

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ August 16, 2021

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on August 16, 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 August 3, 2021, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on August 13 and 16, 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, Becky Lowther, Teresa Matthews, Jenny Brockman.

Others in Attendance*: John Spatz, Kelley Jansen, Lisa Pitts, Erin Bailey, Doug Bailey, Katie Bailey, Megan Harris, Katie Collins, Denise Bradshaw, Carrie Hamill, Melissa Blackwell, Desirae Anson, David Hennings, Aimee Hennings. *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 5:05 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 - August 2, 2021 and August 12, 2021

Mr. Krenzer requested a motion for approval of minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on August 2, 2021. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote. Mr. Krenzer requested a motion for approval of minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on August 12, 2021. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Morrissette seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

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Financials

Ms. Morrissette presented the treasurer's report for July 2021, and requested approval for expenditures in the amount of \$6,848,660; Mr. Yale seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the July 2021 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

School Spending - John Spatz, Executive Director, NASB

Mr. John Spatz, Executive Director of the NE Association of School Boards (NASB), shared his presentation on school spending in Nebraska. He has been attending school board meetings around the state in an effort to inform communities and push for a change to the inaccurate belief / narrative that public schools in Nebraska have a spending problem. To the contrary, Mr. Spatz advised that Nebraska's lack of funding from the state level forces school districts to rely on local property taxes. Nebraska ranks #49 in state support of public education. For Westside Community Schools, this translates to over 60% of the district's total revenue coming from local property taxes. The state average is approximately 52%; the national average is approximately 30%. Mr. Spatz emphasized the importance of defining public education as an investment rather than an expense. From the state's youngest learners in early childhood programs to skilled job training programs, the greatest return on investment for state dollars can be found in people and education. A copy of Mr. Spatz's powerpoint presentation is included in the board documents folder. (NASB, a private, non-profit organization, provides advocacy, consultation and support services for public education, as well as training and development for school boards for member school districts and educational service units across the state of Nebraska.)

FY21 Budget Amendment

Mr. Brian Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance, requested board approval of adjustments to the original adopted FY21 budget in the Bond Fund that were presented at a public hearing immediately preceding this board meeting. Fund Accounting requires recognizing both the revenue and expense of the refinance to be recognized. In the Bond Fund, the total available resources before property taxes (non-levy revenue) and budgeted disbursements and transfers (expenses) are each increased by \$10,400,000. This change to the FY21 budget does not require a change to the District's FY21 tax rates. Mr. Krenzer invited any further comment from the board. Hearing none, Mr. Yale moved for approval of the FY21 budget amendments in the Bond Fund; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and the original and amended budgets are included in the board meeting documents folder.

FY22 Budget Update

Mr. Gabriel presented an update and preliminary overview of the 2021-2022 budget ahead of the FY22 Budget Public Hearing, scheduled for August 30, 2021, at 6:00pm. He reviewed the budget process and timeline, as well as preliminary expenditure estimates of levy funds and preliminary revenue estimates for FY22. Approval of the FY22 budget will be requested at the Board Meeting on September 13, 2021. Copies of Mr. Gabriel's Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

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Update on Property Valuations by County Assessor

Mr. Gabriel advised that there is no update yet on property valuations as no information has been received from the County Assessor yet.

Personnel Report

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and District Operations, presented the personnel report (recommendation of one certified staff probationary contract) for board approval. Dr. Van Gelder 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

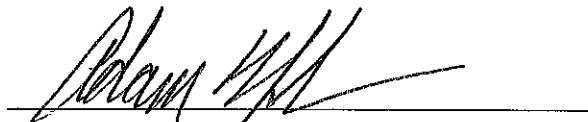
Dr. Lucas and board members attended a number of pre-opening events around the district last week ahead of the first day of school tomorrow, including elementary sneak-a-peeks, the All Staff Back to School Welcome event at Baxter Arena, 7th grade orientation night and WMS Special Services Boot Camp. Mr. Krenzer reviewed the following upcoming events:

August 17, 2021	First Day of School!
August 24, 2021	WE-SIDE Community Forum - WHS - 6:00 p.m.
August 25, 2021	Back to School BBQ and Pep Rally - WHS - 6:00 p.m.
August 30, 2021	Board of Education FY22 Budget Public Hearing - ABC - 6:00 p.m.
August 30, 2021	Board of Education Meeting - ABC - Immediately following the adjournment of the Public Hearing

Communications

Public Comment: There were 12 requests for public comment: Carrie Hammill - parental choice for masks; Richard Smith - masks in school; Brett Dennis - mask policy; Hudson Barry - mask mandate; Erin Bailey - mask mandate; Katie Bailey - mask mandate; Ryan Barry - mask mandate; Kelley Jansen - no masks / masks optional; Melissa Blackwell - elementary mask mandate; Lisa Pitts - CRT, health standards, masks; Denise Bradshaw - strategic plan / budgets; David Hennings - inclusion / personal choice

There being no further business, Mr. Krenzer adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.



Adam Yale, Board of Education Secretary

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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 Aug. 3, 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.

Chelsea Dubas
Notary Public

State of Nebraska - General Notary
CHELSEA DUBAS
My Commission Expires
April 6, 2024

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
NOTICE OF HEARING AND MEETING**

Notice is hereby given of a Budget Amendment Public Hearing for the Board of Education of Westside Community School District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held **Monday, August 16, 2021, 5:00 p.m.** Immediately following the adjournment of the Public Hearing, the Board will hold their regular Board of Education Meeting. These meetings will be held at the District Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, NE. The agendas, continually kept current, are available at the District Office. The meetings are open to the public.

8/13, 8/16

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**THE DAILY RECORD
OF OMAHA**
JASON W. HUFF, Publisher
PROOF OF PUBLICATION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
The State of Nebraska, } ss.
District of Nebraska, }
County of Douglas, }
City of Omaha, }

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 _____
August 13

_____ & 16, 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 \$ 25.63 me this 16th day of
Additional Copies \$ _____ August 21
Total \$ 25.63 20

Notary Public in and for Douglas County,
State of Nebraska