

## WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

### Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ October 7, 2024

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The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on October 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Westside High School, 8701 Pacific St., Omaha, Nebraska.

**Board members present:** Adam Yale, Vice President  
Sarah Rider, Secretary  
Kris Karnes, Treasurer  
Meagan Van Gelder, Treasurer-Elect

**Board members absent (excused):** Dana Blakely, President  
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 September 17, 2024, and appeared continuously up through the start of this board meeting. Notice of the meeting was also published in the Daily Record on October 4 and 7, 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, Becky Lowther, Paul Lindgren.

**Others in Attendance\*:** Diane Cahill, Matthew Erion, Cheryl Wilson. \*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.

Mr. Yale called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He 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. He acknowledged that the meeting had been publicly announced and the agenda was available to any interested parties. Board Meeting attendance is noted above. Mr. Yale requested a motion for approval of excused absences for Ms. Blakely and Ms. Morrissette. 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**

Mr. Yale requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education FY24 Property Tax Public Hearing held on September 16, 2024. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Mr. Yale requested a motion for approval of the minutes from the Board of Education Meeting held on September 16, 2024. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Ms. Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**Communications**

Ms. Elizabeth Power, Director of Communications and Engagement, updated the Board on new video messaging that is being created for Phase II construction projects. These quick informational updates feature students as the “reporters”, sharing the progress of construction work at their school. Ms. Power showed videos for Hillside and Westgate. Additional video updates will be produced for the remainder of the school year for Hillside and Westgate, as well as the middle school and high school. These will be shared across district social media and posted on the district website.

**Phase II Bond Project: Approval of Concept and Schematic Design for Westbrook Elementary**

Mr. Matt Herzog, Project Advocates, and Matthew Erion, BCDM Architects, presented the Concept and Schematic Design for Phase II bond work at Westbrook Elementary that will include upgraded window systems, updated mechanical systems, and accessibility improvements. Construction is planned to start in the summer of 2025 and will be phased during the school year. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder 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 Project: Approval of Construction Manager at Risk for Westbrook Elementary**

Mr. Herzog requested board approval to select the Construction Management at Risk (CMR) delivery method for the Westbrook 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 – Westbrook Elementary school renovation (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: Adam Yale.
- (b) Member(s) of the school administration or staff: Brian Stevens, Principal.
- (c) The school's architect or engineer: Matthew Erion of BCDM Architects.
- (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: Julia Olynyk.

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.

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**Update on Long-Range Facility Projects**

Mr. Andy Wane, Director of Facilities, presented an update to the Board on the District’s long-range facility projects. He reviewed details on current projects being completed in the 2024-2025 school year; projects planned for the 2025-2026 school year; as well as projects planned over the next five years (through August 2029) and ten years (through August 2034). Mr. Wane advised the Board that the long-range projects spreadsheet was created prior to passage of the Bond in the spring of 2023 for Phase II facility projects. When and where possible / feasible, the district will schedule facility projects / planned maintenance to coincide with Phase II projects to minimize disruption to staff and students. He also shared that the spreadsheet is a working document and that unplanned / unforeseen circumstances (weather events, funding) may impact both short-term and long-term projects. Copies of the Executive Summary and Facility Projects presentation are included in the board documents folder.

**High School Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment Report**

Ms. Kim De La Cruz, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, provided an update to the Board on current Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Enrollment programming at Westside High School. There are currently 26 AP course offerings at WHS. Enrollment in those courses increased slightly from 2023 to 2024 (937 to 985), along with the number of students who took the corresponding AP exam (up from 652 to 678). The high school continues a strong focus on Dual Enrollment opportunities for students at UNO and Metro Community College (MCC). In addition to UNO course offerings that are connected to the AP classes and expanded offerings through MCC, the high school has increased their dual enrollment offerings at Nebraska Wesleyan University with four AP courses: AP Language and Composition, AP Literature, AP Calculus BC, and AP Chemistry. Copies of the Executive Summary and powerpoint presentation are included in the board documents folder.

