

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66
Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ January 13, 2025

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on January 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present:

- Dana Blakely, President
- Adam Yale, Vice President
- Sarah Rider, Secretary
- Kris Karnes, Treasurer
- Meagan Van Gelder, Treasurer-Elect
- Beth Morrissette, 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 December 10, 2024, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on January 10 and 13, 2025, and on their website at omahadailyrecord.com, as well as the NE Press Association website at nepublicnotices.com. 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, Nick Lesiak, Molly Hurley, Robert Aranda, Kim De La Cruz, Kelcy Tapp, Kami Jessop, Laura Mann, Paul Lindgren, Kayla Neumann, Maggie Person.

Others in Attendance*: Matthew Erion, Carolyn Roeder, Ralph Merritt, 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. Blakely 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 Meeting attendance is noted above. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Blakely requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on December 9, 2024, 2024. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Morrissette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Karnes presented the treasurer's report for December 2024 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$16,567,316; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by

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unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the December 2024 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

Communications

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Engagement, recognized a number of students for their academic and creative accomplishments, including 15 WHS student-athletes who received NSAA Academic All-State honors. She also: thanked the Building Services team for their work over the winter break, giving all buildings a thorough cleaning; recapped the WE-SIDE Unified Movie night held in December; and thanked all those in our community who contributed to the success of the District's holiday sponsor project.

Phase II Bond Project: Approval of Design Development for Westbrook Elementary Project

Mr. Matt Herzog, Project Advocates, and Matthew Erion from BCDM Architects, presented the Design Development plans for the Westbrook Elementary project for board approval. BCDM Architects was approved by the Board of Education for the Westbrook Elementary School renovation project on May 20, 2024. The Board of Education approved the Concept / Schematic Design package that was presented on October 7, 2024. Since that time, BCDM has continued to work closely with the Westbrook Design Advisory Committee and District staff to create the Design Development package for the renovation work to be completed at Westbrook. BCDM has incorporated collaboration and intervention spaces since the Schematic Design approval. A series of phased projects will begin in the summer of 2025. Staff and students will remain in the building during renovations. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and Design Development Presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policy for Approval (#1220)

Mr. Nick Lesiak, In-House Legal Counsel, presented revisions to policy 1220 for board approval. Previously presented for discussion and consideration at the Board Meeting on December 9, 2024, the proposed changes being presented are a result of revisions to the notice provisions in the Open Meetings Act, which were made during the last legislative session. Most notably, school districts must ensure that public notice is posted to a statewide website (nepublicnotices.com) starting January 1, 2025. The local printed publication that the District uses for public notices is *The Daily Record*. *The Daily Record* shares their public notices with nepublicnotices.com.

Policy #1220 - Public Meetings - Agenda, Notifications, Weather Delays and Minutes: Mr. Yale moved for approval of revisions to policy 1220; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Redline copies of the policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Review (#5470 and #5680)

Mr. Lesiak presented proposed revisions to existing policies #5470 and #5680 for discussion. Policies will be presented again for approval at the Board of Education Meeting on February 3, 2025.

Policy #5470 - School-Sponsored Publications, Productions and Activities: Proposed minor revisions to existing policy on school-sponsored publications.

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Policy #5680 - Accident Insurance: Proposed revisions to existing policy to provide clarification on Accident Insurance for students, made available from third party vendors.

A copy of the Executive Summary and redline copies of each policy are included in the board documents folder.

Spring 2024 NSCAS Results (Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System)

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, presented a report on the district's 2023-2024 spring NSCAS state testing results. Dr. Weichel reported that the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) made only slight changes this year to the NSCAS assessment process. This should help provide a more consistent review of scores moving forward. Dr. Weichel highlighted District scores compared to state averages in each testing area, as well as District scores distinguished by the number of years students have been enrolled with WCS and by attendance rate.

