

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66**  
**Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ September 16, 2024**

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The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an 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 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 September 4, 2024, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting 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 Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:11 p.m., immediately following adjournment of the FY25 Property Tax 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. Ms. Blakely requested a motion for approval of Mr. Yale's excused absence. Motion made by Ms. Rider; seconded by Ms. Karnes. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Blakely requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education FY24 Budget Public Hearing held on September 3, 2024. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Blakely requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on September 3, 2024. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Karnes presented the treasurer's report for August 2024 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$12,963,877; Ms. Morrissette seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by

unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the August 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 & Engagement, welcomed four students from the high school (Sofia La Fata - Hornillos; Next Shuffty; Miranda Gregory; Aaryn Beck) who are involved in the Theater Department's upcoming fall play production of *Noises Off*, a hilarious comedy. Tickets went on sale today; show times are 7:00 p.m. on September 26, 27 and 28, and 2:00 p.m. on September 29th.

### **Phase II Bond Project: Approval of CMR Delivery Method for Paddock Road Elementary**

Mr. Matt Herzog, Principal, Project Advocates, requested board approval to select the Construction Management at Risk (CMR) delivery method for the Paddock Road Elementary Phase II project and to appoint the CMR Selection Committee. Ms. Karnes moved for approval of the construction delivery method of "Construction Management at Risk" under the provisions of the Nebraska Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 13-2901, et. seq. (the "Act") for the Westside Community Schools – Paddock Road Elementary School Addition (hereinafter referred to as "the Project"), and hereby direct the Superintendent of Schools, Project Advocates, Owner's Representative for the Projects, and selected school district legal counsel to initiate and carry out all actions necessary to comply with the requirements of the Act, including but not limited to the issuance of a Request for Proposals for the position of Construction Management at Risk for the Project; and to appoint the following persons to the Selection Committee to evaluate the proposals received from firms in response to the request for Proposals for the position of Construction Manager at Risk in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 13-2910 (must have at least five (5) members):

- (a) Member(s) of the school board: Meagan Van Gelder.
- (b) Member(s) of the school administration or staff: Quinn McGuire, Principal.
- (c) The school's architect or engineer: Erin Froscheiser of Leo A Daly.
- (d) Any person having special expertise relevant to selection of a construction manager under the Nebraska Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act: Matt Herzog of Project Advocates.
- (e) A resident(s) of the School District other than an individual included in (a) through (d) above: Stephanie Harris.

Ms. Morrisette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and CMR Resolution are included in the board documents folder.

### **Phase II Bond Project: Approval of CMR Delivery Method for Rockbrook Elementary**

Mr. Herzog requested board approval to select the Construction Management at Risk (CMR) delivery method for the Rockbrook Elementary Phase II project and to appoint the CMR Selection Committee. Ms. Morrisette moved for approval of the construction delivery method of "Construction Management at Risk" under the provisions of the Nebraska Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 13-2901, et. seq. (the "Act") for the Westside Community Schools – Rockbrook Elementary school addition (hereinafter referred to as "the Project"), and hereby direct the Superintendent of Schools, Project Advocates, Owner's Representative for the Projects, and selected school district legal counsel to initiate and carry out all actions necessary to comply with the requirements of the Act, including but not limited to the issuance of a Request for Proposals for the position of Construction Management at Risk for

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the Project; and to appoint the following persons to the Selection Committee to evaluate the proposals received from firms in response to the request for Proposals for the position of Construction Manager at Risk in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 13-2910 (must have at least five (5) members):

- (a) Member(s) of the school board: Sarah Rider.
- (b) Member(s) of the school administration or staff: Garret Higginbotham, Principal.
- (c) The school's architect or engineer: Matt Smith of BVH Architecture.
- (d) Any person having special expertise relevant to selection of a construction manager under the Nebraska Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act: Matt Herzog of Project Advocates.
- (e) A resident(s) of the School District other than an individual included in (a) through (d) above: Caleb McDaniel.

Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and CMR Resolution are included in the board documents folder.

**Approval of Bid for AHU Replacement Project at West Campus**

Mr. Andy Wane, Director of Facilities, requested approval of the bid from Fluid Mechanical in the amount of \$1,440,000 for the Air Handling Unit replacement project at West Campus. Of the four bids received, Fluid Mechanical submitted the low bid. Mr. Wane advised the board that this is phase 2 of the AHU replacement project at West Campus. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. A copy of the Executive Summary and bid spreadsheet are included in the board documents folder.

**Approval of FY25 Budget**

Mr. Brian Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance, presented the 2024-2025 budget for approval. The Budget Public Hearing was held on September 3, 2024. The budget is due to the State Auditor, the County Clerk and NDE on September 30, 2024.

