

## WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

### Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ December 11, 2023

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The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on December 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office - ABC Building - 909 S. 76th Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

**Board members present:**

- Beth Morrisette, President
- Dana Blakely, Vice President
- Meagan Van Gelder, Secretary
- Adam Yale, Treasurer
- Kris Karnes, Treasurer-Elect
- 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 November 21, 2023, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on December 8 and 11, 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 Gabriel, Molly Hurley, Kim De La Cruz, Kami Jessop, Kelcy Tapp, Laura Mann, Nick Lesiak, Robert Aranda, Trever Reeh, Abby Langner, Becky Lowther.

**Others in Attendance\*:** Todd Moeller, Diane Cahill, Sarah Miller, Nancy Novak. \*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. Morrisette 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Morrisette requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on November 10, 2023. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Morrisette requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Schematic Design Review Meeting held on December 6, 2023. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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### **Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Yale presented the treasurer's report for November 2023 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$9,174,325; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the November 2023 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

### **Communications**

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Engagement, informed the Board that the mailing for the 2024 Caucus had reached homes in the District last week. Ms. Power also shared that the Communications Department has begun planning for the District's Annual Report, which will be finished by the end of January, and then mailed to homes in February.

### **2023-2024 Academic Report: Advanced Algebra**

As part of the Teaching and Learning team's year-long focus on academics, tonight's report is a presentation by Mr. Trever Reeh, WHS Math Teacher. At the secondary level, each content area team was asked to identify its most essential unit or concept. Mr. Reeh provided an overview of "transformations" as the most essential concept due to the frequency of this concept being found in other math courses, in multiple state math standards testing, and on the ACT. Because of this, the math team revised the Advanced Algebra curriculum so that the "transformations" concepts are included in each chapter throughout the course, whereas previously "transformations" were taught only as a stand-alone unit. Copies of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board meeting documents folder.

### **Phase II Bond Project: Approval of Notice to Proceed Letter for Construction Manager at Risk Negotiations for Westgate Elementary**

Construction of a new Westgate Elementary School is part of the District's Phase II Bond work. The Board of Education approved the Construction Manager at Risk construction delivery method for this project at their meeting on October 17, 2023. A Request for Qualifications for Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) was publicly advertised and posted to the District website on October 30, 2023. Eight firms submitted Statements of Qualifications on November 30, 2023. Four firms were selected to interview with the CMR Selection Committee. The selection committee conducted interviews on December 8, 2023, and chose Charles Vrana & Sons Construction as the CMR for the project. Mr. Matt Herzog, Principal with Project Advocates, requested approval of the Notice to Proceed letter, which authorizes the CMR to begin preconstruction services immediately while the final contract is negotiated with assistance from Project Advocates. The contract will be presented to the Board of Education for approval on January 16, 2024. Mr. Yale moved for approval of the Notice to Proceed letter; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and Notice to Proceed letter are included in the board documents folder.

### **Phase II Bond Project: Approval of Bid for New Chillers at WMS**

Mr. Herzog presented a bid for approval from Mechanical Sales for \$286,980 for the purchase of two new chillers at Westside Middle School, as part of the Phase II Bond. Three bids were received.

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The lowest complete bid was submitted by Mechanical Sales. The existing chiller at the middle school is at the end of its useful life expectancy and will need replacement in the near future. The cafeteria expansion requires the chiller to be relocated and this is the responsible time to replace the unit. The two new 200-ton chillers will replace the one 300-ton chiller. This will increase the building's cooling capacity during peak cooling days and provide efficiency during normal cooling days. The new chillers will be available in July of 2024 for installation during the bond work. Ms. Karnes moved for approval of the bid from Mechanical Sales; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary, contract and bid tab sheet are included in the board documents folder.

