

School Board Executive Summary

Topic: Board Policies for Review: #1220, #5230

Date: May 11, 2026

Presented by: Nick Lesiak, In-House Legal Counsel



Recommended Action:

- ☐ Information Only
- ☐ Presentation/Discussion
- ☐ Discussion/Action by Board of Education
- ☒ Presentation/Action Next Meeting

Recommendation: None at this time. Presenting revisions to two existing policies for board discussion and consideration. Policies will be presented again for approval on June 15, 2026.

Background: The Board of Education and the District adhere to a regular policy review process to ensure: timely and appropriate updates to existing policies; the implementation of new policies as warranted; the elimination of outdated / conflicting policies; and grammatical / language revisions as needed.

1220 - Public Meetings: Agendas, Notifications, Weather Delays & Minutes (BOE)

LB 596 amends the Open Meetings Act's notice requirements. Previously, notices of board meetings were required to be published in the newspaper, with several exceptions. Now, notices of regular meetings only need to be published four times per year.

5230 - Graduation: Class of 2025 and beyond (Students)

LB 296 amended Nebraska's graduation statute to provide an exception for students who, at some point during their high school career, were under the supervision of a juvenile court. These changes to Policy 5230 incorporate this new statutory exception into the graduation criteria.

Attachment(s): Redline copies of policies #1220 and #5230

TOPIC CATEGORY: BOARD OF EDUCATION
NUMBER CATEGORY: 1000
TITLE: PUBLIC MEETINGS – (AGENDA, NOTIFICATIONS, WEATHER DELAYS AND MINUTES)
NUMBER: 1220

PUBLIC MEETINGS

It is to be the policy of the Board that the formation of District policy is public business and will not be conducted in secret. The Board will conduct its meetings in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

The Board may hold the following types of meetings:

- Regular meetings.
 - (1) The Board holds its regular meetings at least monthly. However, the date, time and place of regular meetings may vary and shall be determined by the Board, subject to the advance notice requirements of this Policy and Nebraska law.
 - (2) The boardroom at the central administrative offices, ABC Building, 909 So. 76th St. Omaha, NE, is designated as the Board's traditional meeting place.
- Special and emergency meetings may be called as provided by law.
- The Board may schedule work sessions and retreats in order to provide Board members and administrators with the opportunity to plan, research and engage in discussion.

AGENDA

The Superintendent will create the agenda and the Board materials for each meeting in consultation with the President of the Board. The materials will be sent or delivered to each Board member in advance of the meeting.

Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be enlarged later than twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting. The Board may, by majority vote, modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature at such public meeting.

Members of the public have no entitlement to place an item on the Board's agenda but may address the Board during ~~the next meeting at which the Board receives the~~ public comment portion of a Board meeting.

NOTICE TO BOARD MEMBERS

Each member of the Board shall be notified in advance of all meetings.

Notification of emergency meetings shall be transmitted to each Board member prior to the emergency meeting electronically, by delivery in writing, or by any other means reasonable under the circumstances.

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

Regular and Special Meetings

The Board will give advance notice of meetings by a method designated by the Board at the Board's meeting each June, or as otherwise determined by the Board. The designated method will be recorded in the Board's meeting minutes.

In addition, at least four times per calendar year, the Board will publish in a newspaper of general circulation the following information: (1) the regular meeting schedule, (2) the location of regular board meetings, and (3) the method of advanced notice designated by the Board. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board reserves the right to change the regular meeting schedule or location if circumstances require such a change.

Notice shall be given a reasonable time in advance of the meeting. Two (2) days advance notice shall be considered sufficient.

~~**Publication Procedure if the Newspaper Will Be Finalized for Printing Prior to the Time and Date of the Meeting.** Reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each regular or special meeting of the Board shall be given to the public by one of the following designated methods and recorded in its minutes: (1) Placing notice on the front page of the District's website no less than 48 hours in advance of the scheduled commencement of a meeting; (2) Publishing notice in a newspaper of general circulation in Omaha, Nebraska that is finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting; (3) Posting on the newspaper's website, if available, and (4) Posting on a statewide website, if available, established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers~~

~~**Publication Procedure if the Newspaper Will Not Be Finalized for Printing Prior to the Time and Date of the Meeting.** Notice of regular and special meetings shall be: (1) posting on the newspaper's website, if available, and (2) posting on a statewide website, if available, established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers if no edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the District's jurisdiction is to be finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting.~~

