WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ November 6, 2023

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on November 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present: Beth Morrissette, President
Dana Blakely, Vice President
Meagan Van Gelder, Secretary
Kris Karnes, Treasurer-Elect
Adam Yale, Treasurer

Board member absent (excused): Sarah Rider, 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 October 17, 2023, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on November 3 and 6, 2023, 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 Gabrial, Molly Hurley, Kim De La Cruz, Kami Jessop, Kelcy Tapp, Laura Mann, Nick Lesiak, Robert Aranda, Abby Langner, Amber Biegler, Liddy Mahacek, Becky Lowther.

Others in Attendance*: *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. Morrissette 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. Ms. Morrissette requested a motion for an excused absence for Ms. Rider. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Morrissette requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on October 17, 2023. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Morrissette requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on October 19, 2023. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Communications

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Engagement, shared that a new mascot was selected for Underwood Hills Early Learning Center: the Bison. The Bison was one of the top five choices due to their altruistic behaviors, caring for their entire herd regardless of their needs, which is reflective of the mission of Underwood Hills. Underwood students, staff and families had the opportunity to vote from the top five selections, and the Bison won with 40% of responses. The District's "We Are All Warriors" logo has been updated to include the Bison mascot. Ms. Power also gave an overview of how Westside Community Schools is celebrating Veterans Day this week.

Middle School Math Interventions

Ms. Kim De La Cruz, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning; Ms. Amber Biegler, WMS Assistant Principal; and Ms. Liddy Mahacek, WMS Teacher Interventionist, presented a report to the board on a newly implemented math intervention program at Westside Middle School. WMS has had a school improvement goal around increased math proficiency for several years. With last year's changes to the middle school schedule, district administrators were able to reallocate staff to dedicate four teachers for "Math 180", a research-based math program for grades 5 and up. WMS is currently utilizing three of the six "Math 180" levels available (multiplication / division; fractions/decimals; and ratios) and started in August 2023 with 109 students. Benchmark data taken in August compared with the first assessment taken at the end of first quarter shows positive growth: August 2023 - Below/Far Below level = 80.2%; Approaching level = 11.3%; On level = 5.7%; October 2023 - Below level = 7%; On level = 18%; Above level = 75%. Ms. De La Cruz, Ms. Biegler and Ms. Mahacek look forward to seeing continued positive growth for students utilizing Math 180. Copies of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Phase II Bond Project: Approval of Concept Design for WHS Restroom Renovations

Mr. Matt Smith with BVH Architecture presented the Concept Design for the Westside High School restrooms and locker rooms renovation project for board approval. He reviewed key design goals identified by the Design Advisory Committee for both restrooms and locker rooms that include: updated layouts and finishes; safety and security; durability of fixtures; ease of maintenance; and ADA and Title IX compliance. Mr. Smith also reviewed a phased construction schedule to ensure that there will always be a restroom facility available for use on each floor of the building during construction, which will be done during summer breaks in 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027. Board members were invited to preview the concept design package at a meeting on November 3, 2023. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and Powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Phase II Bond Project: Approval of Concept Design for ABC Building

Mr. Matthew Erion with BCDM Architects presented the Concept Design for the ABC Building renovation project for board approval. He reviewed meetings that have been held to date with the ABC Design Advisory Committee and the design concept priorities that came from those discussions. In addition to the bond priorities of HVAC renovations and ADA accessibility, the DAC also felt strongly about the overall visitor experience and impression of the District office.

Mr. Erion presented concept design ideas for a renovation of the main entry level of the ABC Building that would expand the Welcome Center and reconfigure the board room and restroom spaces. He also reviewed the impact of the renovations on each level of the building, since staff will remain in the building during the entire project. Some temporary relocations of various departments will be necessary due to the location of HVAC ductwork. Board members were invited to preview the concept design package at a meeting on November 3, 2023. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and Powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Construction Manager at Risk Delivery Method and CMR Selection Committee for Westside Middle School

