

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ June 15, 2026

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on June 15, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office, 909 S. 76th St., Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present:

- Kris Karnes, President
- Meagan Van Gelder, Vice President
- Sarah Rider, Treasurer
- Sean Conway, Treasurer-Elect
- Stephanie Adams, Secretary
- Adam Yale, 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 May 12, 2026, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on June 12 and 15, 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, Nick Lesiak, Kim De La Cruz, Kami Jessop, Laura Mann, Robert Aranda, Matt Lee, Jake Ritonya, Tiffany Atemnkeng.

Others in Attendance*: Jill Conway, Mandi Dilling, Brian Adams, Leo Adams, Nick Dunbar, Morgan Cameron, Fran Vonderfecht. *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. Karnes called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. She 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. 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. Karnes requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on May 11, 2026. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Ms. Adams and Mr. Conway abstained. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Karnes requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Workshop held on June 1, 2026. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Van Gelder presented the treasurer's report for May 2026 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$16,556,649; Ms. Rider seconded. May 2026 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

Board of Education Meeting

June 15, 2026

Page 2 of 5

Communications

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Engagement, shared district highlights including: Elementary summer school enrollment, with 180 students participating in enrichment activities; and 308 students at the high school enrolled for both enrichment and credit recovery. Two EY summer camps for grades 5-8 through Northwestern wrapped up last week; two more are scheduled in July - one through UNL and one through the University of Iowa. WHS student Carter Pflug is one of two finalists from Nebraska who will be competing at the National High School Theatre Awards in New York City on June 22nd. WCS staff are taking time during the summer to share their expertise at regional and national conferences. A number of students, some parents and a staff member recently participated in a production of *Guys and Dolls* at the Omaha Jewish Community Center. And Westbrook Elementary is the district site for free breakfast and lunch meals for district families (children up to 18 years of age) - through July 31st.

Review of 2025-2026 District Enrollment and Demographics

Mr. Robert Aranda, Director of Student Services, provided an overview of student enrollment and demographics for the 2025-2026 school year. Overall, total enrollment of 6,134 students was down slightly (.71%) from the previous school year, though holding fairly steady over the past four years (2022-23: 6,123; 2023-24: 6,165; 2024-25: 6,178; 2025-26: 6,134). Mr. Aranda reported that projected enrollment for 2026-27 is approximately 6,200. He also noted that the District's renewed efforts in compiling accurate census data on a yearly basis will help with establishing both resident and option enrollment projections. Copies of the Executive Summary and 2025-2026 District Demographic Report are included in the board documents folder.

Human Resources Annual Report and Strategic Plan Goal 2

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, presented the Human Resources annual report and shared data as it aligns with the strategies of Strategic Plan Goal 2 - *Supported and Engaged Staff*. Dr. Haynes reviewed staff retention and demographics, and highlighted a number of programs through the District's "*Grow Our Own*" as they relate to recruitment and opportunities for professional growth for both certified and classified staff. Copies of Dr. Haynes slide presentation and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Bond Oversight Committee - Approval of Appointment

Dr. Mike Lucas requested board approval of the appointment of Mr. Caleb McDaniel to the Bond Oversight Committee to fulfill the remainder of Mr. Sean Conway's Phase II term on the BOC. Mr. Conway was elected to the Board of Education on May 11, 2026, and thus resigned from his BOC Committee seat. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Adams seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Approval - #1220 and #5230

Mr. Nick Lesiak, In-House Legal Counsel, presented revisions to two existing policies for approval that were initially presented for board discussion and consideration on May 11, 2026.

Board of Education Meeting

June 15, 2026

Page 3 of 5

#1220 - Public Meetings: Agendas, Notifications, Weather Delays & Minutes (Board of Education)

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. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Mr. Conway seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

#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. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Copies of each policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policy for Review - #4770

Mr. Lesiak presented revisions to one existing policy for board consideration and discussion:

#4770 - Recognition of Employee Organizations (Personnel)

LB 429 requires the District to provide equal access to any professional employees' organization (as defined in the policy and statute) if the same access is given to one professional employees' organization. These changes reflect this new requirement.

Policy 4770 will be presented for approval at the Board of Education Meeting on July 13, 2026. Copies of the policy and the 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 (one certified staff resignation) for board approval. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Mr. Conway seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the personnel report is included in the board documents folder.

Review and Approval of Superintendent Succession Plan (Policy 2115)

Ms. Karnes presented the Superintendent Succession Plan for board approval. The Board of Education Succession Planning Committee (President, Vice President and Immediate Past President) previously reviewed the Superintendent Succession Plan. With the exception of the revision to the plan year to reflect 2026-2027, there are no other changes. Mr. Conway moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary, policy 2115 and the 2026-2027 Superintendent Succession Plan are included in the board documents folder.

Acknowledgement of Receipt of Conflict of Interest Agreement (Policy 1115)

Ms. Karnes confirmed that a signed copy of the Conflict of Interest Agreement has been submitted by each board member. This agreement (kept on file in the Superintendent's office) is signed by every board member - in even years following board elections - at the annual June organizational meeting. Copies of the Executive Summary and Policy 1115 (Conflict of Interest Agreement) are included in the board documents folder.