Ms. Morrisette moved for approval of the **General Fund** budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in the amount of \$101,995,123.14 calling for a local real property tax need of \$39,176,758.36 plus 1% County Treasurer Collection Fee of \$395,724 for a total of \$39,572,482.36; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Karnes moved for approval of the **Employee Benefit Fund** budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in the amount of \$100,000 calling for a local real property tax need of \$0. Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval of the **Activities Fund** budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in the amount of \$2,500,000 calling for a local real property tax need of \$0. Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Rider moved for approval of the **School Nutrition Fund** budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in the amount of \$7,909,929.56 calling for a local real property tax need of \$0. Ms. Morrisette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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Ms. Morrissette moved for approval of the **Bond Fund** budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in the amount of \$13,188,054.26 calling for a local real property tax need of \$10,787,299.80 plus 1% County Treasurer Collection Fee of \$108,963 for a total of \$10,896,262.80. Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Ms. Karnes moved for approval of the **Special Building Fund** budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in the amount of \$110,528,676.51 calling for a local real property tax need of \$4,000,000 plus the 1% County Treasurer Collection Fee of \$40,404 for a total of \$4,040,404. Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval of the **Student Fee Fund** budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in the amount of \$250,000 calling for a local real property tax need of \$0. Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

### **Board Policy for Approval**

Mr. Nick Lesiak, In-house Legal Counsel, presented proposed revisions to existing policy #2214 - Title IX (*Administration*) for board approval. These revisions - previously presented for discussion at the Board Meeting on September 3, 2024 - are a result of new Federal Title IX Regulations. Mr. Lesiak requested that the board recognize that identifying information (district office address, email, telephone number, website, and a link to the district's notice of nondiscrimination) will be added to the final version of the policy. Ms. Karnes moved for approval, with above noted additions per the Administration; Ms. Morrissette seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

### **Board Policies for Review**

Mr. Lesiak presented proposed revisions to existing policies #4430 and #4470 for Board discussion and consideration.

Policy #4430 - Confidential Information on Students and Employees (*Personnel*) - Recommend elimination of this policy, since confidentiality requirements as described are covered by policies 4420 (Personnel Records); 4490 (Professional Code of Ethics); and 5220 (Education Records); as well as by Principle II of the State's Standards of Conduct and Ethics.

Policy #4470 - Recognition of Employee Organizations (*Personnel*) - Adopt language as recommended by KSB School Law.

These policies will be presented again for approval at the Board of Education Meeting on October 7, 2024. Copies of the policies and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

### **Nebraska Association of School Board Nominations**

Dr. Lucas presented two separate nominations to NASB board and committee seats for board approval: Dr. Van Gelder for Region 3 Director on the NASB Board of Directors; and Ms. Morrissette for seat 6 on the

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NASB Legislation Committee. Each seat is for a term of four years. Nominees chosen to serve will be formally approved at the November 20th NASB Board Meeting. Ms. Rider moved for approval of Dr. Van Gelder's nomination as Regional Director for Region 3 on the NASB Board of Directors; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Ms. Karnes moved for approval of Ms. Morrissette's nomination to Seat 6 on the NASB Legislation Committee; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and nomination forms are included in the board documents folder.

**Public Comment**

There was one request for Public Comment: Ms. Diane Cahill. Thanks for participation in Thank A Police Officer Day.

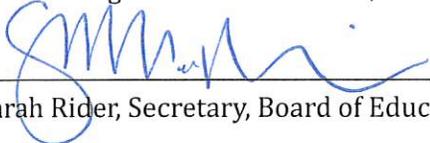
**Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements**

The Board was represented at the Oakdale Community Club Meeting and BOE Policy Review Committee Meeting, as well as a number of Phase II activities, including Hillside and Westgate groundbreaking events, and tours at Oakdale, Rockbrook, Westgate and WMS.

**Upcoming Events**

September 21, 2024	VI-VI 2024 - CHI Center - 6:00 p.m.
September 24, 2024	NASB Area Membership Meeting - Scott Conference Center - 5:00 p.m.
October 7, 2024	Board of Education Meeting - Westside High School - 6:00 p.m.
October 9, 2024	Parent Teacher Conferences - 4:00-8:00 p.m.
October 10, 2024	Parent Teacher Conferences - 8am to 4pm - No School for Students
October 11, 2024	Semester Break - No School
October 14, 2024	Professional Learning Day - No School for Students
October 14, 2024	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - Westside High School - 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Ms. Blakely adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

  
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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**

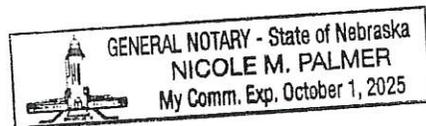
**JASON W. HUFF, Publisher**

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  
Filing Fee                \$ \_\_\_\_\_        me this SEPTEMBER 20 2024  
  
Total                      \$31.16            Nicole M Palmer

Notary Public in and for  
Douglas County, State of Nebraska

