

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting ~ March 6, 2023

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on March 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 February 22, 2023, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on March 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, Kim De La Cruz, Kami Jessop, Laura Mann, Kelcy Tapp, Kerri Lewis, Molly McMeekin, Sarah Schau, Maggie Person, Tyler Foster.

Others in Attendance*: Diane Cahill. *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. Morrissette 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 February 21, 2023. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Communications

Ms. Brandi Paul, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, welcomed State Champion wrestlers and swimmers from Westside High School: Regan Rosseter and Mike Myers both earned gold medals at State Wrestling; and representatives from the Girls Swim Team - who helped bring home the Girls State Swim Championship - included Piper Hagen, Auguste Kuehne, Amelia Ward, Kate Stevens and Caly Gemar.

Board of Education Meeting

March 6, 2023

Page 2 of 4

Ms. Paul also welcomed two other members of the Girls Wrestling team, Piper Zatechka and Kiersten Geiger. The Girls Wrestling team came home with the Runner-Up trophy, an outstanding accomplishment with only 5 wrestlers, and all earning medals! Ms. Paul introduced two staff members and two students from Prairie Lane Elementary, which was a recipient (for the second year in a row!) of the 2022-23 Mirador Math Award for exceptional achievement in math. Fifth-grade teachers Stephanie Sinnott and Claire Hofmann were joined by two of their students, Leo Kisicki and Bridget Dragon, who shared their excitement about math and being challenged (and supported) by their teachers every day. Prairie Lane students demonstrated the highest proficiency of math in the district; the highest growth on MAP testing in the district; and exceeded growth expectations in FAST testing. Way to go, Prairie Lane Panthers!!

Approval of Owner's Representative for Phase II of Facilities Master Plan

Dr. Lucas presented a recommendation for approval of Project Advocates as the District's Owner Representative for Phase II of the District's Facilities Master Plan. The Facilities Task Force for Phase II of the District's Facilities Master Plan presented their recommendation for Phase II projects to the Board of Education on December 12, 2022. On January 10, 2023, the District issued a Request for Qualifications for Owner's Representative Services; the deadline for RFQ submissions was February 7, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. A voluntary pre-submission meeting was held on January 24, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at the district office (909 S. 76th Street). The district received two submissions: Project Advocates and Rainwood Development Partners. Derek Aldridge with Perry Law Firm assisted the District in drafting the RFQ and contract documents. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Copies of the Executive Summary and Owner's Representative Contract are included in the board documents folder.

Middle School Excellence in Youth (EY) Program Update

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, and Dr. Lynn Spady, Curriculum Specialist / Excellence in Youth, presented an update on the EY program at Westside Middle School. Recent changes over the last three years to EY programming have resulted in the implementation of EY teaching strategies across all curriculum and expanded opportunities for more students. Dr. Spady and her colleague, Dr. Mikayla Bruner, EY Curriculum Specialist, work with all middle school teachers to help them build EY instructional methods into their content areas, which fosters development and raises expectations for all students. Honors classes and accelerated learning pathways include a 7th Grade Honors English Language Arts class and six pathways for Honors Math that includes an opportunity for 6th grade students to participate in 7th grade Honors Math and an opportunity for 8th grade students to take Honors Advanced Algebra at the high school. Currently, 24% of middle school students are enrolled in an Honors Math course. Copies of the Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Lighthouse Leader Program Update

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, and Ms. Sarah Schau, WHS Dean of Students, presented an overview of the District's leadership development program: *Leadership Westside*. An integral component of Westside's "Growing Our Own" initiative, *Leadership Westside* is composed of a select group of certified staff members who have obtained or are working towards their Nebraska Administrative Certificate.

Board of Education Meeting

March 6, 2023

Page 3 of 4

Selected for participation through an application process, *Leadership Westside* allows the district to develop a pipeline of committed and well-trained leaders (i.e.: current assistant principals, deans, program coordinators) who are ready for next-level leadership opportunities in Westside Community Schools. Dr. Lucas stressed that the district recognizes the importance of committed leadership at all levels. Whether someone aspires to become a grade-level leader, a department level leader, a content-area leader, a program leader or a district-level administrator, leadership is leadership and it is essential that the district continues to provide strong leadership training opportunities. Copies of the Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policy for Approval

Dr. Haynes presented proposed new policy #3480 - Detection Dogs - for approval. This policy was previously brought before the board for discussion and consideration on February 21, 2023. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote. Copies of the policy and Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Personnel Report

Dr. Haynes presented the personnel report (three certified staff probationary contracts; one certified staff leave of absence; four certified staff resignations) for board approval. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Ms. Morrissette 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 two weeks including: Westside Community Walk at Great Plains Black History Museum; Unified Talent Show; Teaching and Learning Key Communicators visit to Project Search at Children's Hospital; Phase II Bond Information Meeting and Tour at Hillside; WHS Soccer Pancake Feed; and State Swimming. Ms. Morrissette participated in a weekly call with NASB and Dr. Van Gelder will be attending a MABE Meeting (Metropolitan Area Boards of Education) on March 9th.

Announcements

Dr. Van Gelder reviewed the following upcoming events:

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| Now thru March 13th | Anne Frank Traveling Exhibit at Westside Middle School |
| March 8, 2023 | Superintendent Community Coffee - ABC - 9:30-10:30 a.m. WE-SIDE Workshop for Parents & Community - WHS Room #220 - 7:00 p.m. |
| March 9, 2023 | Anne Frank Exhibit Community Open House Night - WMS - 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. |
| March 9, 2023 | Phase II Facilities Bond: Building Tour & Informational Meeting - Westbrook - 6:30pm |
| March 13, 2023 | Phase II Facilities Bond: Building Tour & Informational Meeting - Westgate - 6:30pm |
| March 14, 2023 | Phase II Facilities Bond: Building Tour & Informational Meeting - Loveland - 6:30pm |

Board of Education Meeting

March 6, 2023

Page 4 of 4

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| March 15, 2023 | Parent-Teacher Conferences - 4:00-8:00 p.m. |
| March 16, 2023 | Parent-Teacher Conferences - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. / No School for Students |
| March 17, 2023 | No School |
| March 20, 2023 | Board of Education Meeting - ABC - 6:00 p.m. |
| March 21, 2023 | Superintendent Lunch & Learn - ABC - 12:00 Noon - 1:00 p.m. |
| March 23, 2023 | Phase II Facilities Bond: Building Tour & Informational Meeting - Rockbrook - 6:30pm |

There being no further business, Dr. Van Gelder adjourned the meeting at 7:14 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 **March 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
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 NIKLAUS STEWART

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
March 3, 2023

& March 6, 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
6th

Publisher's Fee \$ 27.95 me this _____ day of
Additional Copies \$ _____ March 23
Total \$ 27.95

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

Board of Education Meeting - March 6, 2023

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 Feb. 22, 2023, 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.

Julie M. Fumagalli
Notary Public

