

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting and Student Fees Public Hearing Minutes ~ April 22, 2024

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on April 22, 2024, 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
Kris Karnes, Treasurer-Elect
Sarah Rider, Director

Board member absent (excused): Adam Yale, 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 April 9, 2024, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on April 19 and 22, 2024, 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, Nick Lesiak, Kim De La Cruz, Molly Hurley, Laura Mann, Stephanie Heitmann, Stephanie Pueppka.

Others in Attendance*: Ariana Leighton, Sadie Rogers, Tanatswa Chivero, Jude O'Keefe, Marina Drelicharz, Diane Cahill. *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 Mr. Lesiak 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. Morrisette requested a motion for an excused absence for Mr. Yale. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Student Fees Public Hearing

Ms. Morrisette advised those in attendance that the Public Hearing portion of the agenda is to hear opposition, support and observations regarding Student Fees for the 2024-2025 School Year, and that any resolution setting, altering or amending the Student Fees Policy (#6340) as a result of the hearing will be in accordance with Nebraska Revised Statutes, Section 79-2,125 through 2,134.

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Mr. Brain Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance, reviewed Policy 6340 and proposed changes for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Increase to breakfast and lunch prices - Elementary and Secondary
- Increase to some extracurricular activities - Elementary and Secondary
- Increase to Activity and Parking Passes at WHS

Questions and comments were invited from the board and from those in attendance. Revisions to Student Fees for 2024-2025 will be presented again for approval at the Board of Education Meeting on May 20, 2024. Copies of the Executive Summary and redline of Policy 6340 are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Morrissette requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on April 8, 2024. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Morrissette requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Design Development Review Meeting held on April 19, 2024. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Karnes presented the treasurer's report for March 2024 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$8,926,875; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the March 2024 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, welcomed some of the members of Westside's Unified Basketball State Championship Team... a first for Westside! Congratulations to ALL team members on a successful season! Ms. Power introduced Ms. Hafsa Mohammed, a senior at WHS, who shared about the upcoming second annual "WE-SIDE Multicultural Fair: A Taste of Westside" and a bit about her role in bringing this event to life. This free family event is scheduled for Saturday, May 11, 2024, from 12 Noon to 3:00 p.m. at Westside High School.

Academic Report: WHS English I

WHS English Teachers Ms. Stephanie Heitmann and Ms. Stephanie Pueppka, along with Ms. Kim De La Cruz, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, presented a report on English 1, a grade level English course taken by the majority of ninth grade students at Westside High School. Because the unit's final essay is a foundational component of the high school English curriculum, and because of the critical thinking required during the unit, the team identified its science fiction unit as the most essential of the course. This unit took place during the third quarter, and Ms. Heitmann and Ms. Pueppka shared results of both formative and summative writing assessments, as well as follow-up actions for students who did not demonstrate proficiency. Copies of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

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Phase II Bond: Update on Hillside Elementary Design

Mr. Matt Herzog from Project Advocates, along with Todd Moeller and Rick Hauptman from Alley Poyner Macchietto Architects (APMA), presented some updates to the Design Development plan for Hillside Elementary that was approved by the Board of Education on March 4, 2024. At that meeting, board members requested that additional thought be given to the interior design finishes in the learning commons areas to ensure they are accommodating for a diverse range of student development and learning needs. APMA reviewed the design with Dr. Jessop, Director of Special Services; Autism Action Partnership; and Meghan Walls, Assistology Omaha and made modifications to ensure a positive environment for all students. APMA also displayed an alternate exterior brick that the Hillside DAC selected, since the original selection will not be available to meet the project schedule. Board members expressed their appreciation to APMA for their diligence and the extra time taken to ensure the interior design finishes are welcoming for all students. Copies of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Phase II Bond: Approval of Design Development for WHS Locker Room and Cafeteria Renovations

Mr. Matt Herzog from Project Advocates, along with Matt Smith, Kit Williams and Cynthia Ray from BVH Architects, requested approval of the Design Development Package for the Locker Rooms and Cafeteria renovations at Westside High School, as part of Phase II bond projects. BVH Architects was approved by the Board of Education for the Westside High School Locker Rooms and Cafeteria renovation project on September 5, 2023. The Board of Education approved the Concept Design presented on January 16, 2024. Since that time, BVH has continued to work closely with the high school DAC and District staff to create the Design Development package being presented for approval. The cafeteria renovation and expansion project is scheduled to begin in early 2026; Locker Room renovations are scheduled for the summers of 2026 and 2027. The Board of Education had the opportunity to preview the Design Development package at a meeting with Project Advocates and BVH on April 19, 2024. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and design presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Phase II Bond: Approval of Architect Contract for Paddock Road Elementary

