

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ April 13, 2026

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on April 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present:

Adam Yale, President
Kris Karnes, Vice President
Meagan Van Gelder, Treasurer
Sarah Rider, Treasurer-Elect
Beth Morrisette, Secretary
Dana Blakely, 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 24, 2026, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on April 10 and 13, 2026, 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 were 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, Molly Hurley, Kim De La Cruz, Kami Jessop, Kelcy Tapp, Laura Mann, Robert Aranda, Jake Ritonya.

Others in Attendance*: Carolyn Roeder. *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.

Mr. Yale called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He welcomed those in attendance and confirmed 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. He 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

Mr. Yale requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on March 23, 2026. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Communications

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Engagement, shared student, staff and community highlights, including: the Westside High School Concert Jazz Band received 1st Place and Best Overall Ratings at the 2026 State Jazz Festival and was also named Grand Champions for the fifth year in a row! WHS 2026 Prom Court candidates were announced this week; prom King and Queen will be announced at prom on Saturday, April 18th; the Oakdale and Sunset Hills Early Childhood programs were recognized by the NE Step Up to Quality program (<https://stepuptoquality.ne.gov/about/>); and despite a light spring snow shower, we had a great turn-out for the 'Golden W' meeting on April 7th at Westside Middle School!

Phase II Bond Project: Approval of Early Release Work Package for Loveland Elementary

Mr. Matt Herzog, Project Advocates, requested approval of a contract amendment for early release work for the new Loveland Elementary School that will include site utilities, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire suppression scopes of work. This approval will allow MCL Construction to facilitate coordination with precast shop drawings and installation of site utilities. The proposed Authorization value is \$7,859,686, which will be incorporated into the Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment that will be presented to the Board of Education for approval on April 27, 2026. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and contract amendment are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Resolution - District General Obligation Bonds, Series 2019

Dr. Van Gelder moved to adopt a Resolution of the Board of Education of Douglas County School District 0066 (Westside Community Schools) in the State of Nebraska authorizing the refunding and early redemption of a portion of the district's outstanding General Obligation Bonds, Series 2019, in such amounts and from such maturities as shall be determined by the authorized officials of the District; Ms. Morrisette seconded. Resolution was passed by a majority vote of the board; Ms. Karnes abstained. A copy of the resolution and bond document is included in the board document folder.

Approval of Resolution - District General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2026B

Ms. Morrisette moved to adopt a Resolution authorizing the issuance by Douglas County School District 0066 (Westside Community Schools) in the State of Nebraska of its General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2026b, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed two million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$2,700,000) for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds of the District; prescribing the form and details of such bonds; authorizing certain officials to determine the final aggregate principal amount, maturities, rates, redemption provisions, terms and other details of such bonds; imposing an ad valorem tax on all taxable property within the district to pay the principal of, premium, if any, and the interest on such bonds; authorizing the designation of the bonds as qualified tax-exempt obligations, if applicable; authorizing the sale and delivery of the bonds to the purchaser thereof; authorizing certain actions and documents; and prescribing other matters relating thereto; Ms. Blakely seconded. Resolution was passed by a majority vote of the board; Ms. Karnes abstained. A copy of the resolution and bond document is included in the board document folder.

Board Policy for Approval - #5317

Mr. Nick Lesiak, In-House Legal Counsel, presented one new policy for approval that was initially presented for board discussion and consideration on March 23, 2026.

#5317 - Enrollment of Expelled Students (Students) - This new policy outlines that a majority vote of the Board (as required by state statute) would be required to enroll any student during the term of any known expulsion of the student from any public or private school in any state. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the policy and Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

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Board Policies for Review - #6350; #6410

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

6350 - Interscholastic Athletics: Responsibilities and Eligibility (Instruction)

Updates and revisions to language and content as suggested by KSB's policy book.

6410 - Use of District Technology and Internet Safety (Instruction)

Updates to defined terms and other minor revisions.

