

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ August 19, 2024

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on August 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Westside High School, 8701 Pacific St., Omaha, Nebraska.

Board members present:

- Dana Blakely, President
- Adam Yale, Vice President
- Sarah Rider, Secretary
- Kris Karnes, Treasurer
- Meagan Van Gelder, Treasurer-Elect
- Beth Morrissette, 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 August 6, 2024, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on August 16 and 19, 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, Molly Hurley, Kim De La Cruz, Kami Jessop, Kelcy Tapp, Laura Mann, Garret Higginbotham, Kayla Neumann.

Others in Attendance*: Ann Christiansen, Diane Cahill, Chris Bilau, Rebecca Murrroy. *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. Blakely called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., immediately following adjournment of the FY24 Budget Amendment Public Hearing. 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. Blakely requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on August 5, 2024. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Karnes presented the treasurer's report for July 2024 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$10,211,961; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the July 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 & Engagement, reminded the Board and those in attendance that the District will be hosting an appreciation night for OPPD employees and their families ahead of the first football game on Thursday, August 29, 2024.

Bond Oversight Committee Semi-Annual Report to the Board - Phase II Bond

Ms. Ann Christiansen, Bond Oversight Committee (BOC), presented an overview of the BOC's engagement with Phase II projects since their first meeting in September 2023. In addition to their monthly BOC meetings with Project Advocates, BOC members (Ms. Christiansen, Kris Brown, Sean Conway, Ryan Decker, Jaci Lindburg, and Rebecca Murray) have also been engaged with Design Advisory Committees at Hillside, Westgate, WMS and WHS (projects currently underway). She added that the BOC is committed to ensuring that the projects in Phase II are completed on time and on budget, just as the projects in Phase I were. Ms. Christiansen - who was involved with the BOC during Phase I - addressed questions from the Board regarding the pace of projects in Phase II versus Phase I. She pointed out that the Ed Specs (Educational Specifications) that were established in Phase I have had a significant impact on decisions being made with Phase II projects. With the experience gained through Phase I, things are moving a little faster in Phase II, with multiple projects under way at the same time. Dr. Lucas and the Board expressed their gratitude to the BOC for their time and commitment to serving the District in this capacity. Copies of the Executive Summary and slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Phase II Bond Project: Approval of Architect Design Services Proposal and Engineering Services Proposal for Underwood Hills

Mr. Matt Herzog, Project Advocates, presented two proposals for board approval for Phase II work at Underwood Hills. As part of the Westside Facilities Master Plan Phase II Bond Implementation Program, WCS and Project Advocates solicited a design proposal from TACK Architects for architectural improvements to include a secure vestibule, window replacement, and exterior painting, and from Morrissey Engineering for upgrades to the building's mechanical systems. The architectural improvement proposal from TACK Architects is for \$22,000; the proposal from Morrissey Engineering is for \$44,200. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval of the TACK Architects Proposal; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Mr. Yale moved for approval of the Morrissey Engineering Proposal; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and both proposals are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of FY24 Budget Amendment

Mr. Brian Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance, requested board approval of the FY24 budget amendment that he presented at the Public Hearing, held right before tonight's Board of Education Meeting. Ms. Morrisette moved that the Board amend the 2023-2024 fiscal budget in the School Nutrition Fund, with budgeted disbursements and transfers (expenses) being increased by \$1,000,000, and no changes to the District's FY24 tax rates; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary and amended budget public notice are included in the board documents folder.

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State Aid Annual Review

Mr. Gabriel presented the annual state aid review, including an overview of the state aid funding formula and the district's needs and resource components. Total state aid for FY25 rose by \$1 million over FY24, primarily due to an increase in the net option multiplier (that is applied to the total number of net option students). The net option multiplier is tied to actual costs, so it fluctuates every year. Copies of Mr. Gabriel's Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

FY25 Budget Update

Mr. Gabriel presented an update and preliminary overview of the 2024-2025 budget ahead of the FY25 Budget Public Hearing, which is scheduled for September 3, 2024, at 6:00pm. He reviewed the budget process and timeline, as well as preliminary expenditure estimates of levy funds and preliminary revenue estimates for FY25. Approval of the FY25 budget will be requested at the Board of Education Meeting on September 16, 2024. Copies of Mr. Gabriel's Executive Summary and keynote presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policies for Approval

Mr. Nick Lesiak, In-house Legal Counsel, presented proposed new policy #6105 for board approval, which was previously presented at the Board Meeting on August 5, 2024, for discussion and consideration. This new policy is required by changes to laws (or new laws) enacted by the legislature during the most recent session.

Policy #6105 - Repeat of Grade at Parent-Guardian Request (*Instruction*) - new policy

Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Board Policy for Review

Mr. Lesiak presented proposed revisions to existing policy #1115 for Board discussion and consideration. These revisions are required due to changes to laws (or new laws) enacted by the legislature during their last session.

Policy #1115 - Conflicts of Interest (*Board of Education*) - existing policy

This policy will be presented again for approval at the Board of Education Meeting on September 3, 2024. A copy of the policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Employment Actions Related to the Contracts of Certified Staff Members

Dr. Andrea Haynes, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and District Operations, presented the personnel report (one certified staff probationary contract; one coordinator contract; one cancellation of certified staff contract) for board approval. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Ms. Karnes 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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Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

Ms. Kim De La Cruz shared a Welding Certification flier that was created to inform students and families about this career pathway, including recommended classes to be taken at WHS, some of which provide college credit through MCC. The Board was represented at the Bond Oversight Committee meeting on August 12; and the Board Policy Review Committee met via WebEx on August 13th. Dr. Lucas reminded everyone about the Community Back to School Pep Rally on Wednesday, August 21st, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Westside High School.

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| August 30, 2024 | Professional Learning Day - No School for Students |
| September 2, 2024 | Labor Day - No School / District Offices Closed |
| September 3, 2024 | FY25 Budget Public Hearing - Westside High School - 6:00 p.m. |
| September 3, 2024 | Board of Education Meeting - Westside High School - Board Meeting will commence immediately follow adjournment of the Public Hearing |
| September 9, 2024 | Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - Westside High School - 6:00 p.m. |

There being no further business, Ms. Blakely adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.



Sarah Rider, Secretary, Board of Education



The Daily Record

Public Notice Placement Confirmation

Please notify us of any changes ASAP at legals@omahadailyrecord.com

Scheduled Publication

8/16, 8/19

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DISTRICT 66
PUBLIC HEARING & BOARD MEETING**

Notice is hereby given of a Budget Amendment Public Hearing and Board of Education Meeting for the Westside Community School District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held **August 19, 2024**, at **6:00 p.m.** at **Westside High School, 8701 Pacific St., Omaha, NE**. The Public Hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m.; **the regular Board Meeting will begin immediately following adjournment of the Public Hearing.** The agendas, continually kept current, are available at the District Office. The meeting is open to the public.

8/16, 8/19

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All notice submissions, changes and cancellations must be made by 12 p.m. two weekdays prior to publication, or by earlier deadlines noted in your confirmation email in advance of court holidays. Please note the The Daily Record reserves the right to delay publication if we are unable to reach you to resolve questions or concerns.

