, District In-House Legal Counsel, presented the following two policies for board approval:

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

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

New policy #1105 and revisions to the existing policy #1110 were first presented for consideration at the April 9, 2021, board meeting. The only change from the first reading was a word change (from "will" to "may") in policy 1105. Mr. Krenzer moved for approval of new policy #1105; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Mr. Yale moved for approval of revisions to policy #1110; Mr. Krenzer seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The Executive Summary and copies of each policy are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Review

Mr. Lesiak presented the following policy for first reading and consideration by the board:

#1115 - Conflicts of Interest (revisions to existing policy)

Board of Education Meeting

April 19, 2021

Page 3 of 4

All sections of the policy have revisions. Two new sections added are: *"Conflict of Interest Relating to Campaigning or Political Issues"* (language tracks with current district policy #4460 regarding employee use of district resources for campaigning / political issues); and *"Recordkeeping"* (as it relates to any contract the Board enters into in which a Board member has an interest in and disclosure is required). Mr. Lesiak will present policy revisions again at the May 17th Board of Education Meeting for board approval. The Executive Summary and redline copy of the policy are included in the board documents folder.

Special Services Update: Engaging Parents of Students with Disabilities

Dr. Kami Jessop, Director of Special Services, presented an overview to the board on various practices and procedures that the Special Services Department has both implemented and refined during this school year due to COVID-related limitations and interruptions to student learning and the involvement of families in their student's education. Introduced this year have been a series of lunch-hour learning sessions from "Parent Navigators", a new collaborative opportunity between the district, local agency partners and parents. These sessions provide parents with information on how to navigate the Special Education path for their child. The department also enhanced their transition guides for parents that aid families in understanding the move from elementary to middle school and from middle school to high school. The guides include a transition planning resource document ("What to Expect?") and a detailed transition check-list. And renewing procedures for special education staff and creating a special education staff calendar that provides reminders of forms and report due-dates have helped to ensure that important information is not being missed. Dr. Jessop thanked two of her department leaders who were in attendance: Jenny Brockman, District Coordinator of Secondary Special Services, and Jenni Allen, Assistant Principal at Westside Middle School. The Board and Dr. Lucas expressed their appreciation to Dr. Jessop and her entire staff (PK through Transition) for their amazing work, and for utilizing the data from parent and staff feedback to refine and implement procedures and practices so effectively and successfully. Copies of Dr. Jessop's Executive Summary and Keynote are included in the board documents folder.

Personnel Report

Dr. Schonewise presented the personnel report (three certified staff probationary contracts; one certified staff retirement; three certified staff resignations; one administrator contract) for board approval. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Mr. Krenzer 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

Dr. Van Gelder and Mr. Yale visited Paddock Road Elementary during the children's book authors visit last Friday; Mr. Krenzer participated in the NASB Legislative Virtual Meeting last Monday; Ms. Karnes attended the MABE (Metropolitan Area Boards of Education) meeting last Wednesday; and both Ms. Karnes and Mr. Krenzer attended last week's Bond Oversight Committee Meeting. With Prairie Lane now open, that concluded the final project in Phase I of the Facilities Master Plan. Dr. Lucas expressed his thanks to ALL those who helped make the Phase I projects a reality: former board members, former Superintendent Dr. Blane McCann and all of those who have served on the Bond Oversight Committee

Board of Education Meeting

April 19, 2021

Page 4 of 4

since its inception in 2015. Ms. Morrisette shared that it is amazing the amount of work that has been accomplished across the district in Phase I and expressed thanks to the community for supporting the bond. Ms. Kim De La Cruz, Director of Secondary Education, announced the introduction of a new partnership with Metropolitan Community College and piloting their Kick-Start On-Line Program that will be available to WHS Students in the 2021-2022 school year. This will allow students to gain dual-enrollment credits, with great scheduling flexibility, without having to leave the high school campus.

Announcements

Ms. Karnes reviewed the following upcoming events:

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

May 11, 2021 Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - 6:00pm - ABC Building

May 16, 2021 WHS Commencement - 2:00pm - Baxter Arena (current plan)

May 17, 2021 Board of Education Meeting - 6:30pm - ABC Building

May 27, 2021 Last Day of the 2020-2021 School Year - 1:00pm Dismissal

Correction noted to the May Bond Oversight Committee Meeting; the date is Tuesday, May 11 - 6:00pm, not May 9th, as shown on the agenda. Correction has been made to be reflected in the minutes. There being no further business, Ms. Karnes adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.



Dana Blakely, Board of Education Secretary

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Notice is hereby given of the Board of Education Student Fees Public Hearing and Board Meeting of Westside Community School District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held **Monday, April 19, 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.

4/16, 4/19

**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 16

& 19, 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, 2028

[Handwritten Signature]
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before

Publisher's Fee \$ 23.38 me this 19th _____ day of
Additional Copies \$ _____ April _____ 2021
Total \$ 23.38

[Handwritten Signature]
Notary Public in and for Douglas County,
State of Nebraska

