

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ March 21, 2022

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on March 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present: Beth Morrisette, Treasurer
Dana Blakely, Treasurer-Elect
Adam Yale, Secretary
Kris Karnes, Director

Board members absent (excused): Doug Krenzer, President
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 March 8, 2022, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on March 18 and 21, 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, Mark Weichel, Andrea Haynes, Brian Gabriel, Molly Hurley, Kim De La Cruz, Nick Lesiak, Kelcy Tapp, Robert Aranda, Kami Jessop, Glen Jagels, Jenny Brockman, Laura Mann, Garret Higginbotham, Kim Reagan, Erin Hamilton, Teresa Matthews, Kayla Neumann, Maggie Person.

Others in Attendance*: Marley Helvey, Sarah Helvey, Susie Rensch, Olivia Rensch, Jeff Gordman, Danielle Gordman, Lucas Allen. *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. Morrisette called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:00 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. Ms. Morrisette advised that Mr. Krenzer and Dr. Van Gelder's absences from tonight's meeting were excused and requested a motion to approve their absence. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Morrisette requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on March 7, 2022. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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Treasurer's Report

Ms. Morrisette presented the treasurer's report for February 2022 and requested a motion for approval for expenditures in the amount of \$7,785,648. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the February 2022 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

Communications

Ms. Brand Paul, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, welcomed a number of special guests to tonight's board meeting. First, Mr. Zev Gordman, WHS Senior, and Miss Charlotte Murphy, WHS Junior, shared about their recent accomplishment to establish the Children's Miracle Network (CMN) Dance Marathon at Westside High School. Organizations participating in this national movement plan a variety of events for their school and community to help raise money and awareness for their local CMN hospitals. So far this year, Westside Dance Marathon events have raised \$10,000 for Omaha's Children's Hospital and Medical Center. Last month, Westside Dance Marathon sold Valentine candy-grams and held a dodgeball tournament; upcoming spring events will be held on March 27th (a 5-on-5 basketball tournament), April 6th and May 7th. Kudos to Zev and Charlotte and their fellow classmates for their hard work and making such a tremendous impact in our community and for Children's Hospital and Medical Center! Next, Ms. Paul introduced the top three winners of the recent 6th Grade Speech Contest: Miss Lyla Mann (Sunset Hills); Miss Marley Helvey (Loveland); and Miss Olivia Rensch (Rockbrook). These three young ladies - unbeknownst to one another - selected the same topic (Malala Yousafzai), and each one presented a well-prepared and informative speech, demonstrating poise and polish. Nice work, ladies!! Finally, Ms. Paul welcomed three staff members from Oakdale Elementary to recognize their heroic efforts last month when a child started choking during lunch. Special Education Teachers - Ms. Kim Briggs and Ms. Erin Hamilton, and Health Assistant Ms. Kim Reagan - reacted swiftly and calmly. Our entire community is grateful for the life-saving actions of these three women.

WE-SIDE Unified Update

Dr. Kami Jessop, Director of Special Services, Ms. Jennifer Brockman, Coordinator of Secondary Special Services, and Mr. Garret Higginbotham, Principal, Rockbrook Elementary, provided an update on PK-12 Unified goals, activities and next steps. Dr. Jessop shared that there has been extraordinary growth in the last year with Unified activities and events, aligning with Strategic Plan Goal #1 (Student Achievement & Well-Being), Strategy #1.1 (*Grow and nurture a district culture that values, demonstrates, and promotes a sense of belonging and dignity for all by embracing diversity, equity and inclusion*). Areas of activities include: monthly district-wide family events and activities (fishing, movie nights, sensory "make & take" events; talent show; kickball); peer engagement in the classroom and at school-related events (the high school has over 200 students serving as peer-models for Unified activities); and various athletic competitions, including two (bowling and track & field) that are sanctioned by the NSAA.

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And the high school's Unified Cheer Team - The Sparkles - performed at half-time at the Boys' State Basketball Tournament. Ms. Brockman shared that there are currently 24 students enrolled in a new class that will be offered at the high school in the fall - Introduction to Special Education Class. Copies of the Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Review (#2120 and #2220)

Mr. Nick Lesiak, District In-House Legal Counsel, presented the following two existing policies for board consideration and discussion:

#2120 - Duties of the Superintendent: language revisions and updates, and the addition of two areas: "Organizational Culture" and "Other Duties".

#2220 - Smoke Free Environment: language revisions and updates.

Both policies will be presented again for board approval on April 4, 2022. Redline copies of each policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Human Resources Annual Report

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, presented the Human Resources Annual Report. The data and trends compiled in this report help guide the year-to-year decision-making process and planning around hiring and staff building placements. Dr. Haynes shared an overview of both certified and classified staff numbers and demographics, as well as what her department has been working on to bolster recruiting and retention efforts: the district's "Grow Our Own" initiative includes an "Educational Assistant to Teacher" pathway; a stipend for student teachers will begin in the fall of 2022; and creating more introduction to education courses offered at the high school. Other key areas of focus include recruiting a diverse teacher workforce; enhancing employee engagement opportunities and improving employee rewards, benefits and compensation. Copies of the Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Personnel Report

Dr. Haynes presented the personnel report (nine probationary contracts; two administrator contracts; two certified staff leaves of absence; one administrator resignation; eight certified staff resignations; three certified staff retirements) for board approval. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Personnel Report is included in the board documents folder.

Public Comment: There was one request for public comment: Ms. Diane Cahill, Renz Law Evidentiary Findings. All materials submitted to the Board president are available for public inspection at the district office - 909 S. 76th St. - during normal business hours.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates

Board members attended or participated in a number of district events and activities over the past two weeks including the Unified Talent Show, Band-O-Rama, and numerous building visits and

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walk-throughs. Earlier this afternoon, some were able to attend a staff meet and greet at the high school for new WHS Principal Jay Dostal, who is in town this week meeting with high school and district staff.

Announcements

Ms. Morrissette reviewed the following upcoming events:

April 4-8, 2022	All Staff Appreciation Week
April 4, 2022	Board of Education Student Advisory Committee - ABC - 5:00 p.m. Board of Education Meeting - ABC - 6:00 p.m.
April 11-15, 2022	Spring Break - No School
April 15, 2022	District Offices Close at 12 Noon
April 18, 2022	Board of Education Meeting - ABC - 6:00 p.m.
April 21, 2022	K-8 Art Fair - Westside Community Center - 5:30 p.m.

There being no further business, Ms. Morrissette adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.



Adam Yale, Board of Education Secretary

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice is hereby given of a Board of Education Meeting for the Westside Community School District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held **Monday, March 21, 2022, 6:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the District Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, NE. The agenda, continually kept current, is available at the District Office. The meeting is open to the public.

3/18, 3/21

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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
March 18, 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, 2025

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before

Publisher's Fee \$ 21.13 me this 18th day of

Additional Copies \$

Total \$ 21.13

March 18, 2022
Nicole M. Palmer
Notary Public in and for Douglas County,
State of Nebraska

Board of Education Meeting
March 21, 2022

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 March 8, 2022 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