

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ May 20, 2024

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on May 20, 2024, 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
- 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 April 23, 2024, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on May 17 and 20, 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, Becky Lowther, Angie Bergman.

Others in Attendance*: 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. Morrissette 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. 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 April 22, 2024. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Mr. Yale abstained.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Yale presented the treasurer's report for April 2024 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$9,013,934; Ms. Rider seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the April 2024 financial reports (financial statements, general fund disbursement summary and general fund check register) are included in the board documents folder.

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Communications

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Engagement, shared that final preparations are being made for the All Staff End of Year Celebration this coming Friday at the high school, following student dismissal at 12 Noon.

Academic Report: WHS Earth and Space Science

Ms. Kim De La Cruz, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, introduced Ms. Angela Bergman, WHS Science Teacher, who presented the final academic report of the school year. In the secondary buildings, each content area team was asked to identify its most essential unit – a unit with critical concepts foundational for success in the course, future courses, and/or key academic assessments. Ms. Bergman and her team selected the climatology unit from the Earth and Space Science course (a semester-long grade level science course typically taken by sophomore students) because it provides students an opportunity to showcase their scientific thinking skills they have developed over the course of the semester. The climatology unit took place during the second and fourth quarter, and Ms. Bergman highlighted the wind turbine summative assessment as the most important and most engaging! She invited board members to visit her classroom in the fall when this assessment is scheduled. Copies of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Phase II: Approval of Architectural Design Services for Westbrook Elementary

Mr. Matt Herzog from Project Advocates requested approval of BCDM Architects for the Phase II building project at Westbrook Elementary. The Request for Qualifications for Architectural Design and Engineering Services for the Westbrook Elementary project was issued on April 1, 2024. Proposals were due by 3:00 p.m. on April 26, 2024. Project Advocates received four proposals, which were reviewed on April 29th with district representatives and Ms. Sarah Rider from the Board of Education. Interviews were held on May 8, 2024, with Dr. Meagan Van Gelder representing the Board of Education. BCDM Architects was selected. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Morrisette abstained. Copies of the Executive Summary and contract are included in the board documents folder.

Phase II: Approval of Authorization to Proceed with Early Release Work at Hillside Elementary

Mr. Herzog requested approval of an Authorization to Proceed for Early Release Work Amendment to the Construction Manager at Risk Contract with Boyd Jones Construction for the Hillside Elementary project. This Authorization to Proceed with Early Release Work includes procurement of the survey, temporary fencing, concrete, steel supply, precast and steel erection, generator supply, earthwork, retaining wall, and site utilities. The proposed Early release package value is \$6,820,511. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and contract amendment are included in the board documents folder.

Phase II: Approval of Authorization to Proceed with Early Release Work at Westgate Elementary

Mr. Herzog requested approval of an Authorization to Proceed for Early Release Work Amendment to the Construction Manager at Risk Contract with Charles Vrana & Son Construction for the Westgate Elementary project.

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This Authorization to Proceed with Early Release Work includes procurement of the phase 1 grading, over-excavation, recompaction, surcharge and the Pipal Park community center demolition. The proposed Early release package value is \$694,290. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and contract amendment are included in the board documents folder.

Phase II: Approval of GMP for Westside Middle School Project

Mr. Herzog requested approval of the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Amendment to the Construction Manager at Risk Contract with Hausmann Construction for the Westside Middle School Cafeteria renovation and expansion project. The proposed GMP value is \$4,679,923.00. The GMP includes \$500,000 for replacement of the building boilers from the District's building fund. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and contract amendment are included in the board documents folder.

Phase II: Approval of GMP for ABC Building Project

Mr. Herzog requested approval of the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Amendment to the Construction Manager at Risk Contract with Hausmann Construction for the ABC Building renovation project. The proposed GMP value is \$2,093,188.00. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and contract amendment are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Student Fees for the 2024-2025 School Year (Policy 6340, Appendix A)

Mr. Brian Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance, requested approval of proposed changes to Student Fees for the 2024-2025 school year. Revisions were previously presented at the Student Fees Public Hearing on April 22, 2024, and include changes to school lunch prices, transportation fees, summer sports camps, and extracurricular activities. Ms. Karnes 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.

Sale of District Equipment

Mr. Andy Wane, Director of Facilities, requested approval for the sale / disposal (per policy #3450) of a number of small items from various buildings and departments, including eight electronic badge makers with printers; one side-by-side refrigerator; ten vertical file cabinets; two coffee makers and one industrial-sized freezer. Prior to posting for sale, items will first be offered to other departments / buildings in the district. Proceeds from the sale of the industrial-sized freezer will go into the Nutrition Services fund. Proceeds from the sale of all other items will go into the General Fund reserves. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Board Policies for Approval

Mr. Nick Lesiak, In-House Legal Counsel, presented revisions to two existing policies for approval. Both policy revisions were introduced for board consideration and discussion at the Board of Education Meeting on April 22, 2024.

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Policy #4355 - Nepotism (Personnel) - Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Policy #4490 - Professional Ethics (Personnel) - Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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

Human Resources Annual Report

Due to the absence of Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, motion requested to table this report until the Board Meeting on June 10, 2024. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Approval of Compensation for Non-Negotiated Certified and Classified Employee Groups

Ms. Melanie Connolly, Director of Human Resources and Business Systems, introduced the following recommended pay increases for non-negotiated employee groups. Increases for these groups are established after taking into consideration the salary increases of other negotiated employee groups.