~~The notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current and shall be readily available for public inspection at the Office of the Superintendent during normal business hours.~~

~~In case of refusal, neglect, or inability of the newspaper to timely publish the notice, the District will: (1) post the notice on its website, if available, (2) submit a post on a statewide website, if available, established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers, and (3) post the notice in a conspicuous public place in the District's jurisdiction. The District will keep a written record of the posting and the written request to the newspaper.~~

NOTIFICATION TO PUBLIC OF EMERGENCY MEETINGS

If an emergency meeting is necessary, and the Board cannot give reasonable advance publicized notice by one of the methods described above, the Board shall give such notice of the emergency meeting as soon as practical and to the extent possible in light of the situation. In addition, reasonable effort shall

be made to notify the news media of the time and place of the emergency meeting and the subjects to be discussed.

WEATHER DELAYS

In the event of inclement weather which makes it dangerous or unreasonable for Board members or members of the public to attend a meeting for which notice has already been given, such meeting may be postponed by the President of the Board.

The Board will communicate the delay and the updated date, time and location of the postponed meeting to members of the public by posting it on the District's website and by following the same communication protocol that the District follows when student attendance at school is called off due to inclement weather.

When possible, the Board President and Superintendent will attempt to communicate the information to local media members and business owners to assist in notifying the public of the delay.

MINUTES

The Board shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed.

Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the Board in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted, or if the member was absent or not voting.

The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public record and open to public inspection during normal business hours.

If it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

Legal Reference: Statutes 84-1408 through 84-1414

Cross-Reference: Board Policy 1280 - Public Participation at Board Meetings

POLICY ADOPTED: April 3, 1973

POLICY AMENDED: November 3, 1975

POLICY AMENDED: October 5, 1981

POLICY AMENDED: November 7, 1983

POLICY REVIEWED AND ADOPTED: December 1, 1986

POLICY AMENDED: February 7, 2011

POLICY AMENDED: May 11, 2020

POLICY AMENDED: February 16, 2021

POLICY AMENDED: January 13, 2025

POLICY AMENDED: September 8, 2025

| POLICY AMENDED: June __, 2026

TOPIC CATEGORY: STUDENTS
NUMBER CATEGORY: 5000
TITLE: GRADUATION
NUMBER: 5230 - Class of 2025 and beyond

Except as otherwise required by state law, Ggraduation from Westside High School will be upon recommendation of the Superintendent to the Board ~~of Education~~, provided the student has completed the requirements as established by state law and the Board ~~of Education~~. The Superintendent is given authority to waive specific graduation requirements, not required by State law, under exceptional circumstances.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Policy, a student who is or was under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court and placed in out-of-home care at any time during the student's high school enrollment shall be eligible to graduate from the District if (1) the student, at any point in time, was enrolled in high school in the District, and (2) the student has met the minimum graduation requirements established by state law.

The following five educational competencies provide the basis for graduation requirements. The Superintendent is given authority to establish criteria for demonstrating student competency in each area.

1. Effective Communicator
2. Engaged Citizen
3. Critical and Creative Thinker
4. Healthy Individual
5. Lifelong Learner

It shall be the policy of the Board to encourage a full and rich curriculum for all students by specifying the following credit hour, course, performance and grade requirements for a diploma.

Additionally, beginning with the class of 2025, Westside will honor academic achievement with a Latin, or "laude" system of recognition. Requirements for this system are outlined in section D.

A. TOTAL CREDIT HOURS:

Grades 9 through 12 - 210 credit hours for a diploma

B. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

English / Literature

- Diploma - 8 consecutive semesters of designated courses

Mathematics

- Diploma - 2 semesters of Algebra I; 2 semesters of Geometry; 2 semesters of additional math electives

Social Studies

- Diploma - 1 semester of Government; 2 semesters of U.S. History; 3 additional semesters of Social Studies

Science

- Diploma - 6 semesters of Science to include: 2 semesters of Biology; 2 semesters of Natural Science OR Physics; and 2 semesters of additional science electives (must include courses from Earth/Space strand)

Health and Physical Education

- Diploma - 1 semester of Healthy Living; 3 semesters of HPE Foundations or Advanced PE

World Language

- Diploma - None

Business, Computer Science, and Technology

- Diploma - 1 semester of Information Technology, 1 semester of IT Fundamentals; or 1 year of AP Computer Science Principles (year); 1 semester of Personal Finance

Global / Multicultural

- Diploma - 2 semesters

Fine Arts

- Diploma - none

Counseling

- Diploma - Seminar (9, 10, 11, 12)

Group 4-5 Courses

- Diploma - None

C. Performance Requirements

Each student who successfully completes the credit hours and the course requirements must also demonstrate performance competency in the following areas. The Superintendent is given authority to establish specific criteria and assessments for demonstrating student competency in each identified area. Authentic demonstrations are learning activities within identified courses at Westside High School that can be directly observed and assessed by the instructor.