Mr. Matt Herzog, Principal, Project Advocates, requested board approval to select the Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) construction delivery method for the Westside Middle School project and to appoint the CMR Selection Committee. Mr. Yale moved for approval of the construction delivery method of "Construction Management at Risk" under the provisions of the Nebraska Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 13-2901, et. seq. (the "Act") for the Westside Community Schools – Westside Middle School Cafeteria Addition (hereinafter referred to as "the Project"), and hereby direct the Superintendent of Schools, Project Advocates, Owner's Representative for the Projects, and selected school district legal counsel to initiate and carry out all actions necessary to comply with the requirements of the Act, including but not limited to the issuance of a Request for Proposals for the position of Construction Management at Risk for the Project; And to appoint the following persons to the Selection Committee to evaluate the proposals received from firms in response to the request for Proposals for the position of Construction Manager at Risk in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 13-2910 (must have at least five (5) members):

(a) Member(s) of the school board: Meagan Van Gelder.
(b) Member(s) of the school administration or staff: Kim Eymann, WMS Principal.
(c) The school's architect or engineer: Matt Wegener of BVH Architecture.
(d) Any person having special expertise relevant to selection of a construction manager under the Nebraska Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act: Matt Herzog of Project Advocates.
(e) A resident(s) of the School District other than an individual included in (a) through (d) above: Becca Cartwright.

Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and CMR Resolution are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Construction Manager at Risk Delivery Method and CMR Selection Committee for the ABC Building

Mr. Matt Herzog, Principal, Project Advocates, requested board approval to select the Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) construction delivery method for the ABC Building renovation project and to appoint the CMR Selection Committee. Ms. Blakely moved for approval of the construction delivery method of "Construction Management at Risk" under the provisions of the Nebraska Political Subdivisions

Construction Alternatives Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 13-2901, et. seq. (the "Act") for the Westside Community Schools – ABC Building Renovation (hereinafter referred to as "the Project"), and hereby direct the Superintendent of Schools, Project Advocates, Owner's Representative for the Projects, and selected school district legal counsel to initiate and carry out all actions necessary to comply with the requirements of the Act, including but not limited to the issuance of a Request for Proposals for the position of Construction Management at Risk for the Project; And to appoint the following persons to the Selection Committee to evaluate the proposals received from firms in response to the request for Proposals for the position of Construction Manager at Risk in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 13-2910 (must have at least five (5) members):

(a) Member(s) of the school board: Kris Karnes
(b) Member(s) of the school administration or staff: Mike Lucas, Superintendent.
(c) The school's architect or engineer: Matthew Erion of BCDM Architects.
(d) Any person having special expertise relevant to selection of a construction manager under the Nebraska Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act: Matt Herzog of Project Advocates.
(e) A resident(s) of the School District other than an individual included in (a) through (d) above: Dana Bartee.

Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and CMR Resolution are included in the board documents folder.

Phase II Bond Project: Chiller Replacement at Westbrook Elementary

Mr. Andy Wane, Director of Facilities, presented a bid from Fluid Mechanicals, LLC, for $281,500 for the replacement of the chiller at Westbrook Elementary for board approval. This project is part of the Phase II Bond. Six bids were received, and Fluid Mechanicals submitted the lowest responsible bid. They will begin work with vendors to request arrival of the new chiller ahead of June 1, 2024, with work scheduled for completion in late July 2024, ahead of staff and students arriving for the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and the bid tab sheet are included in the board documents folder.

Phase II Bond Project: Schematic Design Update for Westgate Elementary

Mr. Chris Houston with TACK Architects presented the Schematic Design for Westgate Elementary. This is the next step in the design process following the Board's approval of the Concept Design on October 2, 2023. Additional meetings with the Westgate DAC and district staff have further refined the design of the new Westgate Elementary and was shared with the Westgate community October 19, 2023. The next design review presentation for the Board is currently scheduled for February 5, 2024. Copies of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policy for Approval

Ms. De La Cruz requested approval of revisions to Policy 5230 - Graduation Requirements (Class of 2025 and Beyond). These revisions were presented for consideration and discussion at the Board Meeting on October 17, 2023. The revisions are reflected under course requirements for *Business, Computer Science and Technology*, as well as the addition of *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).* For the FAFSA

graduation requirement (included in LB705; referenced in Ms. De La Cruz's previous report), students will need to complete the FAFSA application. Forms are to be provided by the NE Department of Education, and there will be opt-out options available for this requirement. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary and redline copy of Policy 5230 are included in the board documents folder.

