

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ~ DISTRICT 66

Board of Education Meeting Minutes ~ October 21, 2024

The Board of Education of School District 66 was convened in an open and public session on October 21, 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 October 8, 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 18 and 21, 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, Erin Vik, Becky Lowther, Paul Lindgren, Abby Langner, Kalen Carlson, Michael Schroeder.

Others in Attendance*: Carolyn Roeder, 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 6:00 p.m. 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 October 7, 2024. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Ms. Morrissette abstained. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Karnes presented the treasurer's report for September 2024 and moved for approval of expenditures in the amount of \$16,623,252; Ms. Morrissette seconded. Approval of expenditures was passed by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the September 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, provided a quick overview of Homecoming Week activities. Wednesday 10/23 - Community-Wide Parade beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the high school; Thursday 10/24 - Football game vs. Papillion-LaVista at 7:00 p.m.; Friday 10/25 - Homecoming Dance at WHS.

Academic Report: WHS Personal Finance

Ms. Kim De La Cruz, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, and Ms. Kalen Carlson, WHS Business Teacher, presented a report on the most essential unit as identified by the Business and Technology content team. The Personal Finance course is a graduation requirement, typically taken during a student's sophomore year. The most essential unit in the course is "Budgeting". Because of the key foundational components to all elements of Personal Finance, 'Budgeting' is completed within the first month of the course. Students are asked to create a personal budget that includes income from their preferred career field. They identify their fixed and variable expenses, and consider large purchases, like a house or car. Students are very engaged in the activities of this unit, with 90% earning a "C" or better. Ms. Carlson reviewed follow-up opportunities for students who may need to retake the unit exam. Copies of the Executive Summary and slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Annual Financial Literacy Report

Ms. De La Cruz presented the Annual Financial Literacy Report to the Board, as required per the Financial Literacy Act that was signed into Nebraska law in May 2021. Ms. De La Cruz reviewed financial literacy curriculum concepts that are taught at the elementary level, in middle school, and at the high school level. A copy of Ms. De La Cruz's Executive Summary is included in the board documents folder.

Special Services: Transition Programming and Parent Involvement

Dr. Kami Jessop, Director of Special Services, presented an informational report to the Board regarding the District's Special Education Services for students through age 21. Some students with disabilities are eligible for services (Post-Secondary Transition Services) up until the school year in which they turn 21 years of age (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). For Westside Community Schools, this represents approximately 8% of special education students. Dr. Jessop reviewed the three areas that fall under the IDEA transition programming: Education; Employment; Independent Living. Parents and their student's IEP team work together to plan the best pathway for their child. Westside utilizes a number of partnerships to provide opportunities for our young adult students as they transition from the classroom to community-based job sites, learning social and leisure activity skills as well as daily living skills. Copies of the Executive Summary and slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Strategic Plan Report: Goal 4 - Finance, Safety and Infrastructure

Throughout this school year, Dr. Mark Weichel, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, along with other administrators, will be presenting progress updates on each of the four goals in the District's Strategic Plan, which was adopted by the Board of Education in August 2021. Tonight's report focused on Strategic Plan Goal #4 - Finance, Safety, and Infrastructure.

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Joining Dr. Weichel, who reviewed goal 4.3 (alternative funding sources), was: Mr. Brian Gabriel, District Officer of Business and Finance, (Goals 4.1, 4.2 - sustainable district budget); Mr. Andy Wane, Director of Facilities, (Goal 4.4 - short and long term plans for infrastructure); Mr. Erin Vik, Director of Nutrition Services, (Goal 4.5 - district breakfast and lunch programs); and Dr. Paul Lindgren, Director of Technology, (Goal 4.6 - technology, connectivity, and student/staff technology support). Dr. Weichel encouraged everyone to visit the Strategic Plan Dashboard on the district website ([Strategic Plan](#)), or to contact a Director if they have specific questions about any area of the Strategic Plan ([District Leadership](#)). Copies of the Executive Summary and slide presentation are included in the board documents folder.

