

## WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

### Board of Education Workshop Minutes ~ March 4, 2022

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The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on March 4, 2022, at the College of St. Mary Lied Fitness Center, 7000 Mercy Road, 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 February 25, 2022, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the workshop was also published in the Daily Record on February 28, 2022, 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, Andrea Haynes, Molly Hurley, Brian Gabriel, Brandi Paul, Russ Olsen.

**Others in Attendance\*:** Rob Zimmerman, Mike Coyle. \*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 Workshop to order at 8:05 a.m. He 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.

#### **Challenges for Educators: Today and into the Future**

Dr. Lucas shared Dr. Weichel's overview of the district's current book challenge process. This has become a significant issue with a number of school districts across the county and here in the metro area. The board reviewed the district's current policy - #6320: Review of Education Materials - along with the accompanying regulation and forms that parents / guardians can submit: (1) Review Request Form - for review of education materials; (2) Request to Excuse Student from Participation - to have the student excused from classroom instruction of an identified material; and (3) Request to Remove Material - to have the district remove instructional material being used in the classroom. Dr. Lucas reviewed the process by which books are selected for school libraries and praised our district media specialists - elementary and secondary - for the work they do in selecting books and materials.

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Revisions to the current policy will be considered to ensure consistency in material / book reviews across all buildings and grade levels. There was consensus among board members that there needs to be a high level of consideration put into why a book or a particular instructional material would be removed from the library or a classroom. Dr. Haynes advised the board that guidelines and talking-points have been developed to assist principals and staff in addressing and navigating gender equity issues in their buildings. She shared that each case is handled with the utmost level of confidentiality to protect the student's privacy. Looking ahead, Dr. Lucas expressed excitement about the district's 75th Anniversary this year and using this celebratory event to springboard into the 2022-2023 school year. While there will continue to be challenges and opportunities as we come out of the pandemic, it is exciting to move forward with a renewed sense of returning to "normal".

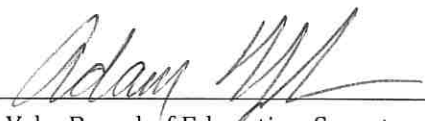
**Budget: Preliminary Look at 2022-2023**

Mr. Brian Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance, provided a preliminary overview of the 2022-2023 budget. Mr. Gabriel shared a comparative overview of actuals from FY19, FY20 and FY21, and the current FY22 budget. He stressed that this review of FY23 is very, very early, but did bring attention to a potential decrease in state aid. Coupled with projected increases in salaries and benefits, and decreases in other miscellaneous revenue, it will be important to closely consider sustainability of staff position adds, planned textbook adoptions and potential enhancements for cybersecurity.

**Facilities Overview - Phase II Timeline**

Mr. Rob Zimmerman, Principal with Project Advocates, presented a preliminary overview of projects for Phase II of the Facilities Master Plan. The board discussed next-steps leading up to a bond election for Phase II: renewal of the Bond Oversight Committee; formation of a new Facilities Task Force and identifying committee members; establishing the potential scope of projects in Phase II and benchmarks for Task Force meetings; creating a communication piece to inform the community on the "What and Why" for a bond election and the difference from the levy override. Mr. Mike Coyle, Attorney with Fraser Stryker, shared information on scheduling a bond election - either as a special mail-in election or in-person election. Mr. Zimmerman will provide a renewed high priorities list per building - including issues related to health and safety - by March 25th for the district's consideration.

There being no further business, Mr. Krenzer adjourned the workshop at 3:20 p.m.

  
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Adam Yale, Board of Education Secretary

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given of a Board of Education Workshop for the Westside Community School District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held **Thursday, March 3, 2022, 4:00 p.m.** at Kimpton Cottonwood Hotel, 302 S. 36th St., Omaha; and **Friday, March 4, 2022, 8:00 a.m.** at College of St. Mary Lied Fitness Center, 7000 S. 72nd St., Omaha. The agenda, continually kept current, is available at the District Office. The meeting is open to the public.

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**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  
February 28, 2022

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  
NICOLE M. PALMER  
My Comm. Exp. October 1, 2029

*Jason W. Huff*  
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before  
15.50 28th

Publisher's Fee \$ 15.50 me this 28th day of  
Additional Copies \$ February 22  
Total \$ 15.50

*Nicole M. Palmer*  
Notary Public in and for Douglas County,  
State of Nebraska

