

## WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

### Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ July 19, 2021

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The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on July 19, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Board members present:**

- Doug Krenzer, President
- Meagan Van Gelder, Vice President
- Adam Yale, Secretary
- Beth Morrissette, Treasurer
- Dana Blakely, Treasurer-Elect
- Kris Karnes, 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 June 29, 2021, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on July 16 and 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, Mark Weichel, Andrea Haynes, Brian Gabriel, Molly Hurley, Greg Betts, Kami Jessop, Kim De La Cruz, Kelcy Tapp, Paul Lindgren, Robert Aranda, Nick Lesiak, Brian Stevens, Russ, Olsen, Jenni Allen, Maggie Person, Becky Lowther.

**Others in Attendance\*:** Lisa Herman. \*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. Krenzer called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:00 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Krenzer requested a motion for approval of minutes from the June 29, 2021, Board of Education Meeting. Ms. Morrissette moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

#### **Financials**

Ms. Morrissette presented the treasurer's report for June 2021, and requested approval for expenditures in the amount of \$10,347,412; Ms. Karnes seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the June 2021 financial reports (financial statements,

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general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

### **Communications**

Public Comment: There were no requests for Public Comment.

Awards and Honors: Ms. Brandi Paul, Director of Communications, recognized three staff members from Westside Middle School for their recent awards: Ms. Kristeen Shabram, Business Teacher, honored with the 2021 Communication and Information Systems Career Field Richard Katt Outstanding Nebraska Career Educator Award; and Ms. Abbey Painter, Speech Language Pathologist, and Ms. Faren Huben, Math Teacher, both were honored by *Edficiency* for their excellence in using flexible instructional time. Ms. Huben received the Excellence in Flex Time Award; Ms. Painter received an Honorable Mention. Ms. Paul also recognized WMS Assistant Principal, Brian Stevens, who was credited by Ms. Painter for providing outstanding leadership and commitment to middle school staff. Ms. Paul also highlighted former WHS student, 2019 graduate Ms. Eva Houston, who will represent Team USA in wheelchair racing at the 2021 Paralympic Games in Tokyo. Finally, the WHS Boys Summer Legion Baseball Team will be hosting the 2021 State Legion Tournament next week.

### **Review of State Aid - FY22**

Mr. Brian Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance, presented the annual state aid review, including an overview of the state aid funding formula and the district's needs and resource components. Because of a bill that was introduced in the last legislative session (LB651) that calls for the termination of the State's enrollment option program for public schools (and thus ending net option funding), Mr. Gabriel explained that - should LB651 pass - the District could potentially lose \$20 million in state aid. Copies of Mr. Gabriel's Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **Review of Non-Levy Funds - FY22**

Mr. Gabriel provided a timeline of the FY22 budget adoption process, and an overview of preliminary budgeted expenses in non-levy funds: Nutrition Services, Activities, Enterprise, and Student Fees. Mr. Gabriel reported that total budgeted expenses in the non-levy funds for FY22 (\$8,872,826) represents a 1.46% decrease (\$131,508) from FY21 (\$9,004,334). Copies of Mr. Gabriel's Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **Levy Override Resolution**

Dr. Mike Lucas presented the resolution to hold a Levy Override Election in the fall of 2021 that would become effective for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and run through the 2027-2028 fiscal year. The election would ask voters to override the state imposed levy limit of \$1.05 and maintain the current levy limit at \$1.20. Dr. Lucas stated that this is not a tax increase, but rather an extension of what voters approved in 2017. And even though the district has had the taxing authority in place for 25 years, the district and the Board of Education have worked hard to tax less than what voters have approved.



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The general fund tax request for 2021-2022 (to be set in September 2021) will see a decrease for the third year in a row, likely to be less than \$1.17. Dr. Lucas shared that the levy override is intended to support general operations in our schools, including:

- Operating and maintaining 10 neighborhood elementary schools
- Recruiting / retaining high-quality staff
- 1:1 technology for all students (a distinct advantage for our students and staff during the pandemic)
- Operation of the districts award-winning special services programming
- Providing strong academic programming from Pre-K through 12th grade

Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Copies of the Executive Summary, motion, resolution and ballot language are included in the board documents folder.