Approval of Bid for Replacement of Field Turf at Westside High School

Mr. Andy Wane, Director of Facilities, requested Approval of the bid from Midwest FieldTurf in the amount of \$452,530 (plus possible adds of \$12 per linear foot to remove and replace treated wood nailer board and \$45 per ton to add finished stone) to complete the removal and replacement of the field turf at Phelps Field. Midwest FieldTurf was the lone bid received for this project. The bid was below the projection of \$500,000 communicated in the Update on Long-Range Facility Projects at the Board of Education Meeting on October 7, 2024. Work will be completed in the summer of 2025. Dr. Van Gelder moved for approval; Mr. Yale seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and bid are included in the board documents folder.

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 October 7, 2024) for board approval. The purpose for these revisions is 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. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Ms Rider seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Policy #7200 - Gifts to School Personnel (*Community Relations*) - Add clarifying language. Mr. Yale moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder 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 and Board Regulation for Review

Mr. Lesiak presented proposed revisions to existing policy #5670 and changes to board regulation #5160R for discussion. Proposed revisions to policy #5670 are due to changes to Federal Title IX requirements. Changes to regulation 5160 are based on legislative revisions to student attendance statutes during the last session.

Policy #5670 - Marital, Parental, or Pregnancy Status of Students (*Students*) - updates per revised Title IX requirements.

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Regulation #5160R - Student Attendance (*Students*) - updates per changes to statutes in the last Legislative session.

Policy #5670 will be presented again for approval at the Board of Education Meeting on November 4, 2024. Updates to Regulations do not require board approval. Copies of the policy, the regulation and the Executive Summary are included in the board documents folder.

Personnel Report: Employment Actions Related to the Contracts of Certified Staff Members

Ms. Blakely requested a motion to table this agenda item for an upcoming board meeting. Ms. Rider moved for approval; Ms Karnes seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Approval of School Year Calendars for 2025-2026; 2026-2027; 2027-2028

Dr. Mike Lucas presented school year calendars for board approval. The Superintendent Calendar Committee (made up of staff and parents) convened this fall to develop school year calendars for 2025-2026; 2026-2027; and 2027-2028. The committee took into account survey feedback (from staff and families), reviewed calendars from neighboring districts, and met key objectives established by the district and the committee. Some of those objectives include: no school on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving; two full weeks for Winter Break; increased amount of contracted work time for teachers; and completing the school year by Memorial Day weekend. Ms. Karnes moved for approval; Dr. Van Gelder seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Copies of the Executive Summary and school year calendars are included in the board documents folder.

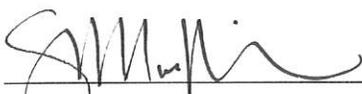
Public Comment: There were no requests for Public Comment.

Board Member Representation / Legislative Updates / Announcements

The Board was represented at a number of activities and meetings, including: Phase II project progress tour of the WMS cafeteria; Rockbrook Design Advisory Committee meeting; Property Tax Roundtable on October 16th; and Varsity Volleyball and Football competitions. Dr. Lucas shared that NDE and Governor Pillen will be in the District on November 6th for a media event to recognize NDE's "Grow Your Own" Teacher Apprenticeship Program. Ms. Blakely reviewed upcoming activities:

October 22, 2024	Paddock Road Elementary Phase II Project Community Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
October 23, 2024	Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally - WHS - 5:30 p.m. (parade starts)
October 29, 2024	SmartGen Society: Grade School Parent Forum - WHS - 6:00 p.m.
October 30, 2024	Lighthouse Leader / Hall of Fame Dinner - HHC - 6:00 p.m.
November 4, 2024	Board of Education Meeting - WHS - 6:00 p.m.
November 7, 2024	Rockbrook Elementary Phase II Project Community Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
November 11, 2024	Bond Oversight Committee Meeting - WHS - 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business, Ms. Blakely adjourned the meeting at 7:29 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 21, 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.

10/18, 10/21 ZNEZ



The Daily Record

Proof of Publication

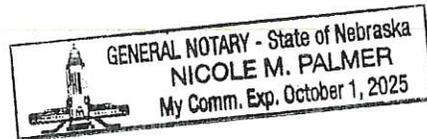
JASON W. HUFF, Publisher

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:

10/18/24 10/21/24

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 \$26.18 Jason W Huff

Additional Copies \$ _____ Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this OCTOBER 21 2024

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