

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66
Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ February 18, 2025

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on February 18, 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 February 4, 2025, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on February 14, 17 and 18, 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, Becky Lowther, Tyler Foster.

Others in Attendance*: Ann Christiansen, Diane Cahill, Marcia Anderson, Patti Peterson. *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 February 3, 2025. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Karnes presented the treasurer's report for January 2025 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$14,349,023; Ms. Rider seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the January 2025 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

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Communications

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Engagement, shared a number of highlights celebrating students (WHS National Merit Finalists; UNL Presidential Scholars at WHS; Prairie Lane Student Celebration for school-wide achievements in reading; Rockbrook and Prairie Lane 2nd & 3rd grade concert); staff (WHS staff recognized at State Theater Convention); and community (WMS students created Valentine greeting cards that were distributed to our local veterans).

Bond Oversight Committee - Phase II Semi-Annual Report to the Board

Ms. Ann Christiansen, Bond Oversight Committee (BOC), presented the BOC's semi-annual report to the Board. As part of the District's transparency in the use of bond proceeds, the Board of Education approved the creation of a Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) on May 11, 2015. This approval was contingent upon voter approval of the bond for the first of three phases of the District's 15-year Facilities Master Plan for investments in buildings and facilities that are safe, secure, and conducive to learning in the 21st century. The BOC is responsible for the oversight of each Phase of the Facilities Master Plan. Ms. Christiansen reviewed Phase II projects, including budgeted expenditures and progress, as well as the various channels of communication engagement with the community. Mr. Matt Herzog with Project Advocates shared some aerial photos showing building progress from August 2024 to January 2025 at Hillside, Westgate and the middle school. Copies of the Executive Summary and slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Phase II Bond Projects

Mr. Matt Herzog, Project Advocates, presented the following items related to Phase II Bond Projects for board approval:

Westbrook Elementary - Approval of Early Release Package for Roof-Top Units

On January 27, 2025, Boyd Jones Construction issued an early bid package for public bidding. The documents were posted on the District website, published in public plan rooms, and advertised in the Daily Record. Supplier bids were received by Boyd Jones Construction on January 31, 2025. This Authorization to Proceed with Early Release Work includes procurement of eight roof-top units. The proposed Early release package value is \$662,668. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and Authorization to Proceed contract are included in the board documents folder.

Paddock Road Elementary - Approval of GMP (Guaranteed Maximum Price)

On January 13, 2025, Meco-Henne Contracting issued the Contract Documents (CDs) prepared by Leo A. Daly Architects for public bidding. The documents were posted on the District website and published in public plan rooms. Subcontractor bids were received by Meco-Henne Contracting on January 30, 2025. The proposed Guaranteed Maximum Price value is \$4,192,668.00. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Morrisette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and GMP Amendment to the CMR contract are included in the board documents folder.

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Underwood Hills - Approval of Contract for Secure Vestibule Addition and Renovation

On January 13, 2025, Project Advocates issued the Underwood Hills project for public bid. The bid invitation was posted in the Daily Record, on the WCS District website, and local plan rooms. Project Advocates received two bids for this project on February 6, 2025. Project Advocates and TACK Architects recommend awarding the project to 7er Construction for \$392,000.00, which was the lowest responsible bid of the two bids received. The work is scheduled to begin in June 2025. Ms. Morrisette moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and AIA contract are included in the board documents folder.

Westside High School - Approval of Bid for Chilled Water System Modifications Project

Modifications to rectify ongoing issues with the two chillers at Westside High School are included in Phase II Bond work. Project Advocates received bids for this project on February 6, 2025. Project Advocates and Morrissey Engineering recommended awarding the project to Mainelli Mechanical Contractors, Inc. for \$145,775.00, which was the lowest responsible bid of the six bids received. On February 7, 2025, the district issued a Notice to Proceed Letter to Mainelli Mechanical to allow as much time as possible to get the system back online before summer. The contract is being presented tonight for board approval. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary, Notice to Proceed Letter and contract are included in the board documents folder.