Mr. Herzog requested approval of Leo A. Daly for Architectural Design and Engineering Services for Paddock Road Elementary for a new gymnasium, two Early Childhood classrooms, and site master plan. As part of the Westside Facilities Master Plan Phase II Bond Implementation Program, WCS and Project Advocates issued a Request for Qualifications on March 4, 2024, for Architectural Design and Engineering Services for Paddock Road Elementary school. Proposals were due by 3:00 p.m. on March 28, 2024. Project Advocates received ten proposals. Project Advocates and district representatives reviewed all proposals on April 3, 2024. Four firms were selected for interviews, which were held on April 9, 2024. Leo A. Daly was selected for the Paddock Road project. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and contract are included in the board documents folder.

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Phase II Bond: Approval of Architect Contract for Rockbrook Elementary

Mr. Herzog requested approval of BVH Architecture for Architectural Design and Engineering Services for Rockbrook Elementary for a new gymnasium, two Early Childhood classrooms, and site master plan. As part of the Westside Facilities Master Plan Phase II Bond Implementation Program, WCS and Project Advocates issued Requests for Qualifications on March 4, 2024, for Architectural Design and Engineering Services for Rockbrook Elementary school. Proposals were due by 3:00 p.m. on March 28, 2024. Project Advocates received ten proposals. Project Advocates and district representatives reviewed all proposals on April 4, 2024. Four firms were selected for interviews, which were held on April 10, 2024. BVH Architecture was selected for the Rockbrook project. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and contract are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Approval

Mr. Nick Lesiak, In-House Legal Counsel, presented revisions to two existing policies for approval. Both were introduced for board consideration and discussion at the Board of Education Meeting on April 8, 2024.

Policy #4420 - Personnel Records (Personnel) - Replace statute language with language as recommended by KSB School Law. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Policy #4530 - U.S. Savings Bonds (Personnel) - Eliminate policy, since U.S. Savings Bonds are no longer offered by the District. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

The Executive Summary and redline copies of each policy are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Review

Mr. Lesiak presented language revisions to two existing policies for board consideration and discussion. Both policies will be presented for approval at the Board of Education Meeting on May 20, 2024.

Policy #4355 - Nepotism (Personnel)

Policy #4490 - Professional Ethics (Personnel)

The Executive Summary and redline copies of each policy are included in the board documents folder.

Personnel Report

Dr. Haynes presented the personnel report (four certified staff probationary contracts; three certified staff resignations) for board approval. Dr. Van Gelder 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.

Public Comment - There were five requests for public comment: Olive Lowe, Ariana Leighton, Kevin Wittry, Marina Drelicharz, Tanatswa Chivero.

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Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

Ms. Morrisette reviewed recent activities and events attended by board members that included: architect selection interviews for Paddock Road on April 9th and architect selection interviews for Rockbrook on April 10th; Bond Oversight Committee Meeting on April 15th; BOE Student Advisory Committee session on school policies; "office hours" at WHS for the BOE Student Advisory Committee; walk-through at WMS; WHS Scholar and Spirit Awards Banquet on April 17th; K-8 Art Fair at Regency on April 18th; WHS Girls Tennis; DECA car wash and Oakdale Elementary Community Club Meeting.

April 29, 2024 Professional Development Day / No School for Students

May 9, 2024 Arts For Me Exhibit - KANEKO Gallery - 5:00-7:00 p.m.

May 11, 2024 WE-SIDE Multicultural Fair "A Taste of Westside" - WHS - 12:00-3:00 p.m.

May 13, 2024 Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m. - **REVISED DATE!**

May 19, 2024 WHS Class of 2024 Commencement - Baxter Arena - 2:00 p.m.

May 20, 2024 Board of Education Meeting - ABC Building - 6:00 p.m. - **REVISED DATE!**

May 24, 2024 Last Day of School - Early Dismissal

There being no further business, Ms. Morrisette adjourned the meeting at 7:40 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, APRIL 22, 2024 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.

4/19, 4/22

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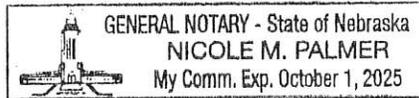
**THE DAILY RECORD
OF OMAHA
JASON W. HUFF, Publisher
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
The State of Nebraska,
District of Nebraska,
County of Douglas,
City of Omaha } ss.

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:

4/19/24 4/22/24

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



Publisher's Fee

\$ 26.18

Jason W Huff

Additional Copies

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Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this APRIL 22, 2024

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Nicole M Palmer

Notary Public in and for Douglas County, State of Nebraska