### **Phase II Bond Project: Approval of Bid for New AHU at ABC Building**

Mr. Herzog presented a bid for approval from Mechanical Sales for \$326,550 for the purchase of one new air handling unit and two new VRV condensing units for the ABC Building, as part of the Phase II Bond. Four bids were received. The lowest complete bid was submitted by Mechanical Sales. The current mechanical equipment at the ABC Building is original to the building and at the end of its useful life. The new equipment will be available in April 2023 for installation ahead of the other renovation work being done at the ABC Building. Approval of this purchase ahead of the CMR selection is necessary due to the long lead time required to ensure on-time delivery of the new equipment. Ms. Blakely moved for approval of the bid from Mechanical Sales; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary, contract and bid tab sheet are included in the board documents folder.

### **Phase II Bond Project: Schematic Design Update for Hillside Elementary**

Representatives from Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture (APMA) shared a schematic design update for the new Hillside Elementary. The concept design for the building was approved by the Board on October 17, 2023. Since that time, APMA has continued work with the Hillside Design Advisory Committee to further refine the design and layout of the new building. They presented 3-dimensional (axonometric) drawings that offered great visual images of how the building will be situated on the property and also preserves the neighborhood sledding hill! The next Board approval item will be for the Design Development, currently scheduled for February 20, 2024. Copies of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **WHS Addition and Renovation Project (Life Complex): Approval of Consent to Assignment and Assumption of Agreement - Project Advocates, Westside Foundation, Westside Community Schools**

Mr. Herzog presented a *Consent to Assignment and Assumption of Agreement* document for Board approval. This agreement - between the Westside Community Schools Foundation; District 66; and Project Advocates - is intended to put the District and Project Advocates in a direct contractual relationship with regard to the WHS Addition and Renovation project (Life Complex), and allow the District to assume the rights and obligations of the contract moving forward. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and contracts are included in the board documents folder.

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### **WHS Addition and Renovation Project (Life Complex): Approval of AIA Contract - Project Advocates**

Request made to table this item until January 16, 2024. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

### **WHS Addition and Renovation Project (Life Complex): Approval of AIA Contract - TACK Architects**

Dr. Lucas and Mr. Herzog presented a Professional Services Contract for TACK Architects as Project Architect for the Westside High School Addition and Renovation Project for Board approval. As part of the Westside Foundation's High School Campaign, the Foundation began working with TACK Architects in spring of 2021 to evaluate design opportunities and feasibility of the project. Since that time, TACK has continued to work with the Foundation, Project Advocates, school administration, and staff to further the design of the project. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval of the contract; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and the contract are included in the board documents folder.

### **WHS Addition and Renovation Project (Life Complex): Schematic Design Update**

Representatives from TACK Architect shared a schematic design update of the Warrior Life Complex at Westside High School. Since the preliminary concept design phase, there have been slight modifications to the height of the exterior structure, but no changes to the scope of programming (academics, athletics, extra-curricular, and community). A transformational project, the Warrior Life Complex will serve the next generation of the Westside community. The next Board approval item will be for the Design Development, currently scheduled for January 2024. Copies of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

### **Spring 2023 NSCAS Results**

Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, presented results of the Spring 2023 Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) testing results. The spring 2022-2023 testing results showed improvement from the 2021-2022 school year. In both English Language Arts and Math, the District is consistently above the state average in all grade levels. In ELA, when looking at the district and state averages for both school years, the district performance above the state average increased for 22-23, an indicator that Westside students are growing faster than students across the state. In math, the district performance above the state average improved in a majority of the tested grade levels, but not at the same rate or consistency as ELA. Science scores remained above the state average in each of the three grades tested. The NDE has continued to develop a through-year model of fall, winter, and spring testing windows. Only the spring test administration is required, and is the only administration used for accountability purposes. Westside, like most districts, utilizes the spring-only option and relies on MAP testing data from the fall and winter to make instructional decisions to best support student learning. Dr. Weichel shared that the district also closely monitors student achievement data for students who have been with the district less than one year, between 1 and 3 years, and more than 3 years. Copies of the Executive Summary and Dr. Weichel's presentation are included in the board documents folder.