**Approval of FY25 Property Tax Request**

Mr. Brian Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance, presented the FY25 Property Tax Levies for board approval, previously introduced at a public hearing on September 16, 2024. Mr. Gabriel reviewed the proposed amounts and invited questions from the Board:

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| General Fund:          | \$39,572,482 |
| Levy:                  | \$0.795353   |
| Bond Fund:             | \$10,896,263 |
| Levy:                  | \$0.219000   |
| Special Building Fund: | \$4,040,404  |
| Levy:                  | \$0.081207   |
| All Levy Funds Total:  | \$54,509,149 |
| Combined Total Levy:   | \$1.095560   |

Dr. Van Gelder read the tax request resolution and moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. The Property Tax Resolution passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary, Property Tax Resolution and Daily Record Notice of the Property Tax Public Hearing held on September 16, 2024, are included in the board documents folder.

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### Board Policies for Approval

Mr. Nick Lesiak, In-House Legal Counsel, presented revisions to two existing policies (previously presented for discussion and consideration at the Board Meeting on September 16, 2024) for board approval:

#### Policy #4430 - Confidential Information on Students and Employees (Personnel)

Recommend elimination of this policy because the confidentiality requirement described in it is already 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. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

#### Policy #4770 - Recognition of Employee Organizations (Personnel)

Adopt language as recommended by KSB School Law. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Ms. Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Copies of each policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

### Board Policy for Review

Mr. Lesiak presented proposed revisions to two existing policies for Board discussion and consideration. The point of these revisions are to: 1) combine the two policies, since they are largely duplicative of each other (eliminate policy #5630), and; 2) add clarifying language to #7200 regarding employee acceptance of gifts.

Policy #5630 - Student Gifts to Staff Members (Students) - eliminate policy

Policy #7200 - Gifts to School Personnel (Community Relations) - add clarifying language

These policies will be presented again for approval at the Board of Education Meeting on October 21, 2024. A copy of each policy and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

**Public Comment:** There were two requests for Public Comment: Steve Rys, cancer update; and Diane Cahill, WHS Library.

### Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

The Board was represented at the Rockbrook Elementary Design Advisory Committee Meeting; the Westside Foundation's Beam Signing event on October 4th; Westside Middle School Parent Advisory Committee Meeting; NASB Committee Meeting; BOE Policy Committee Meeting; and the BOE American Civics Committee Meeting.

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 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. |

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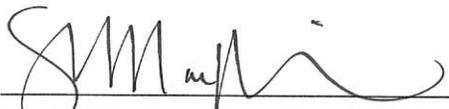
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October 21, 2024 Board of Education Meeting - Westside High School - 6:00 p.m.

Week of Oct. 21st HOMECOMING ACTIVITIES:

- Wednesday, 10/23 - Parade & Pep Rally
- Thursday, 10/24 - Football Game
- Friday, 10/25 - Homecoming Dance

There being no further business, Mr. Yale adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.



Sarah Rider, Secretary, Board of Education

**WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice is hereby given of a Board of Education Meeting for Westside Community Schools, District 66, Douglas County, in the State of Nebraska, to be held October 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Westside High School, 8701 Pacific St., Omaha, NE. The agenda, continually kept current, is available at the District Office. The meeting is open to the public.

10/4, 10/7 ZNEZ



# The Daily Record

## *Proof of Publication*

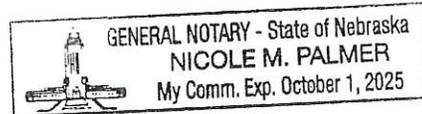
**JASON W. HUFF, Publisher**

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:

10/4/24                      10/7/24

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    \$24.93    Jason W Huff

Additional Copies    \$ \_\_\_\_\_    Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this OCTOBER 7, 2024

Filing Fee    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total    \$24.93    Nicole M Palmer  
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Douglas County, State of Nebraska

