

## WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

### Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ November 1, 2021

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The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on November 1, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Board members present:** Doug Krenzer, President  
Meagan Van Gelder, Vice President  
Adam Yale, Secretary  
Dana Blakely, Treasurer-Elect  
Kris Karnes, Director

**Board member absent (excused):** Beth Morrissette, Treasurer

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 October 20, 2021, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on October 29 and November 1, 2021, and on their website. 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, Molly Hurley, Paul Lindgren, Kim De La Cruz, Kami Jessop, Kelcy Tapp, Brandi Paul, Nick Lesiak, Russ Olsen, Judith Stucky, Jeanette Lengemann, Maggie Person, Tonya Gordon, Stacey Schnauber.

**Others in Attendance\*:** Susan Reff, Jonathan Farrell, Henry Grosshans, Katie Grosshans, Michael Fayad, Doja Fayad. \*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. Krenzer called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. He 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. He acknowledged that the meeting had been publicly announced and the agenda was available to any interested parties. Board member attendance is noted above. Mr. Krenzer requested a motion for approval of Beth Morrissette's absence. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Krenzer requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on October 19, 2021. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote.

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### **Communications**

Ms. Brandi Paul, Director of Communications and Community Engagement, reviewed highlights of the recent Westside Pride newsletter that was sent out to the community. Link available here: [Westside Pride November 2021](#)

### **Board Policies for Approval**

Mr. Nick Lesiak, District Administrative Counsel, presented revisions to two existing policies for board approval. These revisions were introduced at the Board of Education Meeting on October 19, 2021, for review and discussion and are primarily for clarity / definition of terms and to bring language in line with current state statutes.

- [Board Policy 1130 \(Board of Education\)](#) - Establishing Programs for Voluntary Enrollment: Ms. Blakely moved for approval of recommended revisions; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
- [Board Policy 1300 \(Board of Education\)](#) - Student Participation with the Board of Education: Mr. Yale moved for approval of recommended revisions; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

### **Board Policy for Review**

Mr. Lesiak presented revisions to one existing policy for consideration and discussion by the Board. As with other recent revisions to existing policies, these changes are non-substantive and are meant to ensure compliance with state statutes.

- [Board Policy 1175 \(Board of Education\)](#) - Suggestions, Concerns and Appeals/Grievances Presented to the Board

These policy revisions will be presented for Board approval at the Board of Education Meeting on November 15, 2021. A copy of the Executive Summary - along with a redline copy of the policy - are included in the board documents folder.

### **2022 Caucus**

Mr. Lesiak presented the following items for board approval that are required to move forward with plans for the 2022 Board of Education Caucus: **(1)** Certification of Board Vacancies in 2022; **(2)** Authorization to Proceed with the 2022 Board of Education Caucus; and **(3)** Approval of Caucus Rules and Regulations.

#### **(1) Certification of Board Vacancies for 2022**

Ms. Blakely moved that the Board of Education, pursuant to Nebraska Statute 32-404(2), certify to the Douglas County Election Commissioner that an election be held in conjunction with the statewide primary on May 10, 2022, to elect two persons to fill two six-year positions on the

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Board of Education, currently held through May 31, 2022, by Kris Karnes and Adam Yale, that voters shall vote for no more than two (2) candidates on the primary election ballot, and that the two candidates who receive the most votes at the primary election be deemed elected to the two six-year terms on the Board of Education with a beginning date of June 1, 2022; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

### **(2) Authorization to Proceed with the 2020 Board of Education Caucus**

Dr. Van Gelder moved for Westside Community Schools, School District No. 66 of Douglas County, Nebraska, to proceed with a Caucus on February 1, 2022, with a backup date of February 8, 2022, for the purpose of nominating persons for two six-year terms on the Board of Education as set forth in the approved Caucus rules; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

### **(3) Approval of 2022 Board of Education Caucus Rules and Regulations**

Ms. Blakely moved that the Board of Education, pursuant to Nebraska Statute 79-549, approve and adopt the 2022 Caucus Rules and Regulations for the February 2022 Caucus, as developed and recommended by the Caucus Committee, and now submit the 2022 Caucus Rules and Regulations to the Douglas County Election Commissioner for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Copies of the Executive Summary, Certification of Vacancies, Authorization to Proceed and Rules and Regulations are attached to the official minutes.

