

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting ~ February 6, 2023

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on February 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present:

- Meagan Van Gelder, President
- Beth Morrissette, Vice President
- Kris Karnes, Secretary
- Dana Blakely, Treasurer
- Adam Yale, Treasurer-Elect

Board members absent (excused): Doug Krenzer, 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 January 18, 2023, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on February 3 and 6, 2023, 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, Nick Lesiak, Kim De La Cruz, Kami Jessop, Laura Mann, Kelcy Tapp, Jeanette Lengemann, Becky Lowther, Maggie Person, Scott Becker, Jennifer Harr, Cynthia Bailey, Melanie Connolly, Amanda Moon, Jordan Rhodes.

Others in Attendance*: Diane Cahill, Dave Janovec, Suzanne Janovec, Jonas Janovec, Anaya Janovec, Ezra Janovec, Dakotah Steinspring, Pam Burton, Ashia Aubrey, Terry Glover, Carolyn Roeder. *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.

Dr. Van Gelder 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. Board member attendance is noted above. Dr. Van Gelder requested a motion for an excused absence for Doug Krenzer. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Van Gelder requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on January 17, 2023. Ms. Morrissette moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

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Dr. Van Gelder requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Student Advisory Committee Meeting held on January 17, 2023. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Morrissette seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Communications

Ms. Brandi Paul, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, had the privilege of welcoming many, many guests this evening (principals, students and families) who were all in attendance to help recognize our amazing board members! NASB sets aside one week each year for school districts across the state to collectively celebrate the commitment of those who serve students and families as members of their local school boards. District 66 is served by a phenomenal Board of Education that is dedicated to the mission and vision of Westside Community Schools, founded on the principles of excellence, innovation and community, to ensure that every single student achieves academic success. THANK YOU to our Board of Education: Dana Blakely, Kris Karnes, Doug Krenzer, Beth Morrissette, Meagan Van Gelder and Adam Yale.

Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) Testing Data Report

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, presented an overview of NSCAS testing results. Dr. Weichel advised the board that, while on-going changes with the NSCAS assessment since 2019 have made it difficult to compare year-over-year NSCAS scores, the spring 2022 NSCAS results reflect growth in a number of areas. He shared that our building leaders and teachers also rely on MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing results as well as consistent and regular analysis of achievement data to determine how our students are learning and progressing. Strength areas include 4th, 5th and 6th grade ELA (English Language Arts), and 6th and 8th grade Math. Dr. Weichel outlined the district's renewed focus on learning results with the Instructional Model Principles of: 1) Positive Classroom Climate; 2) Effective Classroom Management; 3) Data-Informed Instructional Practices; and 4) Active Student Engagement. He also advised the board that, at the middle school, a math interventionist is being added, along with extra ELA core content instructional time; and after-school tutoring programs will be piloted at both Westbrook and Westgate Elementary schools. Dr. Weichel's Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Science of Reading

Dr. Kelcy Tapp, Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning, presented an informational report to the Board on the Science of Reading. Current English Language Arts ([ELA State Standards](#)) standards that were approved by the NE State Board of Education in September 2021 included the implementation of Foundational Skills and the Science of Reading. Dr. Tapp advised the board that the District has been educating teachers and implementing Science of Reading practices over the past six years. The District's adoption of new ELA curriculum materials in the fall of 2023 will include Foundational Skills materials and will more fully align with Science-based literacy instruction. Dr. Tapp shared the research of Science-based literacy instruction and the importance of integrating reading and writing in all content areas; what to teach to ensure fluency in reading and writing; and how to teach, using explicit and structured instruction. Copies of Dr. Tapp's Executive Summary and infographic are included in the board documents folder.

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Board Policies for Approval

The following policies were brought to the Board for discussion and consideration at the Board of Education Meeting on January 17, 2023, and are being presented this evening for approval:

#5230 - Graduation: Class of 2025 and beyond (Students): Minor revision to course requirements for "Business, Computer Science and Technology" due to the *Computer Science and Technology Education Act* that was passed by the Nebraska Legislature in the spring of 2022. Ms. Kim De La Cruz, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, requested approval of this revision. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Morrissette seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Mr. Nick Lesiak, District In-House Legal Counsel, presented the following two new policies for approval:

#3460 - Data Breach Response (Business): New policy to establish and ensure compliance with state and federal laws in the event of a data breach. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

#7110 - Sponsor Recognition (Community Relations): New policy to permit sponsor recognition on a limited basis. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Copies of the Executive Summary and redline or new policies are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Review

Mr. Lesiak presented revisions to the following two existing policies for board discussion and consideration: #3120 - Depository for All School Funds (Business) and #3250 - Insurance (Business). Both policies will be presented again for approval at the Board Meeting on February 21, 2023. The Executive Summary and redline copies of each policy are included in the board documents folder.

Personnel Report

Dr. Haynes presented the personnel report (seven certified staff probationary contracts; seven certified staff resignations; one non-approval of certified staff resignation) for board approval. Ms. Morrissette 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.

Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates

Board members were represented at a number of events over the past three weeks including building walk-throughs and school visits; the Westside Swim & Dive Invitational January 28-29; the Show Choir Competition of Excellence January 28th; and the Anne Frank Traveling Exhibit Open House on January 30th. Ms. Morrissette has been participating in weekly Zoom calls with the NASB Legislative Committee and also attended (along with Dr. Lucas) the NASB Legislative Issues Conference on January 23, 2023, in Lincoln. Last week, Dr. Lucas provided legislative testimony in support of LB324 (Special Education Funding) and LB385 (Teacher Retention).

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Announcements

Dr. Van Gelder reviewed the following upcoming events:

- February 10, 2023 Teacher Work Day / No School for Students
- February 13, 2023 Legislative Overview for the Community - WHS - 6:30 - 7:45 p.m.
- February 20, 2023 President's Day: Professional Development Day for Staff / No School for Students
WE-SIDE Workshop for Parents & Community - WHS Little Theater - 6:00 p.m.
- February 21, 2023 Board of Education Meeting - ABC - 6:00 p.m.
- February 28, 2023 WCS Community Walk @ Great Plains Black History Museum - 4:00-5:30 p.m.

There being no further business, Dr. Van Gelder adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.



Kris Karnes, Secretary, Board of Education

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
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 **February 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.** at the District Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, NE. The Board of Education Student Advisory Committee will meet at 5:00 p.m., immediately prior to the Board Meeting. The agendas, continually kept current, are available at the District Office. The meetings are open to the public.

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**THE DAILY RECORD
OF OMAHA**
JASON W. HUFF, Publisher
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The State of Nebraska,
District of Nebraska,
County of Douglas,
City of Omaha, } **ss.**

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being duly sworn, deposes and say that they are the

PUBLISHER and/or LEGAL 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 3, 2023

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

[Signature]
Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before
3rd

Publisher's Fee \$ 27.95 me this 23 day of

Additional Copies \$ 27.95

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February 23
[Signature]
Notary Public in and for Douglas County,
State of Nebraska