Approval for 2024-2025 Health Educational Assistants

For the 2024-2025 school year, approval of a \$1.94/ hour increase for all currently employed health education assistants, and a starting base pay increase of \$1.69/hour. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Approval for 2024-2025 Special Education Assistants

For the 2024-2025 school year, approval of a 4.00% wage increase for all currently employed special education assistants, and a starting base wage increase of 3.50%. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Approval for 2024-2025 Certified Nursing Assistants

For the 2024-2025 school year, approval of a \$2.31/ hour increase for all currently employed certified nursing assistants, and a starting base pay increase of \$2.06/hour. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Approval for 2024-2025 LPN Nurses

For the 2024-2025 school year, approval of a \$2.30/ hour increase for all currently employed nurses with an LPN, and a starting base pay increase of \$2.05/hour. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Approval for 2024-2025 RN Nurses

For the 2024-2025 school year, approval of a \$4.02/ hour increase for all currently employed nurses with an RN, and a starting base pay increase of \$3.77/hour. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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Approval for 2024-2025 Part-Time Building Service Employees

For the 2024-2025 school year, approval of a \$1.30/ hour increase for all currently employed part-time building service employees making less than \$20/hour, a 3.50% increase for those currently at or above \$20/hr, and a starting base pay increase of \$1.05/hour. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Approval for 2024-2025 Administrators

For the 2024-2025 school year, approval of an average base wage increase of 3.56% for all currently employed administrators. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Approval for 2024-2025 Non-Certified Substitutes

For the 2024-2025 school year, approval of an increase to the hourly rate so it is equal to that of the new starting base wage of each relevant group. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Approval for 2024-2025 remaining non-administrator and non-union classified employee groups

For the 2024-2025 school year, approval of a 3.50% wage increase for all currently employed, and a starting base wage increase of 3.00% for:

- Professional Classified staff
- Technology staff
- Administrative Assistants
- Non-Special Education Assistants
- Building Service and Nutrition Service Leadership
- Access 66 staff
- Brailist
- Transportation Staff
- Collaborative Pianist / Accompanist

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

Approval for 2024-2025 hourly Long Term Service Increments for eligible non-administrator and non-union classified employee groups

For the 2024-2025 school year, approval of an increase of \$0.15 to the hourly Long Term Service increment amounts. Ms. Blakely moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Approval of Transliterator / Interpreter Negotiated Agreement - 2024-2025 School Year

Ms. Connolly presented the Sign Language Interpreter / Transliterator 2024-2025 Negotiated Agreement for board approval. This one-year agreement was established by District Administration and the Westside

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Education Association and includes a starting pay rate increase of 2.21%. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and red-line and final versions of the Negotiated Agreement are included in the board documents folder.

Personnel Report

Ms. Connelly presented the personnel report (five certified staff probationary contracts; one administrator contract) for board approval. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Personnel Report is included in the board documents folder.

Annual Review and Approval of the Superintendent Succession Plan (Policy 2115)

The Board of Education Succession Planning Committee (President, Vice President and Immediate Past President) reviewed the Superintendent Succession Plan and presented it for approval. With the exception of the date revision to reflect 2024-2025, there were no other changes. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A redline copy of the Plan and copies of policy 2115 and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Superintendent Contract, 6th Amendment

Mr. Yale moved for approval of a three-year contract for Dr. Mike Lucas as Superintendent, commencing July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027, with compensation in 2024-2025 to include a base salary of \$262,232.85; and all other provisions as are set forth in the proposed Sixth Amendment to Employment Agreement and accompanying Superintendent Transparency Notice that has appeared on the District's website continuously since May 17, 2024; and to designate the Board President to sign the contract; Ms. Blakely seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Sixth Amendment to the Superintendent Employment Agreement and the Superintendent Transparency Notice are included in the board documents folder.

Public Comment - There were requests for public comment.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

Ms. Morrissette reviewed recent activities and events attended by board members that included: WHS Girls Tennis; WMS Parent Advisory Council; Architect Interviews for Westbrook Elementary project; Westgate Community Pre-Construction Meeting; WMS Pre-Construction Meeting; Hillside Community Pre-Construction Meeting; WHS Commencement; West Campus Senior Celebration; Project SEARCH Graduation; "Arts for ME" Art Showcase at Kaneko Gallery; Grow-Our-Own Signing Day; WHS Senior Honors Night; WMS Honors Night; WMS National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony; First Friday Feedback at Loveland Elementary; Oakdale Spring Fling; Evening of Show Choirs; Welding Qualification Day at WHS; Westside Multicultural Fair at WHS; and presentations to the EdRising class at WHS about the role of the Board of Education.

Announcements: May 24, 2024 Last Day of School - Dismissal at 12 Noon
 June 10, 2024 Westside Foundation - The Westside Open - 1:00 p.m. - Oak Hills CC

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Announcements continued:

REMINDER: Beginning June 2024, Board of Education Meetings will be held at Westside High School (8701 Pacific St.) in the Little Theater. We anticipate this change of venue to last through December 2024. Updates to this timeline will be posted on the District Website and on the front door of the District Administration Office.

June 10, 2024 Board of Education Meeting - WHS Little Theater - 5:00 p.m.

June 17, 2024 Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - WHS Warrior Room - 6:00 p.m.

June 18, 2024 Westside Foundation 50th Anniversary Open House - 4-6pm - Alumni House

July 15, 2024 Board of Education Meeting - WHS Little Theater - 5:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Ms. Morrissette adjourned the meeting at 7:00 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 **May 20, 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.

5/17, 5/20

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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

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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:

5/17/24 5/20/24

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

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