### **Belonging and Dignity Update**

Dr. Mark Weichel presented an update to the Board on the District's action steps and activities surrounding our work with DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion). He reported that this will be the first year that the district's 13 school building sites have signed up to be eligible for the "No Place For Hate" designation. Each building has identified two staff members as "team leads" who will work with a student committee that will choose and organize three or more activities during the school year to promote equity and respect and recognize differences through active participation and discussion. Dr. Weichel shared examples of Unity Day activities that some buildings held on October 20th (to raise awareness of bullying). The district will host Community Dialogue sessions with Inclusive Communities on November 2nd and November 8th. The entire community is invited to attend. Representatives from Inclusive Communities will lead a discussion with interactive table-talks on social issues and how we can work together to build a stronger sense of belonging for all in our community. Both events will be held at Westside High School from 6:00-7:30 p.m. And while the agenda is the same for both dates, all are welcome to attend both dates. Principals and an additional leader from each building have been participating in monthly meetings with John Krownapple to delve into the "belonging" survey results that students and staff took earlier in the school year. Mr. Krownapple - co-author of "Belonging Through a Culture of Dignity" - was our keynote speaker at the All Staff Back to School event in August. A copy of Dr. Weichel's Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

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### **Early Childhood Overview**

Dr. Kami Jessop, Director of Special Services, Ms. Julie Oelke, Early Childhood Program Director and Ms. Jeanette Lengemann, Coordinator of Early Childhood Special Services, presented an overview of early childhood education in Westside Community Schools. Together, the District's Special Services Department and the Westside Foundation offer programs and in-home support services for children below age five. The Early Childhood Centers run by the Westside Foundation offer a toddler program (18 months to 3 years old), a preschool program (3 to 5 years old) and a 4-year-old preschool program (must be 4 by July 31st). Programs run by the District include home-based early intervention special education services for families with children ages 0 to 3 years old and a special education inclusive preschool program for 3 to 5 year olds. The district also has special education placements within the Foundation's Early Childhood Centers, which are operated at 7 of the district's elementary buildings and Underwood Hills. The programs and services are collaborative and complimentary and serve to provide the highest level of early learning opportunities for Westside families. Copies of the Executive Summary, keynote presentation and program spreadsheet are included in the board documents folder.

### **Written Report: Annual Update on Multicultural Education**

Dr. Weichel prepared the annual update on the District's Multicultural Education curriculum as required per Rule 10 and the regulations in Nebraska Statute 79-719. A copy of his written report is included in the board documents folder.

**Public Comment:** There were no requests for public comment.

### **Board Member Representation / Remarks on Public Comment / Legislative Updates**

The Board Finance sub-committee met last week with auditors from Seim Johnson in preparation for the District's Annual Audit Review at the November 15th Board Meeting; the American Civics Committee met with Dr. Weichel and others from the Teaching and Learning team prior to tonight's board meeting; the first WE-SIDE Student Advisory Committee meeting was held at the high school on October 21st; Senator's John McCollister and John Cavanaugh visited Westside Middle School last week.

### **Announcements**

Mr. Krenzer reviewed the following upcoming events:

- November 2, 2021      Inclusive Communities Community Dialogue - WHS - 6:00pm
- November 8, 2021      Inclusive Communities Community Dialogue - WHS - 6:00pm
- November 15, 2021      Board of Education Meeting - ABC - 6:00pm
- Nov. 17-19, 2021      State Education Conference - CHI Center
- Nov. 24-26, 2021      Thanksgiving Break - No School
- Nov. 25-26, 2021      District Offices Closed

There being no further business, Mr. Krenzer adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.



Adam Yale, Board of Education Secretary

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice is hereby given of a Board of Education Meeting for the Westside Community School District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held **Monday, November 1, 2021, 6:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at the District 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.

10/29, 11/1

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**THE DAILY RECORD  
OF OMAHA**  
**JASON W. HUFF, Publisher**  
**PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

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

**JASON W. HUFF and/or SCOTT STEWART**

being duly sworn, deposes and say that they are the

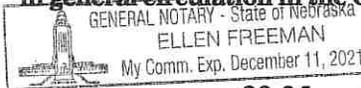
**PUBLISHER and/or MANAGING EDITOR**

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, printed in Omaha, in said County of Douglas, for more than fifty-two weeks last past; that the printed notice hereto attached was published in **THE**

**DAILY RECORD**, of Omaha, on  
October 29, 2021

& November 1, 2021

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



Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before  
me this 1st day of  
November 2021  
Total \$ 22.25

Notary Public in and for Douglas County,  
State of Nebraska

