

## WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

### Board of Education Meeting ~ March 20, 2023

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The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on March 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Board members present:** Beth Morrissette, Vice President  
Kris Karnes, Secretary  
Dana Blakely, Treasurer  
Adam Yale, Treasurer-Elect

**Board members absent (excused):** Meagan Van Gelder, President  
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 March 7, 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 17 and 20, 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, Robert Aranda, Russ Olsen, Erik Mueller, Becky Lowther, Maggie Person, Jeannene Mustoe.

**Others in Attendance\*:** Ryan Decker, 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.

Ms. Morrissette 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. Ms. Morrissette requested a motion for an excused absence for Meagan Van Gelder and Doug Krenzer. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Morrissette requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on March 6, 2023. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote. Ms. Morrissette requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Student Advisory Committee Meeting held on March 6, 2023. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

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### **Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Blakely moved for approval of February 2023 expenditures in the amount of \$7,975,183; Ms. Karnes seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the February 2023 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

### **Communications**

Ms. Brandi Paul, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, gave a shout-out to our outstanding 6th grade students who participated in the 6th grade Speech Contest and our WHS students who qualified for DECA Nationals (there are a lot!!). She highlighted upcoming theater productions at Loveland Elementary (Annie Jr.) and WHS (Shrek: The Musical). Ms. Paul also shared that WCS garnered six nominations in five categories for the upcoming Omaha Sports Commission Awards Show scheduled for May 25, 2023. Whether it's on the stage, in the classroom, or on the field... Warriors shine!! And for families, Ms. Paul's department has compiled the Summer Activities Guide, now available on the district website.

### **Approval of Contractor for Westside High School Roofing Project**

Mr. Russ Olsen, Director of Facilities, presented a bid from Red Rhino Roofs & Solar, LLC, for Board approval for a roof replacement project at Westside High School. Two bids were received and Red Rhino Roofs was the lowest responsible bid. The work will be completed in the summer of 2023 and is part of the district's long-term facility maintenance plan. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and project bid spreadsheet are included in the board documents folder.

### **City of Omaha Public Works - Temporary Land Use Matter**

Mr. Nick Lesiak, District In-House Legal Counsel, presented two agreements from the City of Omaha Public Works for Board approval. These agreements will allow Public Works to use a portion of the District's property for 6 months / 183 calendar days (and for up to 24 months in case of construction delays) for work being done as part of the Loveland Street Improvement District. The *"Donation Agreement"* provides for the District to donate the use of the land; the *"Temporary Construction Easement Donation"* provides for the use of the District's property for Public Works to stage their equipment during the course of the project. The right-of-way granted to the City by these agreements is anticipated to have minimal impact on the District's properties. Copies of each agreement, right-of-way maps and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

### **Proposed New Board Policies for Review**

Mr. Lesiak presented the following two new policies for board consideration and discussion:

- Policy #3490 - Drones and Unmanned Aircraft (Business)
- Policy #3500 - Opioid Overdose Prevention and Response (Business)

Both policies will be brought back for board approval at the Board of Education Meeting on April 10, 2023. Copies of the Executive Summary and each policy are included in the board documents folder.

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### **Human Resource Annual Report**

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, presented the Human Resources Annual Report that provides an overview of the district's employment cycle trends. Dr. Haynes outlined the areas that encompass the overall mission of the Human Resources Department: Recruitment and Retention; Employee Services; Employee Development and Engagement; and Separation. The number of certified staff in the 2022-2023 school year include 539 teachers and 33 administrators (principals, district office personnel). There are 541 classified staff (educational assistants, building service, nutrition service, administrative assistants, classified professional) and 228 substitutes (184 teachers and 44 classified staff subs). Dr. Haynes shared that the District has seen growth in the demographics of certified staff that reflect our student demographics. She also highlighted new initiatives rolled out in 2022-2023, including extra growth opportunities and a stipend for Student Teachers; exit survey for classified staff (to better understand why staff leave); annual substitute survey; and enhancements on the HR website. Copies of Dr. Haynes' Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **Personnel Report**

Dr. Haynes presented the personnel report (six certified staff probationary contracts; one certified staff leave of absence; 16 certified staff resignations; one Administrator resignation; two certified staff retirements; two certified staff cancellations of contract) for board approval. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Mr. Yale 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: Diane Cahill

### **Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates**

Board members were represented at a number of events over the past two weeks including the 6th Grade District Speech Contest held at WMS; community bond information meetings at Hillside, Westbrook, Westgate and Loveland; and building walk-throughs. Ms. Morrissette represents the District in weekly NASB Legislative Committee virtual meetings.

### **Announcements**

Dr. Van Gelder reviewed the following upcoming events:

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
March 24-31, 2023	Westside All Staff Appreciation Week!
March 26, 2023	Phase II Facilities Bond: Building Tour & Informational Meeting - WHS - 2:00pm
March 27, 2023	Phase II Facilities Bond: Building Tour & Informational Meeting - P. Rd. - 6:30pm
March 28, 2023	Phase II Facilities Bond: Building Tour & Informational Meeting - Loveland - 6:30pm
March 29, 2023	Phase II Facilities Bond: Building Tour & Informational Meeting - Westgate - 6:30pm
March 30, 2023	Phase II Facilities Bond: Building Tour & Informational Meeting - WHS - 6:30pm

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Upcoming events, continued:

April 3-7, 2023	Spring Break - No School
April 10, 2023	Board of Education Student Advisory Committee Meeting - ABC - 5:00 p.m.
	Board of Education Meeting - ABC - 6:00 p.m.

**District Legal Matters**

Ms. Morrissette advised those in attendance that this next item on the agenda is consideration of information from legal counsel regarding pending litigation and risk management, and that discussion of these matters in closed session is necessary and permitted by law. Ms. Karnes moved that the Board enter closed session to discuss pending litigation and risk management and to receive and discuss legal advice from the District's attorney, both of which are clearly necessary to protect the public's interest and to maintain the attorney-client privilege. Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Morrissette again advised those in attendance that the Board has adopted a motion to enter closed session to discuss pending litigation and risk management and to receive and discuss legal advice from the District's attorney, both of which are clearly necessary to protect the public's interest and to maintain the attorney-client privilege. She reiterated that the Board will limit itself to discussion of these issues. The board entered closed session at 6:57 p.m.

At 7:43 p.m. the Board came out of closed session. There being no further business, Dr. Van Gelder adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.



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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 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.** 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.

3/17, 3/20

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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 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 17, 2023

& March 20, 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

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before

20th

Publisher's Fee \$ 24.36 me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of

Additional Copies \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ 24.36

March

20 23

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

Board of Education Meeting  
March 20, 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 March 7, 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.

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

Chelsea Dubas  
Notary Public