Accompanist Compensation

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, requested board approval of a $3.50/hour increase for all currently employed accompanists, and a starting base pay increase of $3.50/hour that would become effective starting November 13, 2023. Dr. Haynes shared that this request is to ensure that our accompanist compensation structure remains competitive with surrounding districts and is aligned with the specialized skill set of accompanists. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

2024 Caucus

Mr. Nick Lesiak, In-House Legal Counsel, presented the following items for board approval that are required to move forward with plans for the 2024 Board of Education Caucus: **(1)** Certification of Board Vacancies in 2024; **(2)** Authorization to Proceed with the 2024 Caucus; and **(3)** Approval of 2024 Caucus Rules and Regulations.

- **Certification of Board Vacancies for 2024**
  Ms. Karnes moved that the Board of Education, pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 32-404(2), certify to the Douglas County Election Commissioner that an election be held in conjunction with the statewide primary on May 14, 2024 to elect two persons to fill two six-year positions on the Board of Education, currently held through May 31, 2024, by Sarah Rider and Meagan Van Gelder, 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, 2024; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Dr. Van Gelder abstained.

- **Authorization to Proceed with the 2024 Board of Education Caucus**
  Ms. Blakely moved that the Westside Community Schools, School District No. 66 of Douglas County, Nebraska, proceed with a Caucus on February 6, 2024, with a backup date of February 13, 2024, for the purpose of nominating persons for two six-year terms on the Board of Education as set forth in the approved Caucus rules; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Dr. Van Gelder abstained.

- **Approval of 2024 Board of Education Caucus Rules and Regulations**
  Ms. Karnes moved that the Board of Education, pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 79-549, approve and adopt the 2024 Caucus Rules and Regulations for the February 2024 Caucus, as developed and recommended by the Caucus Committee, and now submit the 2024 Caucus Rules

and Regulations to the Douglas County Election Commissioner for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Dr. Van Gelder abstained.

Copies of the Executive Summary, Motions and 2024 Caucus Rules and Regulations are included in the board documents folder.

Public Comment - There were no requests for public comment.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements
Ms. Morrissette reviewed recent activities and events attended by board members that include Bond Phase II meetings (DAC's and Concept Design); visits to Woods II and HATCH classrooms at WHS; the Apple Distinguished School event at WHS; numerous school building visits and walk-throughs; Board Finance Sub-Committee meeting on October 27th with the auditor; a number of Trunk-or-Treat events; and the WE-SIDE Steering Committee meeting on November 1st.

November 7, 2023	Community Forum - WHS - 6:30 p.m.
November 13, 2023	Bond Oversight Committee - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
Nov. 15-17, 2023	NASB / NASA State Education Conference - CHI Center
November 20, 2023	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
Nov. 22-24, 2023	Thanksgiving Break (No School; District Offices Closed 11/23 and 11/24)

There being no further business, Ms. Morrissette adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Meagan Van Gelder, Secretary, Board of Education

WESTIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** 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.

11/3, 11/6 ZNEZ

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 JOSIE CHARRON, 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:

11/3/23 11/6/23

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

GENERAL NOTARY - State of Nebraska
NICOLE M. PALMER
My Comm. Exp. October 1, 2025

Publisher's Fee $24.93

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Total $24.93

Jason W Huff

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this NOVEMBER 06 2023

Nicole M Palmer

Notary Public in and for Douglas County, State of Nebraska

Board of Education Meeting
November 6, 2023

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
PROOF OF PUBLICATION

The undersigned hereby certifies that a Notice of Board Meeting, 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 October 18, 2023 and that it appeared there continuously up through the time of the scheduled board meeting.

Kim Sedivy
Name

Communications Graphics
Title

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS)

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

GENERAL NOTARY-State of Nebraska
JULIE M. FUMAGALLI
My Comm. Expires July 14, 2025

Notary Public