

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66**

**Board of Education FY25 Property Tax Public Hearing Minutes  
September 16, 2024**

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A Public Hearing for the 2024-2025 Property Tax Request for the Westside Community Schools, School District 66, was convened by the Board of Education in open and public session on September 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., at Westside High School, 8701 Pacific St., Omaha, Nebraska.

**Board members present:** Dana Blakely, President  
Sarah Rider, Secretary  
Kris Karnes, Treasurer  
Meagan Van Gelder, Treasurer-Elect  
Beth Morrissette, Director

**Board member absent (excused):** Adam Yale, Vice President

Notice of the public hearing 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 public hearing appeared beginning on September 4, 2024, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the public hearing was also published in the Daily Record on September 13 and 16, 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, Kelcy Tapp, Laura Mann, Robert Aranda, Becky Lowther, Abby Langner.

**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. Blakely called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. She confirmed with Ms. Hurley that public notice had been given of the hearing under the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted at the meeting, as required by law. She acknowledged that the meeting had been publicly announced and the agenda was available to any interested parties. Board member attendance is noted above.

Ms. Blakely welcomed the audience and announced that handouts of supporting documents dealing with issues being discussed during the public hearing were available. She stated that the purpose of this special public hearing was to hear opposition, support, or observations regarding the 2024-2025 Property Tax Request for the Westside Community Schools, District 66, as certified for the District by the Douglas County Clerk.

Mr. Gabriel reported the following valuations for FY25:

- Property valuation is \$4,975,462,295, an increase of 3.46%. This percentage increase is lower than the valuation increase last year, which was 9.44%.
- Real Estate valuation is \$4,777,060,350, an increase of 5.54%.
- Personal Business valuation is \$128,467,410, a decrease of 39.30%.
- State Assessed valuation is \$69,934,535, a decrease of 1.71%.

**Board of Education FY25 Property Tax Public Hearing**

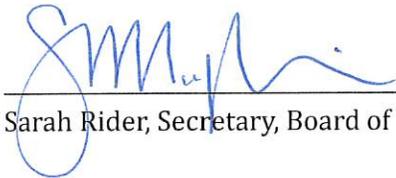
**September 16, 2024**

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The FY25 tax need in the levy funds are as follows:

- In the General Fund, the tax need for FY25 is \$39.6M; the recommended levy is \$0.795353.
- In the Bond Fund, the tax need for FY25 is \$10.9M; the recommended levy is \$0.219000.
- In the Special Building Fund, the tax need for FY25 is \$4.0M; the recommended levy is \$0.081207

Total tax levy is \$1.095560, which is a decrease of \$0.051202 cents, or 4.46%, and is the sixth year in a row that the district has been able to drop the overall levy tax rate. Approval of the FY25 property tax request will be presented at the Board of Education meeting on October 7, 2024. Ms. Blakely asked for questions or comments from the Board and the audience. Hearing none, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:11 p.m. Copies of Mr. Gabriel's Executive Summary and PowerPoint are included in the board documents folder.



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Sarah Rider, Secretary, Board of Education

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given of a Property Tax Public Hearing and Board of Education Meeting for the Westside Community School District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held September 16, 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.

9/13, 9/16 ZNEZ



**Proof of Publication**

**JASON W. HUFF, Publisher**

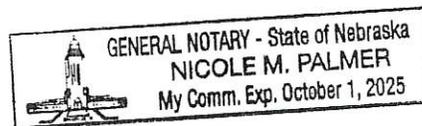
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
The State of Nebraska,  
District of Nebraska,  
County of Douglas,  
City of Omaha } ss.

JASON W. HUFF, 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:

9/13/24

9/16/24

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 \$31.16

Jason W. Huff

Additional Copies \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this SEPTEMBER 20 2024

Filing Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$31.16

Nicole M. Palmer  
Notary Public in and for  
Douglas County, State of Nebraska