Board of Education Meeting

June 15, 2026

Page 4 of 5

Board Officer Elections for June 2026 - May 2027 (Policy #1160)

Ms. Rider moved for approval of the following Board of Education Officer slate for June 2026 through May 2027:

President:	Kris Karnes
Vice President:	Meagan Van Gelder
Treasurer:	Sarah Rider
Treasurer Elect:	Sean Conway
Secretary:	Stephanie Adams
Director:	Adam Yale

Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Changes to Bank Authorized Signers at American National Bank and Security National Bank

Mr. Brian Gabriel requested board approval for the following changes to authorized signers on selected school activity accounts at American National Bank and selected district operating accounts at Security National Bank for the 2026-2027 school year. These changes are made annually in June, as needed, for school personnel and Board officer changes and are effective as of today, June 15, 2026.

Security National Bank (district operating accounts): As Board President: remove Adam Yale and add Kris Karnes. As Board Secretary: remove Beth Morrisette and add Stephanie Adams. As Board Treasurer: remove Meagan Van Gelder and add Sarah Rider.

American National Bank (school activity accounts): At Prairie Lane Elementary: remove Belinda Westfall and add Janeen Mann. At Westgate Elementary: remove Scott Becker and add Belinda Westfall. At Westside High School: remove Tom Kerkman and add Brad Metzler.

Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Board Member Committee Assignments - June 2026 through May 2027 (Policy #1170)

Board members reviewed committee assignments - per policy and by appointment - for the 2026-2027 school year:

Succession Planning Committee: (President; Vice President; Immediate Past President) Kris Karnes, Meagan Van Gelder, Adam Yale.

Finance Committee: (President; Treasurer; one other board member appointed by the President) Kris Karnes, Sarah Rider, Sean Conway.

Legislative Committee: (Board President appoints three people) Adam Yale, Sean Conway, Meagan Van Gelder.

Facilities Committee: (Board President appoints three people) Kris Karnes, Sarah Rider, Stephanie Adams.

Board of Education Meeting

June 15, 2026

Page 5 of 5

Policy Review Committee: (Board President appoints three people) Stephanie Adams, Sean Conway, Sarah Rider.

Committee on American Civics: (The Board appoints three people from among all board members) Meagan Van Gelder, Stephanie Adams, Adam Yale.

Public Comment

There were seven requests for Public Comment: Justin Dorsey, EPIC; Mandi Dilling, iPads; Evelyn Vonderfecht, using the EPIC app in the classroom; Morgan Cameron, 1:1 iPads; Frannie Vonderfecht, concerns of screen use in Westside classrooms; Molly Courtney, iPads in elementary schools; Paul Vonderfecht, IXL.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

The Board was represented at the following events recently: Policy Review Committee meeting; visit to the Northwestern EY summer camps. There was no legislative report. Ms. Karnes reviewed upcoming events:

June 16, 2026	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
June 19, 2026	District Offices closed in observance of Juneteenth
July 3 & 6, 2026	District Offices Closed in Observance of Fourth of July Holiday
July 13, 2026	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 5:00 p.m.
July 27-28, 2026	All Admin Jim Tangdall Leadership Retreat - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Lauritzen Gardens)

There being no further business, Ms. Karnes adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Secretary, Board of Education

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
NOTICE OF MEETING**

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6/12, 6/15 ZNEZ



The Daily Record

Proof of Publication

JASON W. HUFF, Publisher

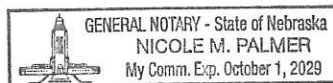
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
The State of Nebraska,
District of Nebraska,
County of Douglas,
City of Omaha } ss.

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:

6/12/26

6/15/26

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



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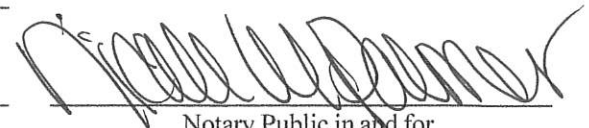
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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before
me this JUNE 15 2026


Notary Public in and for
Douglas County, State of Nebraska

Omaha Daily Record

THE DAILY RECORD

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Friday, June 12, 2026

Notice Content

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6/12,6/15 ZNEZ

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[Back](#)

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
JUNE 15, 2026

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies that a Notice of Meeting for the Board of Education, 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 MAY 12, 2026, and that it appeared there continuously up through the time of the scheduled board meeting.

MOLLY HURLEY

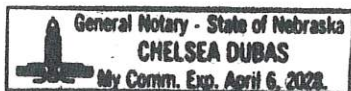
Name

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO SUPERINTENDENT

Title

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS)

Before me, a Notary Public, qualified in and for said County and State, personally came Molly Hurley, 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.



Chelsea Dubas
Notary Public

WCS Board of Education Meeting - June 15, 2026



May 12 2026 7:47 AM

The Westside Community Schools Board of Education will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, June 15, 2026, at 5:00 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