

## WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

### Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ August 2, 2021

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The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on August 2, 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  
Adam Yale, Secretary  
Beth Morrissette, Treasurer  
Dana Blakely, Treasurer-Elect  
Kris Karnes, Director

**Board member absent (excused):** Meagan Van Gelder, Vice President

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 July 20, 2021, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. A copy of the proof of publication is 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, Brian Gabriel, Molly Hurley, Kim De La Cruz, Kami Jessop, Kelcy Tapp, Kerri Palmesano, Paul Lindgren, Robert Aranda, Brandi Paul, Russ Olsen, Becky Lowther, Kira Mclean, Teresa Matthews.

**Others in Attendance\*:** Emily Dietle, Terrance Mclean, Lisa Hatterman, Carrie Hamill, Denise Bradshaw, John L., Abbey L., E. Hartman. \*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 5:01 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. Mr. Krenzer confirmed that Dr. Van Gelder's absence was excused and requested a motion for approval. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Krenzer requested separate motions for approval of minutes from the Board of Education Workshop and Board of Education Meeting, both held on July 19, 2021. Ms. Morrissette moved for approval of the BOE Workshop minutes; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote. Ms. Karnes moved for approval of the BOE Meeting minutes; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

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### **Communications**

#### Public Comment:

There were two requests for public comment regarding having students wear masks in school (Dr. Elizabeth Hartman and Dr. Emily Dietle); one request for public comment regarding making masks optional for students in school (Mr. Brett Dennis); and one request for public comment regarding NDE's proposed sex education standards and teachings of Critical Race Theory (Ms. Lisa Hatterman).

#### Awards and Honors:

Ms. Brandi Paul, Director of Communications, introduced this evenings' special guests for recognition of their accomplishments and leadership - in and out of the classroom: Jordyn Mclean, 2nd grader at Paddock Road, recently won a gold medal in the Javelin and 4th place in the Shot Put at the National Junior Olympics Track and Field Championships; Mr. Lucas Sokoli and Ms. Lilian Johnson, students at WHS, represented Westside over the summer, taking part in the Unicameral Youth Legislature in Lincoln; and Ms. Kerri Palmesano, 1st Grade Teacher at Paddock Road, who led the district's incredibly successful 2021 Elementary Summer School program for approximately 300 students!

### **Nutrition Services Annual Update**

Mr. Erin Vik, Director of Nutrition Services, presented the annual update for Westside Nutrition Services (per board policy #3400). Mr. Vik shared that, for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year, the USDA is again partnering with NDE to provide free meals for all students in public and private school districts that participate in the National School Lunch Program. He advised that families who may normally qualify for Free or Reduced Meals are still encouraged to complete the Free / Reduced Meal application to ensure that their student(s) receive other benefits through the program (discounts on computers, transportation, summer camps, etc.). Mr. Vik reported that the district's Contract Meal Services will be adding two new locations this upcoming school year, bringing the total number of locations served outside of the district to 31 (mostly K-8 private schools). Also this year, a new inventory and ordering system is being implemented that ties in with food prep and production, streamlining a considerable amount of time connected to these processes. Finally, Mr. Vik shared that new menu development items will include the introduction of more plant-based protein options. A copy of the Executive Summary and keynote are included in the board documents folder.

### **Approval of GOALS Center Interlocal Agreement**

Dr. Lucas and Mr. Robert Aranda, Director of Student Services, presented the GOALS (Greater Omaha Attendance and Learning Services) Center Interlocal Agreement for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 for board approval. This plan was implemented in 2011 by the 11 Omaha area school districts that comprise the Learning Community as part of a collaborative effort by all districts to combat the adverse impact of chronic absenteeism on student achievement and engagement. Ms. Morrissette moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and the GOALS Center Interlocal Agreement are included in the board documents folder.

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### Approval of Superintendent Goals and Priorities for 2021-2022 School Year

Dr. Lucas presented his goals and priorities for the 2021-2022 School year for approval by the Board. The establishment of the Superintendent goals and priorities is a collaborative effort between the Superintendent and the Board of Education that align with the Superintendent Performance Assessment that is completed in the spring of each year. The areas of Dr. Lucas' goals include: Instructional Leadership; Financial Leadership; Communication/Public Relations/Community Engagement; Facilities Leadership; WE-SIDE; Visionary Planning; Culture Enhancement; and Legislative/Statewide Leadership. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Morrisette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of Dr. Lucas' goals are included in the board documents folder.

### Update on Pandemic Plan

Dr. Lucas presented the District's current plan for the start of the school year regarding masks in our buildings. He emphasized that decisions are being made based on guidance from medical experts and it is imperative that, collectively, we continue to work hard to keep our students in school. Further, since the vaccine is not yet available for children under 12, right now masks are the best defense we have for grades K-6. Dr. Lucas advised that masks will be required in district elementary buildings for students and staff. Masks at WMS and WHS will be optional for now. This requirement will run through September 17, 2021, at which time a determination will be made on whether to continue or relax the mask requirement. The district will monitor cases daily and adjust these mask requirements as necessary, including the addition of a mask requirement at the secondary level if warranted. A copy of the Safe Return to School Plan is available on the district website.

### Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates

A number of board members joined the District Admin team for the new teacher breakfast this morning at West Campus. Dr. Lucas and District Lobbyist Sean Kelley met with Sen. Lou Ann Linehan this past week.

### Announcements

Mr. Krenzer reviewed the following upcoming events:

August 10, 2021	Prairie Lane Elementary Dedication & Open House - 6:00 p.m.
August 12, 2021	Sneak-A-Peek Night at District Elementary Buildings
August 16, 2021	Board of Education Meeting - 5:00 p.m. - ABC Building
August 17, 2021	First Day of School!
August 24, 2021	WE-SIDE Community Forum - WHS Auditorium - 6:00 p.m.
August 25, 2021	Westside Back to School BBQ & Pep Rally at WHS

There being no further business, Mr. Krenzer adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.



Adam Yale, Board of Education Secretary