Both policies will be presented for approval at the Board of Education Meeting on April 27, 2026. Copies of each policy and Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

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

Dr. Haynes presented the personnel report (seven certified staff probationary contracts; five certified staff resignations) for board approval. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Morrisette 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 over the past three weeks including: Oakdale and Rockbrook Robotics Competitions; Unified Talent Show; walkthrough at WHS; WHS Swim and Dive banquet; WE-SIDE Steering Committee meeting; Multicultural Fair subcommittee meeting; Golden W meeting; a visit to Paddock Road to read with 2nd graders; NE Department of Education Accreditation panel meeting; and NE Association of School Boards Legislative Committee meeting. Mr. Yale reviewed upcoming events:

April 15, 2026 K-8 Art Show - Regency Shopping Center - 5:30-6:30 p.m. (NEW DATE!)

April 20, 2026 Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.

April 22, 2026 Special Meeting of the Board of Education (personnel report) - ABC Building - 12:00 p.m.

April 27, 2026 Professional Development Day - No School for Students

Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.

May 2, 2026 WCS Multicultural Fair - Westside High School - 12 Noon - 3:00 p.m.

May 7, 2026 Arts For Me Exhibit and Reception - Kaneko Art Gallery - 4:30- 6:30 p.m.

May 11, 2026 Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.

May 14, 2026 Project Search Graduation - Children's Nebraska - 9:30 a.m.

May 14, 2026 Blakely / Morrisette Reception - Westside House - 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Student Enrollment Discussion

Mr. Yale advised that the next item on the agenda is consideration of information from legal counsel regarding a matter of student enrollment, and that discussion of these matters in closed session is permitted by law and intended to protect the attorney-client privilege, to prevent the disclosure of personally

identifiable information about a student, to prevent needless injury to a student's reputation, and because it is in the best interests of the student, other persons, and the school district to do so...

Ms. Rider moved for the Board to enter closed session to discuss a matter regarding student enrollment and to receive legal advice from the District's attorney, which is permitted by law and intended to protect the attorney-client privilege, to prevent the disclosure of personally identifiable information about a student, to prevent needless injury to a student's reputation, and because it is in the best interests of the student, other persons, and the school district to do so; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Yale restated that the Board has adopted a motion to enter closed session to discuss a matter regarding student enrollment and to receive legal advice from the District's attorney, which is permitted by law and intended to protect the attorney-client privilege, to prevent the disclosure of personally identifiable information about a student, to prevent needless injury to a student's reputation, and because it is in the best interests of the student, other persons, and the school district to do so. The Board will limit itself to discussion of these issues. The Board entered closed session at 6:26 p.m. At 6:47 p.m., the board came out of closed session. Ms. Karnes moved for the Board to approve the enrollment of the student as recommended by the administration on the condition that the student participates in an alternative school, class, or educational program pursuant to section [79-266](#) until the terms of the student's expulsion are completed; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

There being no further business, Mr. Yale adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Beth Morrisette, 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 April 13, 2026, 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.

4/10, 4/13 ZNEZ



The Daily Record

Proof of Publication

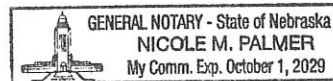
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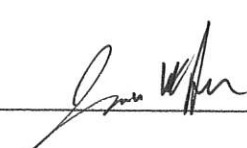


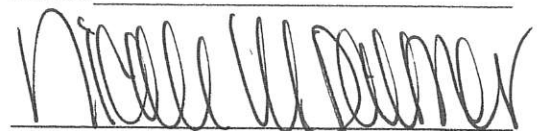
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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before
me this APRIL 13 2026



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Notice Content

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4/10,4/13 ZNEZ

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WCS Board of Education Meeting - April 13, 2026



Mar 24 2026 7:47 AM

The Westside Community Schools Board of Education will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, NE. [Click here for a link to the agenda and meeting documents. \(/fs/pages/2727\)](#)

All