Effective Communicator

- Diploma - Authentic demonstrations

Engaged Citizen

- Diploma - Authentic demonstrations

Creative and Critical Thinker

- Diploma - Authentic demonstrations

Healthy Individual

- Diploma - Authentic demonstrations

Lifelong Learner

- Diploma - Authentic demonstrations

Service Learning

- Diploma - 80 Hours

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

- Diploma - Completion of FAFSA or waiver

D. LATIN SYSTEM RECOGNITION

The Latin system has established criteria for each level of success. Within the system, students will work toward a personal goal of academic achievement. Westside's Latin system, paired with a weighted grade scale, encourages students to pursue course offerings that match student interest and are rigorous in nature.

Recognition Criteria

Summa Cum Laude “with the highest honor”: To graduate summa cum laude, a student must achieve a 4.25 or higher GPA based on a 4.0 weighted scale. This is the highest level of school recognition.

Magna Cum Laude “with high honor”: To graduate magna cum laude, a student must achieve at least 4.0 and less than a 4.25 GPA based on a 4.0 weighted scale.

Cum Laude “with honor”: To graduate cum laude, a student must achieve at least a 3.75 and less than a 4.0 GPA based on a 4.0 weighted scale.

Recognition at the graduation ceremony will be based on a student's cumulative GPA at the end of the first seven semesters of high school. Recognition at the graduation ceremony will include notation in the graduation program, which is an additional way to acknowledge academic achievement. Any rounding in GPA calculations would be made to the hundredths place. The Latin system encompasses requirements of the commended diploma, and the commended diploma would be retired with the class of 2024.

Eligibility

Students must earn credit in a minimum of five mark-point earning courses each semester of high school. Any appeals for special circumstances must be made to the building principal.

Courses NOT eligible for mark points:

- Academic Support and Intervention courses (AL, ACP, Study Center, EL, etc.)
- Pass/Fail/Enrichment courses
- Independent Study courses
- Any Group 1 course
- Rule 18 or Level 3 School courses
- Homeschool transfer credit courses

Transfer Credits

- High School courses taken at the middle school level appear on the transcript to indicate the course has been taken in 8th grade. The course will have an (8) next to the course name, and will earn no credit toward high school graduation and will be marked as “Pass”. This is most likely to happen in math and world language. The course will not count toward cumulative high school GPA or Latin system honors.
- Transfer credits from an accredited high school will be evaluated on an individual student basis. The transfer credit will be assigned the weight of the closest counterpart at Westside High School. Consistent with current practice, final decisions on transfer credit will be made by the district.

Weighting of Grades

Additional course weight is assigned to Group 4 (Honors/Dual Enrollment) and Group 5 (Advanced Placement) courses. Both Group 4 and Group 5 courses are considered to be more rigorous in nature. Additional weight is assigned to Group 4 and Group 5 courses to encourage students to take more rigorous coursework by minimizing risk of lowering the GPA and by providing an incentive to maximize the cumulative GPA.

Competencies

Students who complete the required coursework have demonstrated mastery of a comprehensive set of up-to-date state standards. Students are required to pass all of the required classes to receive a Westside Community Schools diploma.

POLICY ADOPTED: April 3, 1973

POLICY AMENDED: January 7, 1974

POLICY AMENDED: March 4, 1974

POLICY AMENDED: June 3, 1974

POLICY AMENDED: February 1, 1982

POLICY AMENDED: January 7, 1985

POLICY REVIEWED AND ADOPTED: April 9, 1987

POLICY AMENDED: February 1, 1993

POLICY AMENDED: November 1, 1993

POLICY AMENDED: February 7, 2000

POLICY AMENDED: February 7, 2011

POLICY AMENDED: November 5, 2012

POLICY AMENDED: December 12, 2016

POLICY AMENDED: February 22, 2022

POLICY AMENDED: February 6, 2023

POLICY AMENDED: November 6, 2023

POLICY AMENDED: June __, 2026