### **Sale of District Equipment**

Mr. Russ Olsen, Director of Facilities, requested board approval (per policy #3450) for the sale of timing equipment used by the high school for swim meets. The Colorado Time System equipment would be sold to Ralston High School. Westside High School replaced the timing equipment last year with a new Daktronics system. 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 Policies for Approval (Second Reading)**

Mr. Nick Lesiak, District In-House Legal Counsel, presented two separate recommendations for the following board policies (both were presented for first reading on June 14, 2021):

Policy #1505 - Participation in Insurance Program by Board Members - existing policy recommended for elimination since it does not apply to the circumstances of the District's insurance plan. Mr. Yale moved for approval for elimination of policy 1505; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Policy #7105 - Anti-Hate Activities Policy - new policy recommended for approval to further establish the District's commitment and responsibility to anti-hate bias at the highest level. Dr. VanGelder moved for approval of policy 7105; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Copies of the Executive Summaries and each policy are included in the board documents folder.

### **Approval of District Strategic Plan**

Dr. Lucas presented the District Strategic Plan for the five year period 2021 through 2026 for board approval. He expressed his appreciation to Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning. Dr. Weichel, who was unable to be in attendance at tonight's meeting, led the Strategic Plan Renewal with Dr. Matt Lee, District Coordinator of Technology Integration.

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In early 2021, they led numerous rounds of focus group meetings with a number of district stakeholder groups, including students, staff, parents, community members, business leaders and post-secondary institutions. The input from these groups was examined by the Strategic Plan committee and a first draft was formulated. Dr.'s Weichel and Lee took the draft back to the focus groups for additional feedback. Final drafts of the Strategic Plan document were finalized in May and June. District leaders will share the Strategic Plan with all staff when they return on August 9th. Board members expressed their appreciation for the collaborative nature of the process and the numerous opportunities for feedback and input from all stakeholders. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval of the District's Strategic Plan; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summaries and the Strategic Plan are included in the board documents folder.

**Personnel Report**

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and District Operations, presented the personnel report (recommendation of two certified staff probationary contracts; recommendation for non-approval of one certified staff resignation) for board approval. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Mr. Yale 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. Morrissette attended a recent NASB Legislative Committee Meeting. Dr. Lucas, along with the District's lobbyist Mr. Sean Kelley, is meeting with Sen. LouAnn Linehan later this week. Reminders about other upcoming events: Girls Basketball Fundraiser - August 7th; "Back to School BBQ and Pep Rally" for the Westside Community, hosted by the Westside Athletic Club, on Wednesday, August 25th at 6:00pm at the high school; and VI-VI, scheduled for Saturday, September 25th at the CHI Center.

**Announcements**

Mr. Krenzer reviewed the following upcoming events:

August 2, 2021	Board of Education Meeting - 5:00 p.m. - ABC Building
August 10, 2021	Prairie Lane Elementary Dedication & Open House - 6:00 p.m.
August 16, 2021	Board of Education Meeting - 5:00 p.m. - ABC Building
August 17, 2021	First Day of School!

There being no further business, Mr. Krenzer adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.



Adam Yale, Board of Education Secretary

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

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, July 19, 2021, 5:00 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.

7/16, 7/19

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 SCOTT STEWART**

being duly sworn, deposes and say that they are the

**PUBLISHER and/or MANAGING 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 \_\_\_\_\_

July 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, 2021

*Jason W. Huff* or *Scott Stewart*

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before

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

Notary Public in and for Douglas County,  
State of Nebraska



Board of Education Meeting  
July 19, 2021

## 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 June 29, 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.

Julie M. Thacker  
Notary Public