In both English Language Arts and Math, the District is consistently above the state average in all grade levels. In ELA, we are eight to 12 points higher than the state at each tested grade level. In math, we are zero to 14 points above the state average. Science scores remained above the state average in each of the three grades tested. Students who have been enrolled in the district for three years or more continue to obtain significantly higher scores than those students who have recently joined the district. Similar results were found for students who regularly attend school. Dr. Weichel reviewed next steps that include a focus on math professional learning in the 2025-2026 school year and targeted classroom supports at our highest-need schools (Hillside, Westbrook and Westgate) with the addition of three full-time Facilitators through the Learning Community grant. These facilitators will: address the needs of our highest-needs students; enhance teacher capacity in supporting student needs, and; develop and implement systems and processes to increase support for students. Copies of the Executive Summary and Dr. Weichel's slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Strategic Plan Report - Goal #1: Student Achievement and Well-Being

Dr. Weichel presented a progress report on key strategies under Goal One of the District's Strategic Plan: Student Achievement and Well-Being. A focus of the report is strategy 1.2 that focuses on student performance metrics, which Dr. Weichel reviewed in his previous report on the Spring 2024 NSCAS data. Dr. Weichel also reviewed the following items that help illustrate and demonstrate progress in the district's ongoing commitment to student achievement and well-being: (1) Results from the Student Belonging Survey; (2) Findings from the district survey on the instructional model and personalized learning experiences; (3) Data on office referrals; and (4) Enrollment information on AP class registrations and dual enrollment. Copies of the Executive Summary and Dr. Weichel's slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Personnel Report: Employment Actions Related to the Contracts of Certified Staff Members

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, presented the personnel report (two certified staff probationary contracts) for board approval. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the personnel report is included in the board documents folder.

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NASB Legislation Committee - Seat #5

The Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) Legislation Committee is composed of sixteen members (represented by member school districts and ESU's), with an additional 4 to 8 seats that are appointed by the NASB Vice President and approved by the NASB Board of Directors. A majority of the NASB member public schools share representation amongst the 16 committee seats. Seats #5, #6, and #7 are shared with: Arlington; Ashland-Greenwood; Bellevue; Bennington; Blair; Douglas County West; Elkhorn; Fort Calhoun; Gretna; Papillion La Vista; Ralston; Springfield Platteview; Westside. There were three nominees for the vacancy on Seat #5, and each of these 13 districts will submit their School Board's selection. The person chosen to represent Seat #5 will be formally approved at the NASB Board Meeting on January 25, 2025. Ms. Morrissette moved for approval of Marcus Madler, Papillion LaVista Community Schools Board of Education, to serve on the NASB Legislation Committee - Seat #5; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Public Comment: There were no requests for Public Comment.

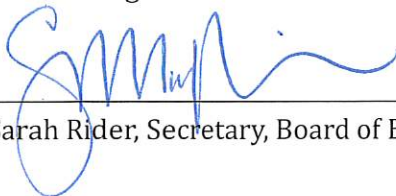
Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

The Board was represented at a number of activities and meetings, including: Rockbrook Design Advisory Committee; WE-SIDE Steering Committee; Bond Oversight Committee; BOE Policy Review Committee meeting; Westside Foundation Board meeting; WHS Winter Choral Concert; State Senator reception; judging duties for the Paddock Road classroom door decorating contest; WHS basketball games; WMS Show Choir premiere night; launch of the new Student Board Connection cohort; walk-throughs at Prairie Lane and Westbrook.

Ms. Blakely reviewed upcoming activities:

January 20, 2025	MLK Day - No School / District Offices Closed
January 21, 2025	Professional Development Day - No School for Students
January 21, 2025	Bond Oversight Committee - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
February 3, 2025	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
February 10, 2025	Bond Oversight Committee - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
February 11, 2025	Smart Gen Society - Middle & High School Parent Community Forum @ Westside High School (Room #220) - 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Ms. Blakely adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.



Sarah Rider, Secretary, Board of Education

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
PUBLIC NOTICE**

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1/10, 1/13 ZNEZ



Proof of Publication

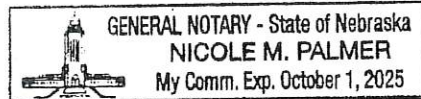
JASON W. HUFF, Publisher

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
The State of Nebraska, } ss.
District of Nebraska, }
County of Douglas, }
City of Omaha }

JASON W. HUFF, 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, and a general circulation in Sarpy, Lancaster, Cass and Dodge Counties, printed in Omaha, in said County of Douglas, Nebraska for more than fifty-two weeks last past; that the printed notice here-to attached was published in THE DAILY RECORD, of Omaha, for 2 consecutive weeks on:

1/10/25 1/13/25

That said Newspaper during that time was regularly published and in general circulation in the County of Douglas, and State of Nebraska.



Publisher's Fee \$26.18 Jason W. Huff

Additional Copies \$ _____ Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before
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Notary Public in and for
Douglas County, State of Nebraska

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Friday, January 10, 2025

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