Loveland Elementary - Approval of Notice to Proceed for Architectural Design Services Contract

On January 6, 2025, Project Advocates submitted Requests for Qualifications for Architectural Design and Engineering Services for the new Loveland Elementary building. Proposals were due by 3:00 p.m. on February 5, 2025. Project Advocates received eight proposals and, along with district representatives, reviewed all proposals for the Loveland project on February 7, 2025. Interviews were held on February 13, 2025. BVH Architecture was selected. Project Advocates will work with the BVH Architecture to finalize the contract, which will be presented for approval at the March 10, 2025, Board of Education Meeting. Tonight a Notice to Proceed letter is being submitted for board approval. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and Notice to Proceed letter are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policy for Approval (#2214 - Title IX)

Mr. Nick Lesiak, In-House Legal Counsel, requested approval of policy #2214, previously presented for board discussion on February 3, 2025. 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. 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 means we need to change our policy back to the version that was adopted in 2020. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary and the 2020 version of policy #2214 are included in the board documents folder.

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Board Policies for Review (#4220; #4250)

Mr. Lesiak presented revisions to two existing board policies for board consideration and discussion:

- #4220 - Employment of All Staff (Personnel)
- #4250 - Employment of Classified Staff (Personnel)

Revisions to both policies clarify that the Board has the sole authority to authorize contracts for certified employees (teachers and administrators) and classified employees at the director level or above. Both policies will be presented again for approval at the March 10, 2025, Board of Education Meeting. A copy of the Executive Summary and redline copies of each policy are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Teacher Negotiated Agreement for the 2025-2026 School Year

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, presented the Teacher Negotiated Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year for approval. The agreement - established by District Administration and the Westside Education Association - includes an estimated base salary increase of 4.56% and the addition of a \$4,000 stipend for district-defined special education positions. The new teacher's starting salary will increase \$1,700, from \$42,500 to \$44,200. The revised language includes the reduction of blackout days, the addition of defined plan time, additions and updates to the Extracurricular Extra Duty, and updates to the personal leave accrual and buy-back parameters. WEA representatives - Becky Lowther and Tyler Foster - expressed their appreciation for the collaboration and open communication with the district, and reported that 86.56% of their membership voted in favor of the agreement. Ms. Morrisette moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary, slide presentation, and both redline and final versions of the negotiated agreement 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 probationary contracts; four resignations; one non-approval of resignation; one administrator contract) for board approval. Ms. Rider 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 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 Committee; BOE Policy Review Committee; WE-SIDE Steering Committee; Architect Selection Meeting and Interviews for Loveland Elementary; Bond Oversight Committee; Westbrook Staff Meeting; UNL Presidential Scholars presentation at WHS; Project Search Information Session; Oakdale walk-through; WHS Basketball games; Westside Connection performance (WMS); Metro Swim; and construction tours at Hillside and Westgate.

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Ms. Blakely reviewed the following upcoming activities:

February 24, 2025	Westside Community Walk - Free Movie Night at Film Streams
March 5, 2025	Parent / Teacher Conferences - 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.
March 6, 2025	Parent / Teacher Conferences - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - No School for Students
March 7, 2025	No School
March 10, 2025	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
March 11, 2025	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Ms. Blakely adjourned the meeting at 7:17 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 18, 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.

2/14, 2/17, 2/18 ZNEZ



The Daily Record

Proof of Publication

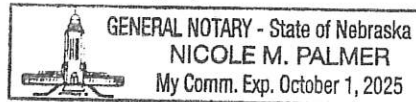
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2/14/25 2/17/25 2/18/25

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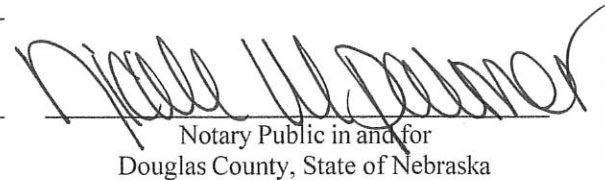
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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this FEBRUARY 18 2025



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Friday, February 14, 2025

Notice Content

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WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS - 2/14

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2/14, 2/17, 2/18 ZNEZ

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