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### **Annual Financial Literacy Report**

Ms. Kim De La Cruz, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, presented a report to the Board on financial literacy education in Westside Community Schools. In May of 2021, The Financial Literacy Act was signed into Nebraska law and requires this update be provided to the Board annually. In addition to providing this annual report, the Financial Literacy Act has the following requirements: 1) Starting with the 23-24 school year, each school district must include appropriate financial literacy instruction in elementary and middle schools; 2) Starting with the 23-24 school years, high school students must complete a financial literacy course as a part of graduation requirements; and 3) The annual update must include progress in financial literacy courses. Ms. De La Cruz provided an overview of the financial literacy curriculum at the elementary, middle and high school levels. At the high school (for the Personal Finance course required for graduation), heading into December 2023, 96% of students were on track with a passing grade. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

### **Consideration of a School-Based Health Center at Hillside Elementary**

Dr. Lucas requested board approval to move forward with negotiations with OneWorld Community Health Centers to establish a School-Based Health Centers (SBHC) at the new Hillside Elementary School that will serve Westside Community Schools' families. At the Board of Education Meeting on November 20, 2023, Ms. Andrea Skolkin, CEO of OneWorld Community Health Centers, and Ms. Sarah Miller, Chief Medical Services Officer, presented information to the Board regarding OneWorld's current partnerships with school districts in the metro area and the services that could be provided to Westside families with the establishment of a School-Based Health Center at Hillside Elementary. Westside families benefit from the District's current relationship with OneWorld Community Health Centers that is centered around their mobile clinic. A SBHC will extend the reach and number of services available to all district families. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Morrissette and Mr. Yale abstained. A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

### **T-Mobile Cell Tower Lease Extension**

Mr. Brian Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance, requested board approval of the cell tower lease extension with T-Mobile. The terms of the amended lease agreement provide for an additional five 5-year terms. The annual rent amount will continue to increase by 15% at the beginning of each renewal term. The current annual rent during the current term (the final extension of the current contract) is \$16,790.46. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and lease extension agreement are included in the board documents folder.

### **Personnel Report**

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, presented the personnel report (three certified staff probationary contracts; five certified staff retirements; four certified staff resignations) for board approval. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Personnel Report is included in the board documents folder.

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### Written Report: Annual Update on Multicultural Education

A copy of Dr. Weichel's written report is 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 included Phase II Bond meetings; MABE Meeting; sporting events; and a number of end-of-semester concerts and choral events.

December 18, 2023	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - WHS Warrior Room - 6:00 p.m.
December 21, 2023	Early Dismissal Day
Dec. 22, 2023 - Jan. 5, 2024	Winter Break
January 8, 2024	Start of Second Semester
January 8, 2024	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.
January 15, 2024	MLK Day - No School
January 16, 2024	Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m.

### Executive Session

Ms. Morrissette stated that the next item on the agenda is consideration of personnel matters. Discussion of this matter in closed session is necessary to avoid needless injury to the reputation of a person and is permitted by law. She requested a motion to adjourn to closed session. Dr. Van Gelder moved for the Board to enter closed session to discuss personnel matters, which is clearly necessary to avoid needless injury to the reputation of a person; Ms. Rider seconded. Ms. Morrissette restated that the Board has adopted a motion to enter closed session to discuss personnel matters, which is clearly necessary to avoid needless injury to the reputation of a person. The Board will limit itself to discussion of this matter. The board entered closed session at 7:31 p.m. The Board adjourned from closed session at 8:27 p.m. There being no further business, Ms. Morrissette adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.



Meagan Van Gelder, Secretary, Board of Education

**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, December 11, 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.

12/8, 12/11

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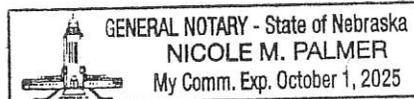
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*Jason W Huff*

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