

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66
Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ February 3, 2025

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on February 3, 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 January 14, 2025, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on January 31 and February 3, 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, Paul Lindgren, Kayla Neumann, Maggie Person, Abby Langner.

Others in Attendance*: *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 6:01 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 January 13, 2025. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Morrissette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Communications

Last week - the week of January 27-31, 2025 - the NE Association of School Boards celebrated School Board Appreciation week across the state. Since we did not have a board meeting last week, Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Engagement, welcomed a number of staff and students who were

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on hand to present our board members with gifts of appreciation and to recognize their hard work and dedication on behalf of Westside Community Schools.

Academic Report: WMS Math 8

Ms. Kim De La Cruz, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, welcomed Westside Middle School Math Teachers, Ms. Faren Huben, Ms. Lisa Butler, and Ms. Bailey Harriger, who presented an informational report to the Board on PreAlgebra 8 - a course that is taken by a majority of students at WMS. They reviewed the most essential unit of PreAlgebra 8 (*Solving Multi-Step Equations*), which covers the skills needed for success in 9th grade algebra as well as the expectations required for MAP testing (Measures of Academic Progress) and NSCAS state assessments (NE Student-Centered Assessment System). Instruction of this unit took place during the first semester, in September and October. A copy of the Executive Summary and slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Phase II Bond Project: Westbrook Elementary - Approval of Abatement Bid

Mr. Matt Herzog, Project Advocates, requested approval of the bid from Jamco Abatement Services, Inc. in the amount of \$59,840 for abatement work at Westbrook Elementary. The Phase II Bond work at Westbrook, which includes renovation of the exterior facade, HVAC system and accessibility upgrades, requires the abatement of asbestos containing materials (ACM). Jamco submitted the lowest qualified bid for this work, which will be completed during the summer months when the school will be unoccupied. Ms. Morrissette moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and Abatement Bid Package are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of WHS Theater Lighting and Rigging Bid

Mr. Andy Wane, Director of Facilities, requested approval of the bid from Downs Electric in the amount of \$619,554 for new rigging and lighting in the Westside High School Auditorium. Modifications were made to the original scope of the project (budgeted at \$500,000) when additional issues were identified that will be addressed during the completion of this work (replacement of the fire curtain; customization of stage rigging, due to angled walls on the stage; repair of smoke vents above the stage). Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and bid documents are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Approval (#5470 and #5680)

Mr. Nick Lesiak, In-House Legal Counsel, requested approval of minor language revisions to policies #5470 and #5680. Both policies were previously presented for discussion and consideration at the Board Meeting on January 13, 2025.

Policy #5470 - School-Sponsored Publications, Productions and Activities: Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Policy #5680 - Student Insurance: Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

Board Policies for Review (#2214 - Title IX)

Mr. Lesiak presented policy 2214 for discussion. On January 9, 2025, a U.S. District Court in Kentucky vacated the 2024 Title IX revisions promulgated by former President Biden's Department of Education, which the district adopted in September 2024. Now that President Trump has been inaugurated, it is unlikely the DOE will challenge this ruling. As a result, the 2024 revisions go away, and we return to the 2020 version of the Title IX regulations, which the District originally adopted in November 2020. Mr. Lesiak will present policy #2214 again for approval at the Board of Education Meeting on February 18, 2025. A copy of the Executive Summary and the 2020 version of policy 2214 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 (one certified staff probationary contract; four certified staff resignations) 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 were no requests for Public Comment.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

The Board was represented at a number of activities and meetings, including: NASB Legislative Conference; NASB Legislative Committee; Student Board Connection Meeting; Varsity Swim Meet; Bond Oversight Committee Meeting; Key Communicators Teaching and Learning Meeting; State Senators meeting; Loveland walk-through; Board Policy Committee Meeting; Westside Middle School Battle of Show Choirs; Westside High School Show Choir preview nights and Competition of Excellence; WHS building leadership meeting; 9th Grade Open House.

Ms. Blakely reviewed the following upcoming activities:

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.
February 14, 2025	Teacher Work Day - No School for Students
February 17, 2025	Professional Development Day - No School for Students
February 18, 2025	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Blakely advised that the next two items on the agenda involve consideration of information from legal counsel, and that discussion of these matters in closed session is necessary and permitted by law.

Pilot Funds

Ms. Blakely requested a motion to enter closed session to consider information from legal counsel regarding pending litigation. Discussion of this matter in closed session is necessary and permitted by law. Ms. Rider moved that the Board enter closed session to discuss pending litigation and to receive and

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discuss legal advice from the District's attorney, both of which are necessary to protect the public's interest and to maintain the attorney-client privilege. Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Blakely restated that the Board had adopted a motion to enter closed session to discuss pending litigation and to receive and discuss legal advice from the District's attorney, both of which are necessary to protect the public's interest and to maintain the attorney-client privilege. The Board will limit itself to discussion of this issue. At 6:53 p.m., Ms. Blakely advised those in attendance that the Board would take a short recess and reconvene once the public had exited the boardroom. The Board entered Pilot Funds closed session at 6:59 p.m. The Board completed their discussion of Pilot Funds at 7:39 p.m.

Policy Analysis

Ms. Blakely requested a motion for closed session to receive and consider legal advice from legal counsel regarding policy analysis. Mr. Yale moved that the Board enter closed session to receive and consider legal advice from legal counsel regarding policy analysis, which is necessary to protect the public's interest and to maintain the attorney-client privilege. Ms. Rider seconded. Ms. Blakely restated that the Board had adopted a motion to enter closed session to receive and consider legal advice from legal counsel regarding policy analysis, which is necessary to protect the public's interest and to maintain the attorney-client privilege. The Board will limit itself to discussion of this issue. The Board entered Policy Analysis closed session at 7:40 p.m. The Board completed their discussion of Policy Analysis at 8:22 p.m. Ms. Karnes moved for approval to conclude closed sessions; Ms. Rider seconded.

There being no further business, Ms. Blakely adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.



Sarah Rider, Secretary, Board of Education

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice is hereby given of a Board of Education Meeting for Westside Community Schools, District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held **February 3, 2025**, at **6:00 p.m.** at the **District Administration 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.

1/31, 2/3 ZNEZ



Proof of Publication

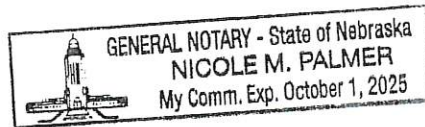
JASON W. HUFF, Publisher

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

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:

1/31/25 2/3/25

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

Additional Copies \$ _____

Filing Fee \$ _____

Total \$26.18

Jason W. Huff

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this FEBRUARY 03 2025

Nicole M. Palmer

Notary Public in and for
Douglas County, State of Nebraska

Board of Education Meeting
February 3, 2025

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 January 14, 2025, and that it appeared there continuously up through the time of the scheduled board meeting.

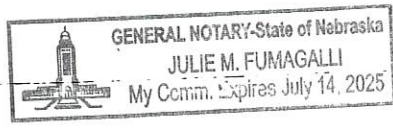
Kevin Seely
Name

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 Seely, 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



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Friday, January 31, 2025

Notice Content

PLEASE NOTE: The following text was electronically converted from the PDF document above, and may not be 100% accurate. Because of this, please view the PDF for the most accurate information.

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1/31, 2/3 ZNEZ

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